

The Dowitcher in Michigan.—On May 31, 1928, while walking along the beach at Portage Lake, thirteen and a half miles northeast of Jackson, Mich., I flushed what I at first thought was a White-rumped Sandpiper. It was with a Ruddy Turnstone and three Least Sandpipers.

When they alighted I was surprised to see a decidedly cinnamon breast, a grayish neck, a light line over the eye brownish more or less speckled back and white bars on the rump, and I identified it as a Dowitcher. I was able to examine it at leisure with my binoculars at a distance of from fifteen to twenty-five feet and when I returned about an hour later it was still there. Two days later it had departed along with the other species with which it had associated. According to the late Dr. Barrows we have but few positive records for the species in Michigan.—EDITH K. FREY, *Jackson, Mich.*

Hudsonian Curlew and Greater Yellow-legs at Penco, Chile.—In March, 1927, it was my good fortune to spend almost three weeks with a friend on the seacoast at Penco, Chile. Penco is a small port only a short distance from Concepcion. The day I arrived, March 1, Hudsonian Curlews were very abundant. It was easy to count a hundred or even more, sometimes twice that number in almost any direction on the grassy marshes. A few hunters were out almost daily but generally shot very few birds due to the difficulties in getting around on the marshes. I shot two specimens for my collection and rarely have I seen birds fatter than these. The whole body was covered with a layer of fat about half an inch thick. The birds were paring before starting on their journey northward. They were still there in abundance on the twelfth of the month when I went away for a week. When I returned on the twenty-first the only birds I could find were two that had apparently been injured by hunters. The others had all departed on their migration leaving behind only those physically unable to make the long journey.

The only other North American migrant I observed at this time was the Greater Yellow-legs. Several flocks of forty or fifty birds each were seen on different days. These birds seemed to be migrating and did not stay any length of time on the marshes.

These two species as well as the Lesser Yellow-legs are quite abundant in certain sections of Chile. They are very commonly shot as game birds. If some one could band a good number of these species it is very possible that some of the bands might be recovered in Chile. Should anyone in North America band any of these birds I would be glad to know of it so that an effort could be made to notify the hunters of this region and obtain any bands that may be found.—D. S. BULLOCK, *Angol, Chile.*

Extension of the Breeding Range of the Turkey Vulture in Pennsylvania.—The Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) has for decades been known as a summer resident of the southern counties of Pennsylvania, where it frequently occurs also in winter. Warren's

statements indicate that in York, Montgomery, Lebanon, Lancaster, Lehigh, Delaware, Chester, Adams, Dauphin, Fayette and Somerset Counties, at least, it was regarded as a regular summer resident forty years ago (Birds of Pennsylvania, 1890, p. 116). Stone regarded it as common in Chester, Delaware, Lancaster and York Counties (Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, 1894, p. 84). I found it breeding in Huntingdon County in the early spring of 1921 and 1923; and in Crawford County at Pymatuning Swamp local conditions are such that it probably has nested there for years (Birds of Pymatuning Swamp and Conneaut Lake, 'Annals Carnegie Museum' Vol. XVIII, 1928, 121). Since my residence in Harrisburg (November 1924—) I have noted the bird in the surrounding region at all times of the year. It is particularly abundant about the Gettysburg Battlefield.

During the past summer this species has extended its range northward noticeably in the central mountain district. Correspondence and conversation with members of the Field Force of the Game Commission have brought to light numerous records in sections where natives have never seen a Vulture before. In Clearfield, Elk, Cameron, Potter, and Clinton Counties particularly, the birds have been seen, and many nests have been found. In Clearfield County particularly, residents have inquired about the appearance of this new bird. Dr. Joseph S. Illick, State Forester of Pennsylvania, noted six Turkey Vultures at the large nurseries near Clearfield, Clearfield County, on July 22, 1928, where on his many previous visits to this region he had never seen one before.

Change of climate has probably had nothing to do with the extension of range in this species; the immediate cause is not difficult to trace. Deer have become so abundant in some sections of the Commonwealth that they have exhausted their food supply, and are dying by the score as the result of undernourishment, or of disease which accompanies overcrowding and lack of food. In Clearfield County hundreds of deer carcasses have been found along certain of the streams. In one spot near Clearfield I stood by the bank of a small stream and counted about me, within a radius of a few hundred yards, and all within sight at once, four dead deer. It is not surprising that the Vultures have taken advantage of this abundance of food. There is nothing unusual, of course, about a Vulture's travelling a great distance to secure food, so that at first thought we might suppose that the birds from southern counties were merely travelling northward on foraging expeditions. The presence of the birds throughout the summer, and the finding of several nests, however, indicate that the species has actually extended its range northward, chiefly as a result, it would seem, of the presence of a dependable food supply.

The Game Commission has announced a season on antlerless deer for the fall of 1928. This will probably mean the killing of many deer, so that the congestion which has had such disastrous effect in some sections will be relieved. Whether the consequent disappearance of a steady food

supply will cause the Vultures to withdraw remains to be seen. The fact that Turkey Vultures do not occur as permanent residents in the Pymatuning Swamp section suggests the probability that the birds which nest in the more northern counties of the Commonwealth spend the winter in the southern counties.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Board of Game Commissioners, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Turkey Vulture in New Hampshire.—A note appeared in a recent issue of the Keene, New Hampshire 'Sentinel' describing the shooting of a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) on April 30, 1928, by William Royce, Jr., on the estate of Dr. William F. Wesselhoeft, at Jaffrey, N. H. The bird is stated to have weighed seven pounds and had a wing spread of six feet from tip to tip. The bird was mounted by George P. Wellington, a taxidermist and I examined it in his studio on May 31. It is a beautiful full plumaged specimen.—LEWIS O. SHELLY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

Sparrow Hawk Killing young Chickens.—Between June 27 and July 2, 1928, while traveling along the Redmon Road, in Edgar County, Illinois, I frequently saw, at the same spot in the road, a small chick in the talons of a Sparrow Hawk. The age of the chicks, which were Barred Rocks, was estimated by two chicken breeders at two weeks. The fact that this occurrence was seen always at the same point seems presumptive evidence that it was the same bird or one of the same pair (the sex was male in all cases where one could be certain of it). The fact that all chicks were Barred Rocks might lend some support to the same conclusion.

The diet of birds is known to vary within certain limits with the availability of certain food articles. However, when an insectivorous Hawk whose normal diet consists of only a small proportion of small birds turns "chicken hawk" with such earnestness and persistence, one is taken a little by surprise. In this case the factors causing the change are not far to seek.

For about two weeks preceding the period during which the observations were made there had been a record-breaking period of rainy, cool and cloudy weather. The insect population was considerably reduced by the weather. In fact, the hordes of insects that often detract materially from the pleasure of night driving at this period were conspicuously absent. It is not difficult to imagine, therefore, that the Sparrow Hawk was forced to turn to other sources of food.

Incidentally, peculiar conditions of the poultry and egg market have encouraged the raising of late chicks, which would account for the exposure of such young chicks at such a late date in the breeding season.—JOHN STEIDL, *Vanderbilt Hall, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.*

Flicker Trapped by Resin.—On April 19, 1927, I saw a female Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) vainly attempting to fly along the lake shore at Evanston, Illinois. I was able to capture the bird without much trouble,