

P. p. jamesi.—The southern Great Plains, from southern Montana and South Dakota, south to Colorado.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto*.

Migration of the Red Phalarope off Massachusetts.—This pelagic shorebird, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, is so little known off the eastern United States that any contribution to its life history is of interest. For ten years I have been studying it as opportunity permitted off Cape Cod, and wish to put certain facts on record. (1) It is much more pelagic than the Northern Phalarope, and the total number of individuals using the western Atlantic as a migration route would appear to be very substantially less. (2) Its season of migration is *much earlier* in spring and *much later* in fall. The first birds appear off Massachusetts April 2–12, still in winter plumage, and there are at least four such records in recent years, whereas the earliest date for the Northern Phalarope in eighty years is May 1. On April 19, 1938, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Tousey, J. P. Bishop and I spent the afternoon at Monomoy Point. Pouring rain and a southeast gale had prevailed all the preceding day and night. The feature of the afternoon was the discovery of a mass migration of the Red Phalarope. At least one thousand birds were moving northward along the tide-rip north of the Stone Horse Reef Lightship. The birds were in small flocks of from twenty-five to fifty, constantly rising, flying northward, circling about and pitching down in dense clusters to feed. They were watched for half an hour through powerful telescopes, and were mostly in transitional plumage. I have been unable to find any definite record of so large a number of Red Phalaropes off the New England coast in spring. On the other hand there are several records of ten times that many Northern Phalaropes, the main flight of which is chiefly May 15–25.

In the autumn the contrast is even more striking. The Northern Phalarope arrives regularly off Chatham early in August, the earliest date July 24, 1938 (Griscom and several others). The peak of the flight is from late August to mid-September; the latest date for the State is October 13. Only twice have I seen one or two Red Phalaropes in late August and once in mid-October. There is no record in the literature of any mass migration of this species in fall, but the *great majority* of fall records in recent years are *in early November*. With the Northern Phalarope, however, there is a well-known concentration area in the Bay of Fundy between Eastport and Grand Manan. Here up to a quarter of a million birds gather in early August, and it is consequently not surprising that flocks of a thousand or more are occasionally noted off the Massachusetts coast. These facts lead to the inference that the main fall flight of the Red Phalarope is far offshore, sometime between late September and late October, just the period when easterly gales are extremely rare, as compared with the preceding month and November.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

Parasitic Jaeger on Cayuga Lake, New York.—About a year ago, my friend Mr. S. Morris Pell reported seeing and examining a mounted immature jaeger said to have been captured at the north end of Cayuga Lake. Accompanying me to the city of Seneca Falls last June, Mr. Pell succeeded in locating the man who had mounted the specimen, Mr. George A. Brown. Mr. Brown informed us that the jaeger had been shot on October 15, 1937, along the west shore of the Lake, not far from the village of Canoga, in Seneca County. Eventually, in a garage in Seneca Falls, we found the bird itself. Since it had not been attacked by mice or moths, we were able to relax it and make it into a presentable skin without much difficulty. The specimen (Louis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Collection no. 3248) is clearly identifiable

as *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linnaeus), the length of the horny cere being decidedly greater than that of the dertrum, and the shafts of the five outermost primaries being distinctly white. *The tarsi are not black however*; and the light color of the toes and webs indicates that these must have been largely gray rather than black at the time the bird was killed.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Bonaparte's Gull breeding in Ontario.—Having heard from C. Watson, superintendent of the Hydro-electric Power Plant at Rat Rapids on the Albany River at Lake St. Joseph, District of Patricia, who is a keen observer of birds, that he had seen a number of small gulls perched on spruce trees surrounding a small muskeg lake in that vicinity, I concluded they must be Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) and asked him to endeavour to ascertain if they were breeding there. During the past summer he was successful in locating two nests in small black-spruce trees, a short distance from the edge of the lake. He collected the two sets of three eggs and forwarded them to me with a full description of both birds and nests, leaving no doubt as to the species. Both sets were in advanced stage of incubation; one of them is now in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto. This, I understand, is the first breeding record for the Province of Ontario.—L. S. DEAR, *Port Arthur, Ontario.*

Gull-billed Tern in Massachusetts.—On July 25, 1937. Mr. David L. Garrison and I were at Nauset Beach, Eastham, at flood tide, making the usual shorebird count. On a long familiar bar, an assemblage of gulls, terns, sandpipers and plovers were roosting, and were examined with care. Suddenly one tern, tail to us, aroused instant suspicion by the pure-gray wings, with no dusky in the primaries. A little maneuvering disclosed the familiar short, stumpy, black bill of an adult Gull-billed Tern (*Gelocheidon nilotica aranea*) in full breeding plumage, and a moment later the black legs and feet were easily distinguishable. The bird was within close shotgun range, easily recognizable without field-glasses, but was not collected because there already was a specimen from the State, and the species is too rare in the eastern United States to shoot individuals unnecessarily.

That evening Mr. Joseph A. Hagar, the State Ornithologist, happened to telephone me from Marshfield for news. Accordingly, the next day Mr. J. L. Peters and he went to Nauset at high tide, and found the tern on the same bar, and also obtained a perfect observation. Needless to state, a sight record could scarcely have received more speedy and competent confirmation. On August 18, Mr. J. P. Bishop saw probably the same individual at Nauset, and on September 11, he and Mrs. Palmer Putnam found two birds together among the roosting terns.

A specimen was collected at Ipswich in 1871, and Forbush gives a sight record for August 8, 1909.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Perching habit of the Black Tern.—Alexander Sprunt's detailed account of the peculiar wire-perching habit of the Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*), that he observed while on a field trip in Texas, has been described in 'The Auk' (55: 529, 1938). Although the following incident does not present exactly the same wire-perching habit of these birds that Mr. Sprunt observed, I thought it interesting enough to offer for what it is worth. On the afternoon of July 15, 1938, conservation warden Willard Laesch and myself were engaged in planting some ivy-leaved duckweed (*Lemna trisulca*) in Red Cedar Lake, located near Cambridge, Wisconsin, about twenty-five miles southeast of Madison. Near the center of the lake, a portion of which is found growing to a wide variety of aquatic vegetation, were the remnants of