noted at the Savannah River Entrance in the past few years by Mr. Ivan R. Tomkins. —ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

The White-rumped and Stilt Sandpipers in Southern South Carolina.—On October 20, 1935, I collected a White-rumped Sandpiper (*Pisobia fuscicollis*), and a Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalma himantopus*), on the mainland of South Carolina close to the Savannah river, and about seven miles east of Savannah. I am not certain of any other records nearby, and this is apparently the third South Carolina record of *himantopus*, and a third fall record of *fuscicollis*.

The two birds were feeding in shallow water with some Lesser Yellow-legs and Red-backed Sandpipers.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. dredge "Morgan," Savannah, Ga.*

The Ruff in Grenada, B. W. I.—At Point Saline, Grenada on July 31, 1935, I obtained a male Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), in immature plumage. There are three records of the occurrence of this European straggler in Barbadoes, but I find no other definite West Indian records.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.*

The Migration of North American Shorebirds to New Zealand.—Several species of North American *Limicolae* have occurred in Australia and New Zealand, and many of the records have, as far as I can see, been completely ignored in all American works of reference.

Limosa haemastica. HUDSONIAN GODWIT.—First recorded by Buller in his supplement to the Birds of New Zealand, 1905, page 24, from a specimen taken at Lake Ellesmere by Edgar F. Stead in 1903, the Hudsonian Godwit has been taken so often in New Zealand since that its occurrence is obviously more than accidental.

On a recent visit to New Zealand I looked up some of the records to make sure the birds were not the small form of the Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa melanuroides*) that is found in eastern Asia and which reaches Australia (but not New Zealand) in its southern migrations. I did not see all the Hudsonian Godwits that have been collected in New Zealand but the following were verified:

One male, Lake Ellesmere, 1 January 1918. Collection E. F. Stead, winter plumage, summer feathers coming in on lower breast.

Two females, Lake Ellesmere, March 5, 1921, and December 31, 1917. Canterbury Museum, Christchurch. Both in full winter plumage. Mounted.

One, not sexed, no visible data, Dominion Museum, Wellington, winter plumage, mounted.

All of these have the measurements of *haemastica* with blackish axillars, not white as in *melanuroides*. There are other New Zealand records including Buller's original one that I did not see, but the bird is something more than accidental according to the observations of Mr. Stead who deserves all the credit for recording this and other American Shorebirds for New Zealand.

The species occurs with its congener the Pacific Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*) an abundant migrant to New Zealand. Mr. Stead's theory is that individuals become associated with flocks of Pacific Godwits in Alaska and follow them down to New Zealand. This seems very plausible and is probably the solution of this extraordinary migration.

Against this theory is the fact of the rarity of the Hudsonian Godwit in Alaska, however, it may be more common there than records indicate. It may be as well to record here the first record of the species for British Columbia, a male in full summer plumage taken at Atlin in the northwestern corner of the province by Ronald M. Stewart, 7 May 1932. It was accompanied by another, probably a female.

Pisobia melanotos. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—To Mr. Stead also belongs the credit for establishing this as an irregular migrant to New Zealand in rather fewer numbers than its congener the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Pisobia aurita*). In his collection are four skins all taken by himself at Lake Ellesmere in February, 1910, "It was common that year." In the museum at Christchurch there are two others taken at Lake Ellesmere, March 6, 1927 and January 1, 1922. There are additional records for New Zealand and in the Museum at Melbourne there is a skin taken at Albany, West Australia, in 1910, the same year that the species was common in New Zealand. This is as far as I know the first record for Australia, the specimen is labeled *Erolia acuminata* but it is a typical Pectoral Sandpiper in winter plumage.

In winter plumage the Pectoral and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are very much alike, both have the fore-neck grayish and thickly streaked with blackish; in the Sharp-tail the markings tend to cordate and sagitate shapes and extend to the flanks and even to the center of the abdomen; in the Pectoral the dark markings are narrow shaft streaks only, the flanks are almost immaculate and the rest of the lower surface is entirely so.

The shaft of the first primary is wholly white in the Pectoral and white with a brownish base in the Sharp-tail.

The young in first plumage and adult in summer of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper are easily distinguished from the Pectoral by color alone, the former has hardly any markings on the foreneck which is deep buff.

As both species occur on the west coast of America these characters should be born in mind.

Lake Ellesmere where so many Limicoline records have been made is situated on the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand.

It does not appear to be especially adapted to shore birds, there are many better looking localities such as Kaipara on the North Island, which if worked as Mr. Stead has worked Lake Ellesmere would undoubtedly yield material that would throw more light on the extraordinary migrations of North American shorebirds to New Zealand.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia.*

Early Migration of the Great Black-backed Gull.—During recent years it appears that the Great Black-backed Gull has been increasing in numbers and has been extending its range. Perhaps because of this increase these birds may be seen on their wintering grounds earlier than usual. Like many other water birds, they become more nomadic at the close of the breeding season. According to the A. O. U. 'Check-list' the species normally winters only as far south as Delaware Bay, where it ordinarily arrives early in November.

It was somewhat surprising, therefore, to find an individual (an adult) on September 28, 1935, as far south as the vicinity of Ocean City in southern New Jersey in Cape May County. Dr. Witmer Stone informs me that he saw four adults on Gull Bar off Anglesea, N. J., a few miles farther south on the same day! These constituted his earliest record for Cape May County.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Biological Survey.*

Laughing Gull in the North Carolina Mountains.—On August 18 and 19, 1935, Mrs. Alexander Sprunt, Mrs. Murray and I saw an immature Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) at a rain pool on a golf course at Blowing Rock, Watauga County, N. C. The dusky head, dark breast, black primaries, white band at the back of the wing, and light tail with black subterminal band and narrow white tip served to identify it. Pearson and the Brimleys ('Birds of North Carolina') give no inland