

were made from them and they will be placed in some one of the museums for which I occasionally collect.

Insofar as I can find, there is no recent record of the killing of an American Avocet in this section of Illinois. According to Bent in his 'Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl' there was a sight record of two birds on May 5, 1889, at Chicago. Two were killed in St. Clair County, directly across from St. Louis, Missouri, on October 28, 1878, and one was killed in St. Louis, Missouri, on the same date. Probably all were members of the same flock. It is a coincidence, perhaps, that the three records along the Mississippi were all made on October 28, although there was a variance of fifty-eight years in the occurrence.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois*.

The Stilt Sandpiper Again on the Lower Savannah River.—A specimen of the Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalma himantopus*), was taken October 20, 1935, and duly recorded (*Auk*, Jan., 1936, 81).

This spring in the same general area, others of this species have been seen at various times. This low land which fills with rain water is a part of the original river bed, but now for many years it has been shut off by jetties, and later by fills. It is about seven miles east of Savannah, and is, technically at least, in South Carolina.

One bird of two was shot March 22, 1936. Another out of a group of four was collected March 29, and a few minutes later I counted eighteen together, under excellent conditions for observation. On April 5, I forgot my binoculars, but think one was present. Then I saw one several times on April 12, once with a Dowitcher, a Pectoral Sandpiper and two Lesser Yellow-legs, it was in the field of my binoculars at a very satisfactory distance. The rain water was nearly dried up on April 19, and the small flock of Lesser Yellow-legs very nervous, one Stilt Sandpiper flew by with them.

Several flocks of Lesser Yellow-legs close to the river entrance were closely observed, and I have watched the fairly numerous Yellow-legs near the dredge, about four miles inland, but have seen no Stilt Sandpipers except in the one rainwater pool.

Considering that this species is a regular spring migrant on the east coast of Florida, and rare elsewhere on the Atlantic coast, one suspects an overland migration route from here to the Mississippi valley, as with the Ring-necked Duck (*Nyroca collaris*).—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge "Morgan," Savannah, Ga.*

European Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola rusticola*) in Ohio.—During the autumn of 1935 I became interested in the story of a Cleveland sportsman, Mr. G. F. Dixon, concerning a "large" Woodcock which he had recently shot. Upon questioning him it was learned that this Woodcock, before it was dressed weighed ten ounces, as against five to seven ounces which Mr. Dixon had found to be the range of weight in a considerable number of other Woodcocks taken by him over a period of years. Upon further questioning it developed that Mr. Dixon was still in possession of the body of this large Woodcock which had been dressed and prepared for cooking. The writer was permitted to examine the carcass and was greatly impressed by the large size and the pale color of the flesh when compared with similarly dressed bodies of other Woodcocks. Mr. Dixon gladly consented to save the skeleton of this large Woodcock and to present it to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. This skeleton was unfortunately incomplete, the head, wings, and feet having been removed and destroyed. However, enough bones were preserved to show a considerable difference in size from a normal American Woodcock skeleton, and my suspicions were strengthened that the specimen represented the European species. Shortly afterwards these suspicions were substantiated by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser who identified the skeleton as that of *Scolopax rusticola*. This species has been taken occasionally

in the Atlantic coast region of North America, but hitherto never recorded for Ohio, or, as far as I am aware, from any locality farther west than Pennsylvania and Virginia. The specimen in question was taken along with individuals of the American Woodcock from the wooded banks of a stream in Newbury Township, Geauga County, about twenty-five miles east of Cleveland, Ohio, on November 6, 1935.—JOHN W. ALDRICH, *The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio.*

Rare Shore-birds on the Massachusetts Coast.—*Limosa haemastica*. HUDSONIAN GODWIT.—On August 30 and 31, 1935, there was a flight of Hudsonian Godwits on outer Cape Cod which considerably surpassed any recorded movement of the species in recent years, even for that favored locality. On the 30th, there was a moderate easterly storm, with steadily increasing wind and rain from daylight until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon; a lull of something less than an hour; followed by fog and a light drizzle until after dark. I describe the weather in some detail because it has been my experience, based now on three flights, that these are the exact conditions under which flocks of Godwits, as distinguished from scattered birds, are likely to occur on the Massachusetts coast between August 20 and September 5. Upon my arrival at Nauset Inlet, Orleans, at 1 P.M., a flock of 13 was already present on the flats back of the point, and they were joined at 2.30 and 3.15 P.M., respectively, by groups of 30 and 39, to make a total of 82. I had them under observation the whole afternoon until at 6.10 P.M., with fog shutting in and daylight failing, they got up in one compact flock, went straight out over the Inlet until almost lost to sight, and turned south down the coast. They were all adults, changing from summer to winter plumage. For an hour or two after their arrival they appeared very tired and sluggish, standing with heads under their wings, but late in the afternoon they became fairly active, breaking up into small groups, walking rather sedately along the water's edge, and probing in the soft sand sometimes to the full length of the bill.

On the following day I heard a rumor that a much larger number of Godwits had been seen at Monomoy Point, some 20 miles south of Nauset Inlet; and this story I was later able to trace to Mr. Frank Eldredge of Chatham, who is an old-time gunner, apparently thoroughly familiar with Hudsonian Godwits, and considered reliable. He was staying at Monomoy Point on the 30th, noticed the first Godwits at about 2 P.M., saw a number of flocks go over, and later in the afternoon had his attention called to a flock on the flats in the Powder Hole which he estimated at 150. Some of these were still present as late as 8 A.M. on the 31st. He is very sure that he saw between 400 and 500 in all. Whatever doubts might be raised as to the value of this estimate, I am satisfied that Mr. Eldredge knows the bird on sight, and that he saw large flocks. In conjunction with the known presence of 82 Godwits at Nauset, which could not possibly have reached Monomoy before dark, I think Mr. Eldredge's observations may be accepted as indicating a very substantial flight of this rare and interesting shore bird.

Recurvirostra americana. AVOCET.—On September 10, 1935, I had the great pleasure of discovering an Avocet feeding in a shallow salt-water pool on the flat behind the North Point at the mouth of the North River, Scituate. This was at high-water, about 9.30 A.M. Having watched the bird for half an hour, I returned home to secure either corroborating witnesses or a gun; but on my return with both, the bird was gone. We searched all afternoon, and were at it again early the next morning, but to no avail. So matters stood at noontime on the 11th, when Mr. Ludlow Griscom called by telephone to say that Mr. Davis Crompton of Worcester and Pocasset had seen an Avocet at 11 A.M. in the Sagamore marsh near the easterly end of the Cape Cod Canal, in Bourne, about 35 miles down the coast from Scituate.