

A Note on Nesting Killdeers.—On the morning of April 19, 1931, Robert Montgomery and I found a set of Killdeer's eggs consisting of four, as usual, one of which was not turned with the pointed end down. The eggs were located among some small chips of limestone, but there were only a few more chips lining the depression than were scattered about the vicinity of the nest. Seven hours later the nest was revisited, and much to our surprise the nest was not only completely lined, but the eggs were resting on a bed of the limestone chips covering the ground from view.

The next day two more Killdeer's nests were found while I was accompanying the University of Minnesota ornithology class on a field trip. One of them, to the surprise and interest of all the observers, was composed of shot gun wads, and was surrounded by several hundred old shot gun shells. This nest was apparently finished, but the other one found was only slightly lined with coarse grasses and the wings of boxelder seeds; so on the next possible occasion, which was two days later, I revisited this latter nest, and found it had been added to considerably, though there was not as much difference in the amount of nesting material as in the case cited first.

A previous observation leads me to suspect that it might be a common occurrence for Killdeers to lay their eggs before completing the nest. On April 27, 1930 I found a single Killdeer's egg lying among some dry leaves without the slightest suggestion of a depression or a nest. The assumption is, of course, that the birds would have laid the rest of the eggs in the same spot and built a nest around them.—ALDEN RISSEB, *St. Paul, Minn.*

Wilson's Phalarope and Red-backed Sandpiper at Battle Creek, Michigan.—On May 10, 1931 while studying shore-birds along the Kalamazoo River, I came upon a female Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). She was feeding with a flock of Lesser Yellowlegs on one of the numerous mud flats above the Consumer's Dam. I rented a boat and was able to row within twenty feet of the bird before she flew. The markings of the female on the head, neck and throat are so outstanding at such close range that the bird was easily identified. Even at a distance she stood out clearly from the other shore-birds.

As I approached the Phalarope I was surprised to see three Red-backed Sandpipers (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*). This is another uncommon, even rare, shore-bird in this part of the state. Since the birds allowed an approach of fifteen feet without flying the red back and the black band on the belly were easily noted.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Michigan.*

The Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) near Charleston, S. C.—It is with pleasure that the writer is able to record the capture of the second specimen of *Micropalama himantopus* in South Carolina since the time of Audubon. The bird was seen in a small pond on Sol Legare Island, Charleston County, S. C., April 17, 1931 and was feeding in company with some Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*). On examining the birds

in the pond through my glasses, my attention was arrested by this individual and I remarked to Messrs. Edward S. Dingle and Peter Gething who were with me, that it appeared to differ from the Yellow-legs in a somewhat indefinite way. After looking at it, they agreed with me but neither of us recognized the species for what it was. I had never seen *M. himantopus* previously, nor had they, and the resemblance to *T. flavipes* was very marked under the existing light and conditions. At any rate, its strangeness resulted in the bird being taken and it proved to be a female Stilt Sandpiper in winter plumage.

This is the first specimen of the species to be taken in this state for nearly nineteen years, one having been secured on Pawley's Island, near Georgetown, on August 22, 1912 by Mr. C. P. Webber, his bird being the first taken since Dr. Bachman secured specimens while working with Audubon.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

Pectoral Sandpiper at Lexington, Virginia.—On April 3, 1931, the writer, in company with Prof. R. S. Freer, of Lynchburg, Va., and Mr. M. G. Lewis, of Lexington, Va., discovered five Pectoral Sandpipers (*Pisobia maculata*) feeding in a small muddy flat near Lexington. They were within twenty yards of the much-travelled Lee Highway. One of the birds, which already had a broken wing, was taken by me and a skin made of it. I saw three at the same place on April 5 and again on April 8. The Pectoral Sandpiper was formerly reported by Dr. E. A. Smyth to be a fairly regular spring migrant in Montgomery County, but this is my first record here in four years of fairly regular field work.—J. J. MURRAY, Lexington, Va.

The Long-billed Curlew at Belvedere, Alberta.—On May 26, 1930, during a violent squall of wind and rain I observed six rather large birds fly in from the lake and alight in the stubble of a wheat field, on my place at Lac La Nonne.

They were unknown to me and I immediately secured my gun and glasses and went after them to obtain a specimen. However, they were wary and I was unable to get within range, but I had several good views of them through my glasses and had no difficulty in identifying them as Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*). They remained on the stubble during the afternoon but I did not molest them further after satisfying myself as to their identity. On the 28th one of these birds or another straggler was still on one of my fields. On May 20 and 21 we had a violent snow-storm and possibly this caused these birds to become confused and lost.

I believe this observation extends the known range of the Long-billed Curlew in Alberta considerably to the northward.—A. D. HENDERSON, Belvedere, Alberta.

The Shore-bird Flight of 1930 on the New Jersey Coast.—The appended compilation of shore-bird records from the coastal regions of New Jersey during 1930 follows the same plan as those of 1928 and 1929, previously published in 'The Auk.' It is from the records of the writer,