

have hatched in one day, making the incubation period for this Virginia Rail twenty days.

Audubon states that the Virginia Rail lays four or five eggs, seldom more than six or seven, and does not give the incubation period. Forbush does not record the incubation period, nor does Dr. W. H. Bergtold in his 'Study of the Incubation Periods of Birds.' Thomas R. Gentry in his book, 'Nests and Eggs of Birds of the United States,' 1882, wrote: "The number of eggs laid ranges from 6 to 10. These are deposited in daily installments of one, the first being usually extruded on the third day subsequent to the completion of the nest. The female takes to the nest almost immediately after the last egg is laid and continues for a term of 15 days." I have found no other record of this incubation period.—HAROLD B. WOOD, M.D., Harrisburg, Penna.

**Golden Plover in Florida during winter.**—On January 17, 1937, an American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis d. dominica*) was collected on the shore of Big Lagoon, about a mile east of Gulf Beach, and eighteen miles southwest of Pensacola. The bird was in the company of three Black-bellied Plovers, with which it was compared before collecting, and a mixed flock of Piping Plovers, Cuban Snowy Plovers, and Sanderlings. From all appearances the Golden Plover was not injured in any way. Before it could be collected, it flew at least four miles, and there was nothing in its flight to indicate injury. When it was skinned, only recent wounds were found. As far as we can determine, this is the first specimen taken in the United States during January, and constitutes the second record for that month, Torrey (Condor, 11: 207, 1909) having seen one during January, 1908, at Coronado, California. This is the third published record of an American Golden Plover observed in Florida in winter. A. H. Howell ('Florida Bird Life,' p. 222) lists two specimens taken in winter by R. D. Hoyt, one in December, 1900, the other on November 19, 1901. Subspecific identification was made by Dr. H. C. Oberholser, and the specimen is now in the National Museum.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, *U. S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida*, and ROBERT C. McCLANAHAN, *Bureau Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Western Willet in Ohio.**—On September 12, 1936, the writer collected a Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*) along the beach of Lake Erie at Ashtabula in extreme northeastern Ohio. The bird was an immature female and was in very poor condition, weighing only 271.9 grams. The bird, several weeks previous to collection, had broken its left leg an inch above the ankle joint. This had healed without juncture of the bone edges and at a 30-degree angle from the normal position, giving the bird a peculiar limp and making feeding difficult. Several dozen Mallophaga and several hundred mites (species undetermined) infested the body. The skin of this specimen (no. 7124) has been placed in the Ohio State Museum collections.

Dr. Kirtland (1840) considered this species a common visitor in spring and autumn, Dr. Landon and Dr. Dury recorded it as a rare spring and fall migrant in the Cincinnati region, and Dr. Wheaton (1879) had no records for central Ohio. All available data would indicate that this species a century ago was uncommon to rare in nearly all of Ohio except along the Lake Erie shore where it occurred locally and regularly in some numbers. The oldest Ohio specimen still in existence is probably an unpublished record furnished me by Mr. John W. Aldrich of a bird taken at Cleveland, August 20, 1868, and now in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

No additional published records are known previous to 1900. Though this species

is undoubtedly considerably reduced from its former numbers, extensive field work by the ornithologists of the State still produces a record every two or three years. My bibliography of Ohio ornithology indicates that there has been a total of seventeen published records for the State since 1900. These include 32 individuals seen in groups of from one to seven individuals each, from April 16 to May 29 and from August 10 to November 2.

Five specimens were taken along the Lake Erie shore as follows: Oak Point, Lorain County, September 17, 1906 (Lynds Jones); one at Bay Point, May 29, 1924, and one at Bay Ridge, September 7, 1925 (M. B. Trautman); one at Vermilion, September 14, 1931 (Emerson Kemsies); and one at Ashtabula on September 12, 1936 (L. E. Hicks). Only a single specimen has ever been taken in inland Ohio: five seen and one taken at Grand Reservoir, May 13, 1933 (Trautman and Hicks). There are five sight records from near the Lake Erie shore: April 30, at Oberlin and November 2 at Bay Point as recorded by A. C. Bent; August 12, 1917, at Painesville (E. A. Doolittle); seven on April 2, 1933, at Rye Beach (Emerson Kemsies); and one near Toledo on May 4, 1935 (Louis W. Campbell). Sight records from inland Ohio include: four at North Lima, Mahoning County on August 10 to 13, 1914 (J. P. Young); three at New Bremen, Shelby County, on August 30, 1915 (W. F. Henninger); one north of Dayton on April 16, 1924 (B. J. Blincoe); one at Pine Lake, Mahoning County, on September 28, 1930 (R. O. Marshall); one at Youngstown on September 15, 1933 (E. Minnech); and one September 10 to 18, 1924, near Columbus (M. B. Trautman).—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio*.

**A second North American specimen of the Bar-tailed Godwit.**—On the afternoon of July 26, 1937, while we were looking over a large gathering of migrant shorebirds on the flats and marshes on the inside of Nauset Beach, Eastham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, we noticed a large shorebird among the Dowitchers, Yellowlegs and Willets, that we for the moment assumed to be a Hudsonian Godwit. On closer approach, the bird took wing ahead of the rest of the flock and at that instant we realized that the bird was not a Hudsonian Godwit, since none of the characteristic field marks was visible. Fortunately we were able to find the bird again on some flats about half a mile away and this time a cautious approach behind cover brought us within gunshot and the bird was secured without delay. The specimen proves to be *Limosa lapponica lapponica* (Linnaeus), an adult female in good condition but one of those individuals that failed to moult into nuptial dress. Instead it wore a worn winter plumage, thickly shot through with fresh feathers of the corresponding plumage. In accordance with the custom generally observed among the ornithologists of eastern Massachusetts, we have presented the specimen to the Boston Society of Natural History in whose museum so many of the New England record specimens are gathered.

*Limosa lapponica lapponica* is a palaeartic form which breeds in northern Europe and northern Asia from Scandinavia to the Khatanga River; its inclusion in the fourth edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list' is based on the following brief statement in Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Shore Birds,' part 1, page 295, 1927: "A specimen taken on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, on September 16, 1907, is referable to the European form—". Since no details relating to the capture or disposition of this specimen have ever been published, we give the following account with Mr. Bent's permission. The skin was originally no. 963 in collection of Charles R. Lamb of Cambridge; it is now no. 11017 in the Bent Collection. It is a characteristic female of the typical race of *Limosa lapponica*, in fresh fall plumage. Mr. Lamb's original