

(subsp?) and Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*). Feeding with them were two Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*). Both the Willet and Plover flew to another part of the marsh as we neared them but the Godwits seemed particularly tame and allowed us to come within fifty feet. We watched them for about a quarter of an hour and at that distance even without our glasses, we could plainly see the characteristics of plumage and bills of the birds. From time to time they would raise their wings displaying the cinnamon and black coloration. When we purposely flushed them, they flew off to rejoin the flock uttering a single note which sounded like *kerr-ack* as they took flight. Returning an hour later, we found the Willet and Plover had returned to their original feeding ground but that the Godwits were no longer with them.—CHARLES K. AND MABEL M. NICHOLS, 31 Ethelbert Place, Ridgewood, N. J.

Avocet on Florida East Coast in June.—On June 1, 1933, I saw a single Avocet (*Avocetta americana*) standing on a mud flat in the company of a few Stilts. The bird was quite tame and I was able to get a very good look at it. A diligent search failed to reveal a second Avocet or any nest other than those of the Stilts.

The mud flat was on the edge of the salt-water bayou at the southern end of Mosquito Lagoon, in Brevard County, Florida.—J. C. HOWELL, *Rollins College Museum, Winter Park, Florida.*

Wilson's Phalarope in Essex County, Massachusetts in Spring.—On May 23, 1934, Mr. S. G. Emilio and I were searching for shore-birds around Newburyport and the mouth of the Merrimac River. The tide was rapidly coming in, and we were standing on the edge of the bay watching the shore-birds gradually working nearer and nearer to the grassy marsh as the tide covered the mud flats. The Greater Yellow-legs was naturally the abundant and dominant species, and the last to be flooded out. As we were watching the nearest flock, a male and female Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) in full breeding plumage suddenly swam out of a patch of grass before our astonished eyes, a beautiful sight in the brilliant sunlight. Collecting them proved to be impossible, although the effort was made. They were within easy shot-gun range of the edge of the marsh, but each time a stalk was attempted, the wary Yellow-legs flew away yelping shrilly, and the Phalaropes invariably flew off with them. In all, however, the birds were under observation for nearly an hour.

In recent years Wilson's Phalarope has occurred almost annually in eastern Massachusetts in fall, when it is invariably associated with Lesser Yellow-legs. It now occurs in spring around New York City on rare occasions. There are, however, only two spring records for New England in the past 110 years, one of these from Essex County, Mass., on May 20, 1874. Our observation is part and parcel of the steady increase of the shore-birds in the northeast, ever since the happily inaugurated closed season. Today the variety of species and the abundance of individuals noted annually would have been beyond the bounds of credibility twenty years ago. We have seen several "vanishing" species become regular transients, very rare or accidental "western" species become of increasingly regular occurrence, and the rare species of twenty years ago such as the Dowitcher, Knot and Willet are now recorded annually, sometimes in large numbers in favorable places.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.*

Shore-birds and Decoys.—When in Chicago at the recent A. O. U. meeting, I had the opportunity of discussing with Prof. W. C. Allee, certain aspects of the behavior which I have observed of shore-birds in relation to decoys (called 'stool'