

Early Nesting of the Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) in South Jersey.—On May 4, 1928, Mr. Frederick A. Hemphill and the writer found a Bittern's nest in the salt meadows at Cape May Court House, N. J. containing four highly incubated eggs. The female had to be actually pushed from the nest.

This is about three weeks earlier than the usually recorded nesting date for this species, in southern New Jersey. Supposing the eggs were fourteen days incubated the nest must have held a fresh clutch about April 20.

On May 30, 1921, I found a Bittern's nest containing two young over a week old, at West Cape May, and at the same locality Mr. Turner E. McMullen collected five slightly incubated eggs on May 22, 1921, while on May 21, 1922, at Cape May Court House, Mr. William Jay found a nest with four highly incubated eggs. I was with both parties when they found these nests and they constitute all the Bittern's nests I have ever seen in southern Jersey.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Carolina Rail (*Porzana carolina*) Wintering in Colorado.—On January 10, 1930, when approaching a bridge across a marshy stream north of Aurora, Colorado, I saw a Carolina Rail about twenty-five feet away, walking over the mud and snow at the margin of the water. The black on the face and throat and the short, thick bill were seen clearly, distinguishing it from the Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*) which is known to winter in this state. It disappeared in a clump of vegetation, and when I came still nearer, arose, flew about twenty feet and dropped out of sight among the cat-tails. For some minutes later I heard the usual squeaking *ur-ur-ur* alarm call. The water had not frozen over despite the zero weather, because of a stream from the Aurora sewer plant emptying into it, keeping it at a temperature of about 37° F. Standard bird books of the state do not mention this species wintering here.—LEON KELSO, *Aurora, Colorado.*

Abundance of Wintering Limicolae on the Florida West Coast.—While spending the winter of 1929 (January–April) at Dunedin, Florida, I was particularly interested in noting the relative abundance of the wintering and migrant *Limicolae*.

The largest concentration of shore-birds appeared to be on the mud-flats, at low tide, in Old Tampa Bay, south of Safety Harbor. Great numbers were also noted along either side of the causeway to Clearwater Beach; along both sides of the approaches to Gandy Bridge, and on the beaches north of Sarasota, near the Whitfield Estates.

A summary of these observations for the purpose of comparison with one-time and future numbers of these shore-birds is herewith presented. Shore-birds were recorded on 44 field trips between January 15 and May 2, 1929; the species are arranged below according to the frequency of occur-

ence; the number of field trips on which each species was noted is given, together with the place, date and approximate number when the maximum was observed:

	<i>No. of times recorded</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Maxi- mum</i>	<i>Date</i>
Black-bellied Plover.....	31	Safety Harbor	350	Feb. 2
Killdeer.....	28	Safety Harbor	500	Feb. 2
Willet and Western Willet	26	near Sarasota	105	Mar. 31
Semipalmated Plover.....	24	Safety Harbor	1500	Feb. 2
Spotted Sandpiper.....	23	Davis Island, Tampa	4	Mar. 23
Semipalmated Sandpiper	23	Safety Harbor	1200	Feb. 2
Sanderling.....	21	Clearwater Beach	90	Jan. 18
Ruddy Turnstone.....	21	Safety Harbor	65	Feb. 5
Wilson's Plover.....	19	near Sarasota	125	Mar. 31
Dowitcher.....	18	Safety Harbor	850	Feb. 2
Red-backed Sandpiper....	18	Safety Harbor	1000	Feb. 2
Least Sandpiper.....	16	Tampa Bay	125	April 20
Knot.....	13	Safety Harbor	350	Feb. 5
Piping Plover.....	12	Tampa Bay	15	Mar. 31
Western Sandpiper.....	5	Clearwater Beach	30	Feb. 6
Greater Yellow-legs.....	5	Safety Harbor	1	Feb. 5
Lesser Yellow-legs.....	3	Rocky Point, Tampa	2	April 22
Hudsonian Curlew.....	3	Clearwater Beach	3	April 26
Long-billed Dowitcher....	2	Safety Harbor	10	Feb. 2
Cuban Snowy Plover.....	2	south of Sarasota	7	April 20
Solitary Sandpiper.....	2	Rocky Point, Tampa	1	April 29
Wilson's Snipe.....	2	Wall Springs	1	Mar. 3

Besides these 22 species, Mr. William G. Fargo has recently recorded (Wilson Bulletin, 1926, pp. 147-148) the following additional species from this region:—

"Pectoral Sandpiper.—Only seen in migration (March 31, 1926).

White-rumped Sandpiper.—A few in migration, May 14, 15, 1926.

Baird's Sandpiper.—Migrants, May 14, 15, 1926.

Marbled Godwit.—One seen near Pass-a-Grille, March 2, 1925 and one at Cedar Keys, Florida, February 19, 1923."

And in the Wilson Bulletin (1928, p. 54). Mr. Fargo gives:—

"Oyster-catcher.—One individual . . . seen at Pass-a-Grille on April 3, 1927."—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *American Museum of Natural History*.

Notes on the American Woodcock in central West Virginia.—In 1921 the State Game Commission established a game refuge near French Creek, Upshur County, West Virginia, and since that time there has been a very marked increase in the numbers of Woodcock (*Philohela minor*)