

on the Atlantic coast, and there were six definite records for Essex County up to 1888. Since this time it has been one of the rarest of casual shore-birds, and there is but one recent record.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

**Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*) in Oregon.**—In 'The Auk' (Vol. XLVI, no. 2, 1929, p. 219), after reviewing the evidence on which this species had attained a place on the list of Oregon birds, I made the following statement: "This species should be placed on the hypothetical list in the future." Since this was published, I have had the pleasure of looking over a collection of local bird skins prepared by Overton Dowell, Jr., and, much to my pleasure and surprise, I found an adult male *Bartramia longicauda* collected by Mr. Dowell himself at Summitt Prairie, forty-five miles east of Prineville, Crook County, Oregon, on August 9, 1919. Since the specimen was taken, it has been laid away with a small series of Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) in Mr. Dowell's collection and its identity and rarity in Oregon never suspected until I happened to see it. Thus, the question of the occurrence of the Upland Plover in Oregon as a straggler is settled in the affirmative.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Poriland, Oregon.*

**Companionate Feeding Activities of a Spotted Sandpiper and a Red-winged Blackbird.**—A seemingly unusual occurrence of a Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) and a Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) feeding under a partnership agreement came to my notice for a second time the past summer, with a number of repeats. It is not unusual for some of the brooks to dry up in mid-summer and the smaller fry, consisting of pollywogs, shiners and aquatic insects, which do not escape to the deeper pools when the water becomes stagnant, then afford abundant food for both snakes and birds. Such species as the Bittern, Green Heron, Woodcock, Sandpipers, Crow, Blackbirds, Song Sparrow and Northern Water-Thrush utilize such a food supply commonly. But when I saw a Sandpiper and a Blackbird feeding together, first in 1928 and again several times in 1929, it aroused my curiosity sufficiently to make careful observations. On July 16, 1929, the two birds were seen to approach a small pool about eighteen inches wide and six inches deep. The Sandpiper waded along, dove its bill under water—which was clear enough to see the bottom—and drew forth a small cylindrical object about an inch long, probed it and swallowed something, discarding the shell. Later I identified these aquatic insects as the bottom feeding larvae of the caddis-fly. Often the Sandpiper entered the water up to its breast, immersing the entire head to obtain one of these larvae, invariably bringing it to the shore, perhaps to eat, but collected a number without eating more than a half of them. Then I discovered to my surprise that the Red-wing was waiting for just this thing to happen and, following its host, picked up and extracted the larvae, discarding the case as did the Sand-

piper; but whereas the latter did so without aid other than its long bill, the Blackbird resorted to holding the "walking stick," as these larvae are commonly called, in its feet to extract the tenant. Sometimes the Blackbird went so far as to immerse its own head to gather prey when such was within reach or its host was slow in handing out the food.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

**Sexual Differentiation in the Plumage of the Black-bellied Plover.**—It is my purpose to present briefly some evidence in support of the belief that adult male and female Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*) have distinct nuptial plumages, the females never acquiring a completely black breast.

While collecting birds at Long Point on Lake Erie, Ontario, in the spring of 1928, a series of twenty-one Black-bellied Plover was secured. From one to four specimens were secured on thirteen different days between May 7 and 28. The series should therefore fairly represent a cross-section of the birds on their way to the breeding grounds. Careful examination of the genitalia disclosed that the gonads were enlarged, the development being strikingly uniform throughout the series. However, the degree of maturity as indicated by the plumages was not uniform.

On returning to the Museum the 21 specimens were arranged in a series beginning with the one having the least black on the ventral surface at one end and ending with the one having the blackest breast at the other. Arranged in this way the gradation in the amount of black was almost complete. There was however, a definite break in the series at one point. It was then discovered that all of those at the light-breasted end of the series were females and those at the dark-breasted end of the series, males. The male which exhibited the most white feathers ventrally is darker than the darkest female.

The sexual differences are also apparent when the dorsal areas of the specimens are examined. Males are whiter on the head and have more contrasting black and white markings on the back, less of the gray characteristic of winter plumage. Females, particularly young individuals, retain considerable of their winter feathers as pointed out by Dwight.<sup>1</sup>

In the matter of age it may be stated that there appears to be at present no way to separate with certainty birds in their first year from older ones. Although the three lightest of the light-breasted females are considered by me as being within their first year, it is apparent that there is no sharp difference between these and the remainder of the series of females.

The sexual difference in plumages which has been noted in migrant birds probably persists on the breeding ground. Such material as I have been able to examine indicates that this is true and I quote a few references from the literature which support my observation.

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<sup>1</sup> Dwight, Dr. Jonathan. The Moults of the North American Shore Birds Limicolae. ('The Auk,' vol. XVII, No. 4, p. 384.)