

sation with Col. H. J. Benschoff of Woodstock, he informed me that on April 11 of that year, while accompanying a group of young men from his school, they flushed one of the Falcons from this eyrie and amid her noisy protest, secured the four eggs from the ledge.

Eyries of this species are always plainly marked with white excreta, if they have been in use any length of time, and this serves as an aid in locating them. Apparently our southern Duck Hawks are permanent residents since I found the Fentress County pair at home in November and Mr. Tyler reports seeing a pair on December 31, at one of the eyries near Johnson City.—ALBERT F. GANIER, *Nashville, Tenn.*

**Sandpiper Cripples.**—From time to time there have appeared in the literature observations regarding the occurrence of cripples in flocks of Sandpipers.

Nichols and Harper write of *Ereunetes pusillus* (The Auk, XXXIII, 1916, 246): "The members of this species come to stool in greater numbers, probably, than any of the other Long Island shore birds, and many of them pay dearly for their gentleness and sociability, since gunners very frequently turn their weapons upon the little Oxeyes for want of bigger game. Birds with a crippled wing or dangling leg, or with only one leg, are no uncommon sight, and at times the proportion of cripples to able-bodied birds is sadly large."

These observations were made, of course, before the passage of the Enabling Act, giving effect to our treaty with Canada, which afforded shore-birds Federal protection.

Forbush, who gave considerable space to the subject in his 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States' (Vol. I, 1925, 420-421), apparently felt that few actual cripples are observed, and that most of those reported are birds indulging in the characteristic one-legged posture of this group.

Bent writes (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. 142, 1927, 250): "Semipalmated Sandpipers like other shore birds often stand on one leg and even hop on it in feeding and they also sleep in this attitude. It is difficult to distinguish these from cripples, and one is easily deceived; the cripples seem as happy and tireless in feeding as the others."

Further evidence of crippled and one-legged Sandpipers came to my attention in the autumn of 1932, near Cape May Point, New Jersey, and as a comparison of the prevalence of cripples of this family, past and present, is not without interest, my notes may be worth recording.

On September 21, 1932, while walking along the beach that fronts on Delaware Bay near Cape May Point, I observed a flock of 43 Semipalmated Sandpipers feeding in their usual manner close to the surf, which was running in on the sand before a gentle westerly breeze. As the line of feeding birds moved gradually southward along the beach I saw that three individuals were consistently leading these methodical advances. The three birds would rise silently, but in almost perfect accord, and move perhaps

thirty feet down the beach. The remainder of the flock would follow almost immediately, in silent unison, settling to their nimble and assiduous work just short of where the leaders had stopped. Upon closer inspection I saw that the first three were cripples, each of them hobbling about on a single leg. Two displayed stumps, one having the right leg off in the middle of the tarsus, the other the right leg off directly below the ankle-joint. The third held the left leg in a dangling position, and it was obviously useless.

The fact that these cripples were the first to take wing, as already described, seems to indicate that they were not as tireless in feeding as the normal birds, which is Bent's supposition. Likewise there was no doubt as to the fact of their crippled condition, and while possibly not a common sight at the present time, actual cripples among this species do exist, and may be readily distinguished from the normal birds.—ROBERT P. ALLEN, *Nat. Assoc. Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York, N. Y.*

**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) in S. Carolina.**—Since A. T. Wayne saw a pair of these birds on Sullivan's Island, S. C., in May 1881, but two specimens have been recorded in the state. On April 24, 1934, a fine specimen was seen in a pond on Bull's Island, S. C., by a group of local and visiting ornithologists. It was observed feeding and in flight; its call heard several times and ample opportunity for study of it was afforded to Messrs. John Baker, C. A. Urner, W. P. Wharton, H. R. Sass and the writer. The Stilt has never been found breeding in South Carolina, though it may prove to be something more than a straggler in view of the observations of the past five years.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

**The Red Phalarope off South Carolina.**—Definite records for the occurrence of *P. fulicarius* from South Carolina being restricted to the capture of but one specimen and the listing of an indefinite sight record, it seems well to record a specimen seen at close range on April 22, 1934. The bird flew close to a group of ornithologists while aboard a yacht cruising in the vicinity of the Charleston Lightship, about fifteen miles offshore. It was first seen and identified by C. A. Urner and pointed out to the writer and Dr. John B. May. The specimen was not in full plumage, but the details were sufficiently apparent. Mr. Urner had had the opportunity of seeing a tremendous migration of this species last year off the New Jersey coast, in which birds of every stage of plumage were studied at close range.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

**Glaucous and Iceland Gulls at Brigantine Beach, N. J.**—On March 24, 1934, I came upon a single Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) feeding with a few Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus smithsonianus*) on the beach on Brigantine Island, N. J. It was easily distinguished from the Herring Gulls by the absence of the black tips to the primaries, and was practically white all over but for a faint buffy edging to the feathers of the back. It was of noticeably heavier build than the Herring Gulls with a