

Land Birds at Sea.—On a Voyage from Cherbourg to New York during the middle of September, land birds were seen every fair day about the vessel. Some of them alighted on the ship and were identified. "About noon September 17; Latitude N. 45° 23', Long. W. 43° 21', a Snowflake (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) in adult plumage was hopping about the deck within a few feet of me. It was close by and fully identified. Passengers said they had seen it aboard for two days. Later when I was not present it was stated that another bird of the same species joined it.

On the afternoon of September 19, Lat. N. 41°58', Long. W. 59°34', a young Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) was identified on board. It approached within a yard of some of the passengers and remained throughout the rest of the afternoon. A young Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) alighted in the rigging. Soon it came down near the deck and permitted a close approach. About the same time a small Hawk, apparently a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*), was seen flying about the vessel.—AMOS W. BUTLER, *Indianapolis, Ind.*

Nantucket Island Notes. *Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*. PINTAIL.—On December 28, 1924, Mr. Joseph Cadrain of Nantucket, Mass. shot a full plumaged drake American Pintail Duck, at Sesachacha pond in the eastern part of the island. There were two drakes, and four females in the flock, half of the pond was covered with ice at the time. As none of the local sportsmen knew what it was, I went to see the specimen, which had been mounted, and identified it.

Larus marinus. BLACK-BACKED GULL.—On September 10, 1925, my son, Captain R. L. Mackay, U. S. A., saw a Great Black-backed Gull resting on the extreme end of the western jetty, rather an early date.

Casmerodius egretta. AMERICAN EGRET.—Mr. H. B. Turner of Nantucket, Mass., saw two American Egrets, August 31, 1925, at the east pond on Tuckernuck Island, Mass.; one other was reported to him as seen at the Long pond on Nantucket Island prior to the above date.

Mr. William Jones, game warden for Nantucket, informed me he saw three American Egrets about September 7, 1925, on the east side of the Hummock pond on Nantucket Island, and two days later saw two others on the west side of the same pond, which presumably were part of those seen before. They have also been reported, I am informed, on Cape Cod, Mass., this season.

Pisobia maculata. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—On September 14, 1925, Captain Mackay and I drove to Nobadeer pond in the southern part of the island. Here we found fifteen Pectoral Sandpipers resting on the marsh. They were very tame for they allowed the car to run within ten yards before taking flight. I would like to call attention to the beautiful evolutions in the air of a flock of these birds over certain locations, to which they are accustomed, and this flock gave us a wonderful exhibition this afternoon, as they coursed with great rapidity over the locality where we were watching them. The shape of the flock as a unit, was constantly changing

and the distance between the birds in the cluster seemed scarcely sufficient, to our eyes, to allow flying room. There was no hesitation, or mistake, no confusion, every bird seemed to know what to do instantaneously, sometimes up in the air, then down to near the ground, showing, all together, their white lower parts, and then suddenly changing and showing only their brown upper parts. This mode of flight is not unusual, as I have remarked it before. I do not recall at the moment any similar habit approaching it, except possibly in the American Golden Plover flying under similar conditions.

While at the same locality, six Short-eared Owls passed overhead about fifty yards high. They were together, but flying widely apart. From the various accounts I have heard, I infer they have been fairly abundant this summer.

On September 15, 1925, we drove west from the Miacomet pond to the Hummock pond and on the way, came within forty yards of six Hudsonian Curlew, which were very tame, as they alighted again a short distance away. These are the progeny of the "Old Settlers" which came here every year for a very long period.

We also saw four Black-breasted Plover which were wary.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Boston, Mass.*

Notes from Massachusetts and New Hampshire.—On August 4, 1925, two Egrets (*Cusmerodius egretta*) were noted; one at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the other flying over the Parker River marshes in Essex Co., Mass. The bird at Portsmouth had been seen a week before by Mr. John T. Coolidge Jr., and other people.

Mr. Coolidge writes that on August 6, 1925, two Egrets at Portsmouth were associated with four Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) in the white phase.

On July 18, 1925, the writers noted a Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*) on the Ipswich marshes, Mass. This appears to be an unusually early date.—W. SPRAGUE BROOKS, *Boston Soc. of Nat. History*, and THOMAS BARBOUR, *Museum of Comp. Zoology*.

Correction.—In Dr. John C. Phillips' article on Baldner (Auk, 1925, pp. 332-341) the naturalist's first name should be spelled Leonhard while the year of his capture of the Barnacle Goose (p. 337) was 1650 not 1680.—Ed.