

The Western Willet in Wisconsin.—In Kumlien and Hollister's 'Check-List of Wisconsin Birds,' the Willet (*Catoptropterus semipalmatus*) is listed as the species occurring within the borders of Wisconsin as a rare summer resident, with the suggestion that possibly in the examination of a good series of skins, some specimens of the Western Willet might be discovered. There is apparently no good series of these skins.

In 1925, Taylor reported in 'The Auk' (Vol. 43, p. 251) seeing a Western Willet and attempting to collect it but the first actual record of the race is one which the writer collected on April 30, 1932, near the mouth of Bar Creek, Sheboygan County, along the Wisconsin Shore of Lake Michigan. In speaking to some fishermen, I was told of several very large sandpipers seen on the beach that morning and upon going there I saw two fine specimens of willet, leisurely feeding along the shore. The birds were quite tame, and allowed rather close approach. The larger one was collected, and upon examination proved to be a female Western Willet. The skin is now in the collection of the Milwaukee Public Museum.—CLARENCE S. JUNG, 2502 E. Stratford St., Milwaukee, Wis.

Marbled Godwit near Montreal.—On May 15, 1932, I observed a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) on the south shore of the River St. Lawrence near Laprairie, about four miles from Montreal. It was fairly tame and allowed me to approach within about fifty feet, at which distance every detail of the plumage was plain through a pair of Zeiss 8 x 40 binoculars. I made a full description of the bird, although the long slightly upturned bill, the curlew-like build, the barred tail and the striking rufous-buff coloring are sufficient identification.

Whilst under observation the bird was standing on the river shore, and from time to time snapped its beak open and shut. The movement was so quick that at first it was difficult to follow, but it soon became clear that the upper mandible was flexible, like that of the Woodcock and some other shore-birds. When the beak opened the normal upward curve of the upper mandible was accentuated until the tip pointed for an instant vertically upwards, though the base was still almost horizontal. The bending took place in the distal inch and a half of the beak. This observation, of which I have been unable to find any mention in descriptions of either American or European species of godwits, was confirmed by my brother who was with me. The bird watched us intently all the time, so that the movement may have been an expression of alarm. It was quite silent, and remained on the same stretch of river shore until evening.

There is one previous record for the district, mentioned by Wintle without date, except that the bird was taken in autumn (Birds of Montreal, 1896, p. 42).—V. C. WYNNE-EDWARDS, *McGill University, Montreal.*

Concerning the Occurrence of the European Ruff in N. A.—Since 1914 there has been no published record of the European Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), for North America.

On October 1, 1929, an immature male was taken by me near Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and subsequently identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser, this being the second record for Nova Scotia. It was in company with a Greater Yellow-legs at the edge of a small tidal pond on the salt marsh. The two birds were standing motionless about a foot apart and allowed me to approach within easy gunshot. When skinned the Ruff was found to be in good condition, although it was not fat. The specimen is now mounted and in the Provincial Museum at Halifax, Nova Scotia, accession number 7178.

Prior to 1929 there had been thirty records regarded as authentic, omitting the five or six hypothetical records for Michigan (G. A. Stockwell, *Forest and Stream*, VIII, 22, 36) but including the three Greenland Birds (Brent, *Life Histories of N. A. Shorebirds*, p. 49), and the occurrences off South America.

In the 'Catalogue of Birds, Nests and Eggs of the Museum of Greene Smith, Peterboro, N. Y.,' which was printed in 1880, and which is now in the possession of the Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University, there are two references to the Ruff on Long Island, N. Y. His collection appears to have contained eight Ruffs and all are dated 1887. For six the locality given is England and for the other two, Long Island. Undoubtedly six of these birds were imported and purchased but it is not logical to suppose that he would have given the locality England for these and Long Island for the other two if he believed all of them to have come from the same place by human agencies. Of Greene Smith's Long Island records the serial number of the male is 667 and that of the female 706. It is my opinion that both are authentic and should they be accepted the total number of American records is thirty-three.

A study of these records shows that no Ruffs have been taken in June nor during the colder months of December, January, February and March. There have been adult and juvenile records for both spring (April and May) and fall. There is a large majority of juvenile fall records. The records fall into two groups, those along the Atlantic coast and those towards the Great Lakes region (Ohio, Michigan and Ontario) corresponding to two general lines of native shorebird flight.

There is a period of fifteen years between the last two records and a breeding ground on this continent is improbable. Were it so there would, to my way of thinking, have been more frequent records of the bird's capture.

In 'The Auk' for 1905, p. 411, Mr. Ruthven Deane published a list of sixteen American records of the Ruff and in 1906 Dr. T. S. Palmer added six more (Ibid., 1906, p. 99). Since that time the following have been added:

Ad. ♀ Seabrook, N. H., Sept. 23, 1907. Coll. John E. Thayer (Auk, XXXVI, 1909, p. 77).

Im. ♀ Pt. Judith, R. I., Sept. 7, 1909. Coll. Harry S. Hathaway (Auk, XXX, 1913, p. 18).

Im. ♀ Pribilof Isls., Alaska, Sept. 7, 1910. Coll. U. S. Nat. Mus., (Evermann, Auk, XXX, 1913, p. 18).

♀ Scarborough, Me., Oct. 16, 1912. Coll. Arthur H. Norton (Auk, XXX, 1913, p. 576).

Im. ♂ Long Island, N. Y., Sept. 26, 1914. Coll. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Miller, Auk, XXXII, 1915, p. 226).

Im. ♂ Wolfville, N. S., Oct. 1, 1929. Coll. Prov. Mus., Nova Scotia.

♂ Long Island, N. Y. Formerly in Greene Smith Mus. Peterboro, N. Y.

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—VICTOR E. GOULD, *Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.*

The Shore-bird Flight of 1931 on the New Jersey Coast.—The following compilation of 1931 shore-bird records from the coastal regions of New Jersey represents counts made by the writer, by several other members of Linnaean Society of New York and by members of Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, the latter records being collected by Julian K. Potter.

There were 133 locality trips during the southbound migration, covering about the same areas as those of the three preceding years.¹ They were apportioned as follows: Newark Meadows 32; Point Pleasant 6; Seaside Park 8; Barnegat Inlet 13; Barnegat Marshes (west of bay) 13; Beach Haven Inlet 18; Tuckerton Marshes 8; Grassy Bay 1; Brigantine and Absecon Marshes 21; Coast between Atlantic City and Cape May 5; Cape May and vicinity 8. The distribution of trips by months was: July 34; August 48; September 22; October 10; November 9; December 8; January 2.

A total of 34 species was recorded of which 33 were seen on the southerly and 20 on the northerly flight. These species are ranked in Tables I and II as in previous years,¹ by taking an average of (1) their ranking according to number of times seen, (2) their ranking according to largest number seen in one day and (3) their ranking according to total numbers seen on all trips.

The 1931 summer was almost as dry as that of 1930 and this, coupled with airplane activities at Newark Airport, reduced the numbers of birds stopping on Newark Meadows. But elsewhere conditions were favorable.

There were several shifts in position in the spring table, the most notable increases being Dowitcher and Knot. The Dowitcher has made a very marked increase during the past four years. The five species which led in 1929 and 1930 were still leading in 1931, though there were several changes in order of abundance.

Extreme dates and peak movements of the principal species on the fall flight follow:

Charadrius melodus. Piping Plover.—Present to Oct. 4; maximum July 29; majority July 11 to 29; largest movement July 19 to 29.

Charadrius semipalmatus. Semipalmated Plover.—July 7 to Oct. 29;

¹ Auk, 1929, p. 314; 1930 p. 424; 1931, p. 418.