

located almost at once from a bluff overlooking the marsh. At a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile, only the pale head and great bill showed above the marsh grass, but this was ample for instant elimination of the Hudsonian Curlew, though not, of course, for a European Curlew.

Many misleading remarks about the identification of this curlew in life have been published in scientific manuals by ornithologists, whose lack of field experience or competence in the field are patent. They chiefly tend to stress the greater size and greater length of bill, but add the very proper proviso that a small Long-billed Curlew is no longer-billed than a large Hudsonian. Inexperienced bird observers consequently think they see an occasional Long-billed Curlew, because they are "sure" that the bird they saw was very much larger and longer-billed than the Hudsonian Curlew. In a region where the latter is a historic memory only, they naturally fail to produce a satisfactory record, chiefly because they did not know or note the characters that enable the experienced to recognize either species at practically the limit of vision in good light.

In the first place the Long-billed Curlew is in fact the largest of North American shorebirds. Entirely waiving the variable bill length, the body of a Long-billed Curlew is *almost twice as big* as that of a Hudsonian. To the experienced so great a difference is readily perceptible. Color characters are, however, even more definite. The Hudsonian is a dark-looking bird, a dingy grayish brown, with an even darker-appearing head, due to the five dusky stripes; in flight the under surface of the wing is buffy or grayish, obviously barred with dusky, and does not afford a color contrast with the rest of the under parts. In the Long-billed Curlew, on the other hand, the general color is light cinnamon, the *unstriped head appearing lighter* than the back. The general color effect is very pale and totally different from that of a Hudsonian; indeed, in good light it is perfectly apparent at a quarter of a mile. The under surface of the wing is a deep, bright cinnamon, in *very striking contrast* with the rest of the under parts; the barring, when present at all, is so sparse and narrow as to be practically invisible at long shotgun range.

To return to the bird at South Chatham, it was collected after an hour's stalk and proved to be a female with undeveloped ovaries, that had failed to complete the spring molt. This probably accounts for the abnormal and unprecedented date of occurrence. The specimen is now mounted in the New England Museum of Natural History. I repeat once more that this record was Mr. Bishop's discovery and here express my indebtedness to him for letting me share it. It gives me the pleasant opportunity of introducing Mr. Bishop to readers of 'The Auk'. Fortunately for New England ornithology, we now have an active student resident on the tip of Cape Cod, one of the most interesting stations for observation in the northeastern States.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

A Curlew new to North America.—Among the specimens received from Charles D. Brower, representative of The Colorado Museum of Natural History, this past fall, was an old-world curlew, *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*. The specimen, an adult male (C. M. N. H. no. 19454), was taken at Barrow, Alaska, June 10, 1938. It was submitted to James L. Peters, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, for final subspecific determination and he writes as follows: "The curlew is, beyond the slightest doubt, referable to *Numenius phaeopus variegatus* (Scopoli), the breeding form of northeastern Siberia. So far as I know, it is a new North American record. It is the form referred to on page 112 of the A. O. U. Check-list, 4th ed., under *Phaeopus phaeopus phaeopus*, where it says 'a closely allied race occurs in eastern

Asia.' There seems to be no limit to the unexpected things that Brower turns up at Point Barrow!"

It will be noted that Mr. Peters uses *Numenius*; I agree with him that the genus *Phaeopus* appears an unnecessary split.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *The Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado.*

Western Sandpiper in Illinois.—On August 14, 1938, during banding operations at Chicago Ridge (southwest of Chicago), Cook County, Illinois, a single sandpiper, trapped from a group of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*) and given band 38-20312, was noticed to be decidedly different from the others, particularly in size, lighter coloration of under parts, and length of bill. This proved to be a Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes maurii*). The identification was made jointly by Mrs. Amy G. Baldwin and Mr. Harold O. Wiles, both of Chicago, and Mr. Bartel. It was slightly but noticeably larger than the 'Semipals'; its bill, thicker at the base, was longer than its head; there was a greater amount of reddish on the feathers of the back (particularly scapulars) and nape; and the breast was plain white except for lines of very faint dots. Measurements taken in the field are: bill, 1.03 inches; wing, 3.94 inches; and length, 6.25 inches.

Ford, Sanborn, and Coursen's 'Birds of the Chicago Region' (1934) lists but one definite record—that of a male taken at Hyde Lake, Cook County, on May 19, 1928. That this is a *spring* record from the interior is of particular interest since Bent states that none was contributed for his 'Life Histories of North American Shore Birds' (1927); furthermore, Widmann (Trans. Acad. Science St. Louis, 17: 70, 1907) states that the species "has been taken a few times in spring on sandbars in the Mississippi River by Mr. Chas. K. Worthen of Warsaw, Ill.," and DuMont (Univ. of Iowa Studies Nat. Hist., 15: 72, 1934) adds that "in eastern South Dakota, it has been collected in April." No data are available on a second extant Chicago-region specimen in the collection of S. S. Gregory; and efforts have been made to locate Worthen's specimens, mentioned above, but without success.

In the Chicago region, this species retains its classification as a very rare transient in spring; but it appears to be uncommon though regular during the fall, and as for the lack of skins to support this, as Bent (1927) states, "undoubtedly it has been generally overlooked on account of its close resemblance to the Semipalmated Sandpiper, an abundant species which few collectors bother to shoot." Field Museum records of Chicago-region field observations contain a dozen fall records for 1936-38, the extremes being August 13 (Palmquist) and September 3 (Dreuth). The species has been reported by more than a half dozen of the most active field ornithologists of the region, one of whom, Mr. William Dreuth of Chicago, has observed it at Lincoln Park at least once each fall since 1932, except 1935 (Audubon Annual Bull., Illinois Aud. Soc., no. 28, p. 37, 1938).

Several unpublished sight records from various parts of the State have been kindly contributed for inclusion in the present note. Arthur S. Hawkins and Frank C. Bellrose of the Illinois State Natural History Survey report four or five Western Sandpipers among Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers at Flat Lake, Calhoun County, on July 14, 1938; another individual was seen among Semipalmated Sandpipers at Douglas Lake, Chillicothe, Peoria County, on August 28, 1938. Richard Allyn has observed the species once at Jacksonville, Morgan County, on September 4, 1935 (one individual), and again at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County, on September 17, 1938 (three individuals).

Ridgway ('Ornithology of Illinois,' Nat. Hist. Surv. Illinois, 2: 54, 1895) classified