

There were four birds in the flock, feeding along the water's edge in quite a different manner from their usual habit near breaking waves. No facilities were at hand for collecting a specimen, but I am thoroughly familiar with the bird on the Atlantic coast, and feel that this identification is positive. The abundance of white was unmistakable, particularly as the birds were seen at close range with 6x glasses.—MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*

Shorebird Migration in Barbados.—A much larger number of North American shore-birds than usual were driven by stormy weather to take shelter on Barbados during the autumn migration of 1933. Among them I was able to identify two species that are quite rare here—a few Knots (*Calidris canutus rufus*) and a Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*).—FRED P. PETERKIN, *Kendal Plantation, St. John, Barbados, B. W. I.*

Oyster-catcher and Western Sandpiper in the British Virgin Islands.—On December 31, 1933 I observed an Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus palliatus palliatus*) on a rocky point of land on Tortola known as Coffy Point. Before I could get within shooting range it took alarm and flew away out of sight.

On December 28, 1933 I collected one of two Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes maurii*) seen at a brackish water lagoon on Beef Island. It proved to be a female.

Neither of the two species had previously been recorded in the British Virgin Islands.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.*

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) in Wisconsin.—A living specimen of this bird was picked up on McKinley Beach, Lake Michigan, near Milwaukee. Its wing was broken and it was killed by its finder before being turned over to the Museum where its skin is now preserved. It is a female in immature plumage and was identified by Dr. Robert C. Murphy of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. It measured 17.5 in. in length; wing spread, 41.5 in. and wing 12.5 in. and weighed 12 oz.—WALTER J. MUELLER, *Assistant Dept. Zoology, Milwaukee Public Museum.*

Occurrence of the Pomarine Jaeger in North Carolina.—On October 18, 1933, an immature male specimen of Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) was taken on the beach near Ocracoke, N. C., while feeding on the body of a Ring-billed Gull.

A recently-healed wound in the breast muscles of the specimen seemed to have originally been about one and one-half inches deep and nearly an inch in diameter, and this was, no doubt, responsible for the rather emaciated condition of the bird. A recent molt seemed to be about completed.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, this is the first record—supported by a specimen—of the Pomarine Jaeger in North Carolina. Mr. A. C.

Bent, on page 13 of 'Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns,' 1921, mentions this state in his list of spring arrival dates as, "North Carolina, Cape Hatteras, April 18," but a recent search through his original data, now in the Bureau of Biological Survey, by Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln, failed to disclose this record.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.*

A Curious Habit of Gulls.¹—On September 24, 1933, a flock of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) had congregated at the eastern end of Fairfield Beach, Fairfield, Conn., the tide being nearly out. The location is near the mouth of a creek and the currents of water change the contour of the shore line from year to year. This year a small sand islet is exposed at low tide leaving a shallow strip of water about thirty feet wide between it and the shore.

Many of the Gulls were standing in this shallow water and, as I approached, I noticed a curious rhythmical splashing sound, like *slop-slop-slop-slop* continuing indefinitely. Observation showed that a dozen or more of the Gulls were producing the sound by moving their feet up and down as though marking time. The several birds kept well together in the movement so that it rather suggested a dance. Now and then one of them would cease its movements, or another one begin them, but some of the birds were performing all of the ten or fifteen minutes that I watched them. I timed them and found that there were regularly thirty-two foot movements in five seconds, or sixteen with each foot.

Most of the birds engaged in this movement seemed to be looking about indifferently, but once one of them suddenly ceased and darted its bill into the mud and water at its feet, evidently obtaining something edible, though just what I could not determine.

On several other occasions this fall I observed the same thing at this place, when the tide was low, and on November 9, noted Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) with the Herring Gulls, also indulging in the habit. I failed to note this performance at any other point along the coast where Gulls feed at low tide and I find no reference to the habit in the literature at my disposal. Dr. Witmer Stone, however, tells me that the habit has been recorded by several English writers.

I am inclined to think that the birds were attempting to stir up some edible creatures that were hiding in the mud, perhaps marine worms; and that conditions at this particular spot made such a habit useful to them.—
ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, 48 Longview Ave., Fairfield, Conn.

A Key to the Owls of the Genus *Pulsatrix* Kaup.—Owing chiefly, no doubt, to paucity of material, species of the genus *Pulsatrix* have been much confused in ornithological literature. A key to the species and subspecies is here given in the hope that it will be of use to workers in the museum and field.

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