

coverts and back were brownish with small white spots. Outer tail feathers were white with brown bars while the middle feathers were quite dark brown. There was a small white eye ring but no distinct white line over the eye. The head, neck, and upper breast were streaked and spotted with brown and gray and the markings seemed to form a rather indistinct collar. The bill was black, lighter near the base and the legs distinctly greenish. I made these notes on the spot.—R. CLIFFORD BLACK, *New York, N. Y.*

**Wilson's Phalarope and Black-necked Stilt in South Carolina.**—

On May 10, 1929, I found a Wilson's Phalarope and a Black-necked Stilt in a small tidal pool on the broad sand flats of James Island near Charleston, S. C.; a most unusual experience, since both these species are exceedingly rare in this State.

There are two other South Carolina records for the Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*); May, 1881, Arthur T. Wayne, and August 16, 1928, E. von S. Dingle. At the time I knew of only one other South Carolina record for Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*), a specimen taken by E. B. Chamberlain on Sullivan's Island and now in The Charleston Museum. I learn, however, that on May 5, five days before I saw my bird, Mr. P. A. Dumont of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, saw a Wilson's Phalarope on Morris Island at the entrance of Charleston harbor. I understand that Mr. Dumont's Morris Island Phalarope was a male; my James Island bird was a female in high plumage. These, therefore, are two distinct records.

It was late in the afternoon of May 10 when I saw the Phalarope and the Stilt in the James Island pool, where Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Plovers and Wilson's Plovers were also feeding, while many other shore and marsh birds moved about over the surrounding sands or passed overhead. Early the next day I returned to the pool with Mr. Alexander Sprunt Jr., and Mr. Ellison Williams. Both Stilt and Phalarope were still present and we studied them carefully at close range. I saw them both again in the same place on May 13, but when I revisited the pool on May 17 it was deserted.—HERBERT RAVENEL SASS, *Charleston, S. C.*

**The Avocet in Georgia.**—Bent in his 'Life Histories' (Bulletin 142, National Museum) gives one casual record of the occurrence of the Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) in this state, a specimen taken at St. Marys, October 8, 1903.

On October 14, 1928, Mr. Frank Martin and I observed an Avocet on the salt mud flats known as Horseshoe Shoals, near the Savannah River entrance. No other was seen from that date until February 23, 1929, when I saw one flying by near the same locality. March 4 Mr. Martin and I saw one on a sand beach in company first with a flock of Gulls and Terns, later in the day with Black-bellied Plover and other shore birds. This bird was seen several times until March 7, when I succeeded in

getting close enough to shoot it. It was a female, fat and in good plumage.  
—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge "Morgan," Savanna, Ga.*

**Black Vulture Nesting in Northern Virginia.**—On May 11, 1929, Mr. Herbert S. Barber, of the United States National Museum, and my uncle, Mr. Harold B. Stabler, took me up the Potomac River from Washington, D. C., about half way to Great Falls. One of the purposes of the trip was to show me the nests of some Turkey Vultures of which Mr. Barber had known for years. They were situated on the south, or Virginia, side of the river, for here the banks are steep and rocky, and scattered broken boulders form many crevices and caves which are enticing nesting sites for the birds.

After climbing up a small cliff within which the first of these ancient aeries was located, we peered cautiously into the miniature cavern, and there, standing vigilantly over two tiny newly-hatched young, was the mother Vulture. On seeing us, she lowered her head and hissed softly, but gave no sign of trying to escape. Since I had fortunately brought my bird bands with me, we decided that it would be feasible to try to catch her; accordingly Mr. Barber and Mr. Stabler stationed themselves at two of the entrances to the cave, and by poking sticks at her, drove her over to the third, where I was waiting in readiness. At first she could not bring herself to risk a dash past me; in desperation she emptied the contents of her stomach, but even the unpleasantness of this did not drive us away; finally she made a break for liberty, only to be seized just as she was about free. Resignedly she waited for whatever fate might be in store for her, quiet but watchful.

Mr. Barber now brought out the two young, which hissed in a manner very similar to that of their mother as soon as they were disturbed, but he remarked at once that they were not white, like all the other downy young Turkey Vultures he had ever seen, but a light buffy brown color. No sooner had he announced this discovery, when I noticed to my amazement that the mother did not have a red head, but a pure black one! With a thrill we all suddenly realized that this was no longer a Turkey Vulture's nest, but had been adopted by the other species, the Black Vulture. Further observation brought to light the facts that the adult had a square, short tail, white veins to the primary wing feathers, and a less stocky and blunt head than a Turkey Vulture. The bill was decidedly weaker-looking, but in spite of this fact, the old bird managed to take quite a chunk out of one of Mr. Stabler's fingers, as he was holding her to be photographed and banded. After replacing the little ones in the nest, we quietly pushed her back into one of the entrances, and she promptly settled down upon her babies, apparently ignoring our presence and unperturbed by her recent experience. Thus we left her.

So far as I can ascertain the Black Vulture has never been found breeding so far north but recent records of its occurrence about Washington and elsewhere would seem to indicate that it was extending its range and the finding of this nest is additional evidence.