

Forbush (Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States: Vol. 1, p. 388) records an observation on the flight of a presumed female during the sky dance of the male, but states that no whistling of wings could be heard as she flew. It is common observation, however, that the female is capable of making these whistling sounds during flight, and we are certain that both the birds we observed were making these notes.

We have noted many times that Woodcocks give a vocal warning just before they start their sky dance flights. This consists of a much shortened "peent," given at a close interval after the last regular note on the ground, and followed almost immediately by the flight. Attempts were made to measure the width of the circles made during sky dance flights, observers being on opposite ridges to note the birds in the air. Where only a single bird was sky dancing it was fairly easy to mark these circles, and we concluded that they were sometimes at least four hundred yards in diameter.

Another characteristic noted is that the point of departure from the ground is not usually in the center of the flight circle, but is rather apt to be located near the outer circumference. The song notes that come before the descent are not given over the point of alighting, but to one side of it. Several times we have noticed that birds were regularly alighting near light-colored rocks; this suggesting that a land-mark might be used in again locating the point from which flight was made.

Ordinarily sky dancing is done only at dusk and early morning, but during times of bright moonlight it continues as long as the moon is unobscured. Mr. A. B. Brooks and the writer noted during the spring of 1934 that when heavy clouds crossed the face of the moon sky dancing stopped, to be resumed immediately after the clouds had passed.

On April 27, 1930, "peent" notes were heard, and a single sky dance noted when the temperature was standing at 30° F. My father and I had an unusual experience on March 26, 1930. As we were walking along a trail near French Creek, we noticed the tracks of a bird in a rather heavy snow which had fallen the night before. Following back on these tracks, we came to the nest of a Woodcock completely surrounded with snow. The old bird was on the nest sheltering four eggs. This was the only time I have ever tracked a bird to its nest through the snow.—MAURICE BROOKS, *Dept. of Biology, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.*

Second Recorded Nesting of the Laughing Gull on the South Carolina Coast.—On May 15, 1935, the writer, in company with a small party visited the Cape Romain Federal Migratory Bird Refuge with its Superintendent, Mr. H. F. West. While investigating a small reef known as the White Bank, on which were numbers of nesting Oyster-catchers, Willets and a large colony of Louisiana and Snowy Herons, three pairs of Laughing Gulls were seen. Recalling that this spot was the site of the first breeding record of this species in the state (Auk, vol. I, 360) we looked carefully for nests and were successful in finding three, one for each of the pairs seen. One nest held two eggs, the other two one each. One was built out in the open on oyster shells, the other two were slightly sheltered by wips of salt-water myrtle (*Baccharis* sp.). No other material other than sedge stems was used.

The nest which constituted the first record in 1933, was broken up by Crows, and it is doubtful whether the exposed nest found recently will survive. That the Laughing Gull is beginning to nest regularly now in South Carolina seems certain. During all of Mr. A. T. Wayne's nearly fifty years in the field in this state, he never saw a nest, and White Bank is in Bull's Bay, a region often visited by him. Another peculiarity in the White Bank area is that the Louisiana and Snowy Herons are

nesting there nearly two miles from the mainland. They are building on the ground itself and in very low salt-water myrtle bushes less than two feet high. The nests numbered 411, of which about 70 were those of the Snowy Heron. The young were just hatching.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

A Flight of Common Terns at Harrisburg, Pa.—Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*) are only occasionally seen during migration on the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg, and then only in small numbers. Daily observations along the river revealed no Common Terns during 1935 until May 3. Upon that day within a half hour I saw four or five flocks of over fifty each, the next day only one, and none on subsequent days with frequent observation. Evidently the Terns made a concerted flight and were gone. The first flock of 67 was flying low up the river when suddenly the bird began to ascend and made three complete circles within a quarter of a mile, somewhat as Homing Pigeons circle, but always gaining altitude until at perhaps 500 feet they disappeared into the north. The other groups rested on the water or flew to and from a low grassy isle, making it somewhat difficult to count their exact number. With them on the sand spit were a few Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) and three Black Terns (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*). The Terns did not fly erratically up and down the river, or alight and drift, repeatedly, without getting anywhere, as I have seen Bonaparte Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) do here.—HAROLD B. WOOD, *Harrisburg, Pa.*

The Noddy at Charleston, South Carolina.—The Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) is of accidental occurrence in South Carolina, its two occurrences following West Indian storms. However, an appearance unconnected with any atmospheric abnormality has lately come to the writer's notice.

On June 16, 1929 three Noddies were seen on a piece of driftwood at the entrance of Charleston Harbor by Allan D. Cruickshank of New York City, as he was proceeding north by steamer, the weather being normal. The birds floated by at close range and were seen to advantage by unaided eye-sight and through 10x binoculars. The writer is indebted to Mr. Cruickshank for the above information.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

Additional Dovekie Weights.—When Murphey and Vogt published their article, "The Dovekie Influx of 1932" (*Auk*; Vol. L, No. 3) they had only one weight (see page 345) which was known to be from a bird in normal condition. I now wish to submit a record of the weights of seven additional birds taken under normal wintering conditions at Harrington Harbor, Sag Co. Quebec, during the winter of 1934-35. These weights were recorded by Mr. Donald Osborne who was trained as my assistant during the summer of 1934. The weights, recorded in grams, are as follows: 188; 180; 180; 162; 159; 158; 146. It appears from these that the individual birds normally vary considerably in weight, which, according to my experience, is true of the Alcidae. My Nova Scotia specimen taken in 1932, as reported, weighed 127 grams although it possessed a considerable layer of sub-cutaneous fat.—R. A. JOHNSON, *State Normal School, Oneonta, N. Y.*

Early Nesting of the Great Horned Owl.—On January 20, 1935, I found a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo v. virginianus*) incubating the first egg of its clutch. The nest was in the crotch of a red oak, fifty-five feet from the ground, in the University of Wisconsin arboretum at Madison. Later two more eggs were laid, the first egg hatching on February 27. I photographed the nest on this date and on March 25 and on April 1, the young were banded—662548-550. On the two latter occasions