

lack of white upper tail coverts marked it as belonging to a species that was new to us. Accordingly, it was taken, and after careful examination, referred to *Pisobia bairdi*. The Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., has kindly verified this identification. Mr. A. C. Bent, in his 'Life Histories of North American Shorebirds' (Bull. 142, U. S. Nat. Mus., 1927), does not record the occurrence of this species east of Texas on the Gulf Coast nor south of Virginia on the Atlantic Coast.—FRANCIS M. WESTON AND CHARLES L. SMITH, JR., *Pensacola, Fla.*

Spotted Sandpiper Escapes a Hawk.—Mr. M. P. Skinner's account of the Kingfisher pursued by a Sharp-shinned Hawk ('The Auk,' vol. XLV, No. 1. Jan., 1928, pp. 100-101) calls to mind an incident which occurred many years ago. As a boy, I spent much time along the Red River, near Moorhead, Minnesota. On one occasion a Spotted Sandpiper was flying up the river, low over the water as usual. Suddenly a small Hawk made a swoop at the flying bird and the Sandpiper promptly dropped into the water and disappeared. The Hawk turned and flew over the spot again, the Sandpiper's head appeared for a moment, then went under once more. This time the Hawk flew on. Again the Sandpiper's head appeared, watching to see if the coast was clear. Then the bird arose from the water and continued on its way.

At the time I did not know the species of Hawk and the incident never found its way into a notebook. I know now, however, that the Hawk was either the Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawk. I was familiar with the other Hawks of the locality and the picture in my mind is vivid enough to determine that much.—O. J. MURIE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Jackson, Wyoming.*

The Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) at Washington, D. C.—Mrs. T. M. Knappen and I were out on the Potomac River, just off Hains Point, D. C., in search of Limicolae on the morning of May 26, 1928. Situated here are several long, narrow stretches of mud and sand, which are exposed at low tide, this being the work of a dredging machine. We were in a rowboat and approached cautiously. Suddenly a cloud of birds arose before us and settled down. Imagine my utter amazement to see among them a flock of eighteen Hudsonian Curlews. We spent an hour there, taking particular notice of the long, curved bill and striped crown of the birds. The following day, May 27, Dr. Harry C. Oberholser and I visited the spot, finding a single bird. This is, I believe, the first published record for this region.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, 1233 Irving St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Is *Gallicolumba kubaryi* of Hybrid Origin?—In my aviary at Oakland, California, during 1927, a male *Gallicolumba xanthonura* from the Marianne Islands mated with a female *Gallicolumba jobiensis* from New Guinea. The single squab produced by this union attained maturity

early in 1928. To the eye, it is indistinguishable from *Gallicolumba kubaryi* from the Caroline Islands.—E. W. GIFFORD, *University of California*.

The Passenger Pigeon in 'Encyclopedia Americana.'—In the recent edition of 'Encyclopedia Americana,' published in 1927, I find the following statements that seem to me to require some widespread denial—or authoritative confirmation.

On page 369, Volume 21, under the caption of Passenger Pigeon, the following statement occurs: "Under the protection of the game laws the bird seems gradually becoming more numerous in its old haunts, and may revive in considerable numbers, since food remains abundant for it, and natural enemies are diminished."

From Volume 22, page 80, I quote the following from the item Passenger Pigeon under the caption of Pigeons: "Formerly it ranged throughout North America east of the Rocky Mountains, and occasionally pushed even to the shores of the Pacific. It was most abundant, however, east of the Great Plains and in temperate regions. At the present time it has practically disappeared from most of this region and is now found in any numbers only in the upper Mississippi Valley and the borderland between the United States and Canada."

The most recent publication on American birds that includes the Passenger Pigeon is Volume 2 of the 'Birds of Massachusetts,' 1927, by Edward Howe Forbush. On page 55 the author writes regarding this species: "It is now generally regarded as extinct, and it would not be included in this volume were it not that several recent observations by responsible persons have led some people to *hope* [italics mine] that, as in the case of the Eskimo Curlew, some few individuals may have continued to exist until the present day."

On the same page, under the notes on the former range of the species, Mr. Forbush says: "Now generally believed to be extinct."

Mr. Forbush's article on the Passenger Pigeon is most exhaustive. In the thirty-eight pages devoted to the species he indicates a most thorough search for information of all kinds relating to the habits, range and abundance of this pigeon up to the time when all such records ceased, somewhere about 1909.

And when, with all available information on the subject at hand, he admits only the bare possibility of the species still existing as "some few individuals," and with other ornithologists generally in agreement with him, it would seem that 'Americana's' statements require quite a lot of confirmation before being accepted by students of ornithology. And what of the general public that is accustomed to consider any standard encyclopedia as a court of last resort!—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

Swallow-tailed Kite in Ohio.—On April 29, 1928, near Camp Creek, on the west bank of the Scioto River, 25 miles south of Chillicothe, Ohio, a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) was identified by Mr. Conrad