

There are several other records for the county but this seemed particularly interesting in connection with the other 1934 occurrences, indicating a flight of these birds.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia*.

Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) in Pennsylvania.—On June 15, 1934 while observing a flock of American Egrets in Tinicum Twp., Delaware County, in the area recently flooded by the breaking of the dykes along the Delaware River, I found a Purple Gallinule which had just been run over by an automobile. It was badly mangled but the skin has been preserved and is now in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

The bird was a female with inactive ovaries so that it was probably not breeding in the neighborhood and a survey of the Florida Gallinules which were present in the vicinity revealed no other of this species. It was well nourished and its stomach contained a full meal of insects besides a number of pebbles and a bit of vegetable matter.

Warren records four occurrences of the Purple Gallinule in Pennsylvania (*Birds of Pennsylvania*, 1889) but I know of no recent instances.—C. BROOKE WORTH, 712 Wynnewood Road, Philadelphia, Pa.

Golden and Black-bellied Plovers in Michigan.—On May 20, 1934, in company with Bruce E. Young I saw a Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus dominicus*) at Portage Lake, Jackson County, Michigan. It was in a mixed flock of shore birds including Semipalmated Plovers, Red-backed Sandpipers and others. Its very dark coloring contrasting conspicuously with the light colored waders with which it associated—the solid black breast sharply outlined by a white stripe along the side of the neck. Its golden and brownish back, which fairly glistened in the morning sunshine, and its stocky Plover-like characteristics make me positive of this identification, though the late Dr. Walter Barrows doubts that it visits Michigan, according to his book, 'Michigan Bird Life' of 1912.

On May 27, 1925 I saw four Black-bellied Plovers (*Squatarola squatarola*) at Portage Lake, Jackson County, Michigan. It is strange that nine years later—May 27, 1934—I should see them next, although there were eight of them now in a mixed flock of waders including Turnstones, Semipalmated Plovers, and others. This lake in Southern Michigan nearly surrounded by marsh land and with extensive mud flats of sand and marl, lends itself very favorably to all kinds of shore and water birds. Especially this spring, when a dam at the lower end of the lake gave way, flooding the reedy mud flats where Herons, Gallinules and Rails—including the little Yellow Rail, live unmolested because of the miry soil covering much of the area.—EDITH K. FREY, *Jackson, Michigan*.

Northern Phalarope in South Carolina.—On the morning of May 29, 1934, following extremely high tides and a fifty-three mile blow of the preceding night, Mr. Edward M. Moore shot a Northern Phalarope

(*Lobipes lobatus*), in a pond on Bull's Island, Charleston County, S. C. This specimen, which Mr. Moore kindly presented to this museum, is a female in high spring plumage. The largest ova measured 1.70 mm. in diameter, and the majority of ova about one-third this size. Throat and stomach contained about one dozen insect larvae, in length about 15 mm.

This occurrence brings the number of South Carolina records up to six. The first and most unusual, is that of Loomis, who took a specimen one hundred and fifty miles inland, at Chester Court House, Chester County, May 17, 1880. (Bull. Nat. Orn. Club, Vol. V, 252.) Next in time of occurrence are records cited by Bent (Bull. U. S. N. M. No. 142, p. 27) from Frogmore, Beaufort County, September 25, and "Sea Islands," October 25. While the writer is not familiar with the original records, it is believed that they are those of Hoxie, made between 1884 and 1892. Following these, Wayne, thanks to the activity and discriminating taste of his cat, reported a specimen (of which only a wing was salvaged) brought in on June 3, 1903. (Auk, Vol. XXII, 397.) No further records were made until 1933, when Alexander Sprunt, Jr., saw a female at Cape Romain, Charleston County, on May 30 (Auk, Vol. L, 358).

Of the specimens known to have been taken to date, the Loomis specimen has very probably disappeared. The wing recorded by Wayne and the Moore specimen, here recorded, are in the collections of this institution. I am indebted to Mr. Moore for the privilege of recording this specimen.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

Sandpipers on One Leg.—In a note entitled 'Sandpiper Cripples' in the July 1934 'Auk' Robert P. Allen cites published references to normal birds of this group standing and moving about on one leg, as anyone who has observed them closely knows they do at times. This last June 2 I noted that as I approached a small group of Sanderlings resting on the beach back from the shifting surf-line, they moved away and then took wing, two or three at least at first hopping vigorously on one leg, and one or two of these hopping birds were seen to let down the other leg and run nimbly before flying.

When standing and resting for any length of time it seems to be rather a normal thing than otherwise for a Sandpiper to do so on one leg. A Greater Yellowlegs may stand for a long time on one motionless straight leg, inclined so as to bring the foot under its center of gravity, the other leg raised and concealed by the feathers. One may speculate as to why this is so. By standing first on one then on the other leg they might rest the one not in use,—but do they do this? There may be some advantage in balance, and my colleague, Mr. H. C. Raven of the Museum's Department of Comparative Anatomy, calls my attention to the fact that when a leg is drawn up the weight of its thigh muscles is shifted forward, whereas the weight of head and neck of a resting bird is apt to be shifted backward.

As regards actual cripples, no one familiar with the potential speed and nimbleness of a Sandpiper on two legs should question that a one-legged