

and adults, constituted approximately one-third of all the food taken. More than 400 of the stomachs came from one restricted area, and were taken by a single collector, a long series being frequently taken in one day. Only three of these 400 stomachs were among the 14 containing insects. The 11 remaining insect-containing stomachs were taken on ten dates at ten localities by nine collectors.—PHOEBE KNAPPEN, *Washington, D. C.*

**Rare birds at Lake Ontelaunee, Reading Pa.**—In addition to the Leach's Petrels recorded on p. 74 *antea* the following species were observed on this reservoir lake six miles north of Reading following the storm of late August, 1933.

*Oceanites oceanicus*. WILSON'S PETREL.—Two were with the Leach's Petrels on the reservoir on August 24. These were readily distinguished at short range by smaller size, darker color, square tail, etc.

*Sterna antillarum antillarum*. LEAST TERN.—One was resting on some trash at the head of the reservoir on the same day. This is the first local occurrence of this bird in the present century, to the best of my knowledge.

*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*. WILLET.—One of these striking birds seen both at rest and in flight at close range, on August 24, constitutes the first county record, either old or new.

A number of other species of rare occurrence were noted in numbers on the same day, such as Laughing Gull and Sanderling.—EARL L. POOLE, *Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pa.*

**Summer Bird Records for North Carolina.**—While doing field work in the Pamlico Sound area of North Carolina the week of June 22–28, I was much surprised to find two adult Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*) with two apparently full grown juveniles. The birds were observed on Ocracoke Island, June 25. If these birds were early fall migrants, the migration was almost a month earlier than that normally reported for this area.

It was interesting to note on this date and at the same island beach such a variety of apparently non-migrating "northern" shore-birds. The following were observed: one Lesser Yellow-legs, five Greater Yellow-legs, ten Knots, one Hudsonian Curlew, and seven Ruddy Turnstones. While none of these species were seen on any of the adjoining North Carolina islands, five Knots were observed on June 29 at Egg Island, north of Atlantic City, New Jersey. I have been unable to find any previous summer records for any of these birds for North Carolina and none are recorded by Pearson, Brimley & Brimley in their 'Birds of North Carolina.' It should be stated, however, that there are summer records for other coastal states. While none of these birds was collected, they were observed with 8-power binoculars at a comparatively close range.

Near Avon, Hatteras Island, on June 24, a flock of 42 Brown Pelicans was observed and five more individuals were seen near the town of Hatteras. Such numbers in a single flock this far north would seem to indicate an increase in numbers and an extension in the range of this species.

These islands off the mainland coast afford excellent breeding areas for a variety of water birds. On June 25, on the southern portion of Ocracoke Island, I found a nesting colony of about 175 pairs of Black Skimmers. The nests were merely hollows scooped out of the dampened sand without any trace of nesting material. About one nest in ten contained young and incubation appeared to be well advanced in a great many others. The clutch varied from two to four, with three being the usual number. This is of interest inasmuch as Bent, Forbush, and others state that four is the usual clutch. This may indicate a variation in locality, in colony, or in season. A number of nests containing two young or two eggs far advanced in incubation were observed.

One clutch of clear white to creamy white unspotted (albino) eggs was noted. I find that there are two such eggs in the large collection at the U. S. National Museum and four others only faintly marked. Bent writes (Bul. U. S. N. M., No. 113, p. 314) that the eggs are "usually heavily marked . . ." and ". . . nearly all . . . are more or less heavily spotted or blotched . . .," but he does not state that the eggs are ever pure white or unspotted.

The series of eggs at Ocracoke showed many interesting and picturesque variations in color patterns. The ground color varied from a nearly pure white to pale greenish light pinkish or even a buffy tint. Nearly all were heavily marked with various shades and patterns of brown. While there was considerable variation in the shape of the eggs, most of them were more or less rounded ovate.

The clutch with the albinistic eggs contained two young just hatched, one young struggling to free itself from the egg, and one egg not pipped. Because the young of this nest were almost identical with the young of other nests it would preclude any possibility of some other bird having laid in the Skimmer's nest. As a further check the unpipped egg was brought to Washington and was found to contain an almost fully developed embryo. This specimen has been carefully checked with museum series.

The parent bird (of the nest in question) was frightened away from her nest three times, but each time within fifteen minutes after the observer hid himself she returned to her duties of incubation and the mate, presumably the male, alighted some fifteen or eighteen inches from her as if to help keep guard. The Skimmers are easily frightened from their nests and usually leave and keep together as a flock. Upon leaving, their wailing cries are given almost continuously, and many fly off close to the ground feigning injury. The often repeated belief that the Skimmers leave most of their duties of incubation to the sun was not correct for this colony.

I found two pairs of Gull-Billed Terns nesting with the Skimmers. When I approached their nest, one pair of birds became most vociferous and repeatedly darted down to within fifteen inches of my head.

Some fifty yards distant from the Skimmer colony was a small colony

of nesting Common Terns. These birds had appropriated a grassy plot for their nesting site. Larger colonies of Common and Least Terns were found on Hatteras Island, June 23-24. It appeared that these birds averaged a week or more earlier in their incubation than did the Skimmers. One downy young Common Tern, that was headed off from running along the beach, unhesitatingly swam about two rods out into the water along the shore.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey*.

**Notes from Escambia County, Florida.**—*Chen caerulescens*. BLUE GOOSE.—On April 23, 1932, a single Blue Goose, discovered flying eastward over the surf on the Gulf beach near Pensacola, was seen to swing shoreward and alight on the sand. An approach to within fifty yards was made under cover of the sand dunes, and I was able to examine it at my leisure as it stood in full sunlight. It appeared to be an immature bird with much white on the neck, but not yet in full adult plumage. A. H. Howell cites (*Florida Bird Life*, p. 129) only a single spring occurrence of this species in the state—April 5, 1859, at Key West.

*Clangula hyemalis*. OLD-SQUAW.—The sight of a single Old-squaw near Pensacola on December 4, 1932, constituted only the third instance in my local experience of the occurrence of this rare winter visitor. The bird was watched for a long time as it followed the Bay shore, diving and feeding as it went. Of the three birds seen in this region during the past seventeen years, all have been females or immatures.

*Haematopus palliatus palliatus*. AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER.—Since the publication of Howell's 'Florida Bird Life,' in which is cited my record for the Oystercatcher on May 18, 1919, two other instances of its local occurrence have been noted—on May 4, 1932, and April 22, 1933, single birds on each occasion. This species, formerly common in Florida, is now considered rare on both the Atlantic and the Gulf coasts of the state.

*Pluvialis dominica dominica*. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER.—A single bird, seen on November 13, 1932, near Pensacola, is believed to be the only one ever recorded from this end of the state as well as one of the very few noted in the whole state in the past thirty years. The bird appeared to be very tame, showed no sign of deserting the overflowed field in which it was feeding, and several times allowed of approach to within thirty yards. It was examined through 6x binoculars in fair to good light for a long time, both at rest and in flight, and the points of difference between it and the very similar Black-bellied Plover were noted at the time.

*Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*. EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL.—This species, an elusive migrant and winter visitant, had never been recorded in Florida earlier than October (Howell, *Florida Bird Life*, pp. 298-299) until, on September 11, 1932, a single bird was found crushed on the highway near Pensacola. It was so badly mangled and so far gone in decay that preservation was out of the question. However, the longest primary from one wing was sent to the Biological Survey, where Dr. Harry C. Oberholser identified it definitely as being that of a Whip-poor-will.