

flat tussock like thousands of others around. My son said, "Well probably some snapping turtle has eaten up the eggs; it is too bad." One more step forward and up the bird sprung, swift and silent as a thought; right at our very feet. Off she flew straight away, about six feet from the ground, with admirable acceleration and direct course for two hundred and fifty yards and sank to rest in the middle of the marsh. That was all. We did not touch the eggs nor disturb the surroundings. We were unable to visit the nest again.

The terrain was interesting; an ordinary, small, rich marsh of about ten acres; the nest being on the very edge of the marsh within fifty yards of the river and one hundred and fifty from a railroad track. The little river coursed through a sparse forest growth of maple, oak and ash, the nest being almost in the shadow of these trees, and not out in the wide depth of the marsh, as one might have supposed.

On the farther side of the marsh were rolling upland hills where cattle grazed and Grass Finches sang and lovely houstonias matched the blue sky. Overhead, three Turkey Buzzards were soaring.

There are hundreds of just such marshy tracts throughout this section of country and one wonders whether more of these Wilson's Snipe may not breed therein. Next spring we plan to visit the region in the evening and listen for the "winnowing" of these birds.

Another query: when we read Frank Forester's accounts of spring shooting a hundred years ago, we ask whether he did not many a time, unaware, shoot a bird startled from its nest.

Wilson's Snipe has nested, in the United States, as far south as latitude 34° north, in California.

The English Snipe (*Capella gallinago gallinago*) is said to breed in northwest Africa, which would also be about 34° north.—EVAN EVANS, M.D., *New York City*.

Status of *Bartramia longicauda* in Lancaster Co., Pa.—In 'The Auk' for 1925, I presented a note on this subject to which the present is supplementary. The rolling farmlands of central Lancaster County were probably the best breeding and feeding ranges of this bird in eastern North America and in my boyhood days, in the eighteen nineties, I often saw several hundred in a square mile of country. In 1914 it was taken from the game list and since then few if any have been shot in the county. Seeing that without local shooting the numbers of the Plover were decreasing, I began to take a census during the first week in August, the middle of the former hunting season, from 1921 to 1925. I counted the birds on four well separated tracts, on any one of which there would have been at least fifty Plover as late as 1900.

Alexander Wetmore has stated (Our Migrant Shorebirds in Southern South America, 1927) that this species has replaced the Eskimo Curlew as a table delicacy in the Buenos Ayres restaurants and that it is so eagerly sought by gunners in the Argentine that the possibility of preserving it in settled regions is doubtful. Since 1927, settlements on the Argentine pampas have greatly increased.

Assisted by Clifford Marburger, W. E. Brown and W. E. Zimmerman, as rangers, I resumed the census over the same tracts as before and the 1936 count is surprisingly satisfactory and seems to show that so far as Lancaster County is concerned the Plover is in no immediate danger of extinction.

	1921	1922	1923	1925	1936
Tract A.....	12	8	23	1	5
Tract B.....	3	9	36	3	22
Tract C.....	3	1	1	0	4
Tract D.....	3	4	18	1	11
	21	22	78	5	42

HERBERT H. BECK, *Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.*

Upland Plover Found Breeding in Berkeley County, West Virginia.—In June, 1935, I found two adult Upland Plovers (*Batramia longicauda*) in an overgrown pasture in Berkeley County, in the "Eastern Panhandle" of West Virginia. I watched the birds for a period of two weeks but was unable to locate a nest. On May 31, 1936, I visited the same field and after an hour of searching I found one young, which could not have been more than a day old. The adults were uneasy when I took the fledgling from the field to photograph it. Although Upland Plovers occur sparingly in the state during the breeding season, I believe this is the first actual breeding record.—J. L. POLAND, *Martinsburg, W. Va.*

Solitary Sandpiper in Summer at Deep Creek Lake, Maryland.—For the past several summers I have noted Solitary Sandpipers, presumably of the eastern race (*Tringa solitaria solitaria*) around Deep Creek Lake, a large artificial body of water that lies on the Alleghany Plateau in Garrett County, Maryland. The birds have been noted in small numbers throughout June, and it is natural to assume that they may breed in the area, although no evidences of that have been found. The high altitude of the region (2600–3100 feet above sea level) has made it an attractive spot for many birds of northern association.

Mr. James T. Handlan, Jr., tells me that he has seen Solitary Sandpipers throughout the summer at Lake Terra Alta, Preston County, West Virginia, fifteen miles from Deep Creek Lake. Sutton suggests (*Cardinal*; Vol. III, No. 5, Jan. 1933, p. 109) that the species may breed sparingly in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia. This would represent a considerable southward extension of the breeding range given in the 1931 'Check-list.'—MAURICE BROOKS, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.*

The Western Willet on the Niagara River.—In the late afternoon of August 21, 1936, while watching Yellow-legs and Pectoral Sandpipers around the marshy pools and rock flats along the Niagara River bank south of Fort Erie, Ontario, a Willet suddenly flashed its white-marked wings within twenty paces of where the writer stood with his companion Mr. F. W. Gregory a co-worker in the Canadian Department of Agriculture.

The Willet apparently referable to the Western form (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*) made only a short flight toward the river, and alighted at the edge of the water where it remained while we advanced to a position scarcely twenty five feet from the unsuspecting bird. The very pale brownish grey of the upper parts with faint brown pencilling apparent only through field glasses, or with the naked eye only at the closest point of observation, combined with the uniform pale gray of the underparts, would apparently indicate that it was either a bird of the year, or an adult that had already assumed winter plumage.

While closely observing the Willet in question as it waded out into deeper water and grew uneasy at our persistent and close approach, my companion stated that he