

this damaged set has always been kept in the Bailey collection as a Virginia record, and I think it was recorded as such in one of the bird magazines soon afterward.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Coral Gables, Florida*.

Unusual water- and shorebirds in the Illinois River Valley.—Recent years have brought remarkable changes to the avifauna of the Illinois River Valley. In 1938, a tremendous post-nuptial influx of American Egrets occurred and with them a number of rare southern herons. These records, together with those of other unusual water- and shorebirds, are here listed.

WHITE PELICAN, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*.—The White Pelican is of rare occurrence over most sections of Illinois, although reported to be a regular migrant along the Mississippi River. There are no recent records for the Illinois River Valley. Consequently, the following observations are worth recording. On October 16, 1939, I saw two individuals flying over Lake Senachwine, five miles north of Henry. With an 8 × 40 binocular, I saw another one on Patterson Bay, near Bath, Illinois, on May 3, 1940; and on May 24, several other members of the Illinois Natural History Survey and I observed seventeen individuals on Clear Lake, fifteen miles north of Havana. One White Pelican was seen, April 26, 1941, on Beebe Lake by Ferd Luthy of Peoria.

SNOWY EGRET, *Egretta thula thula*.—Little is known of this egret in central Illinois. I observed five Snowy Egrets among large numbers of American Egrets at Cuba Island, Chandlerville, Illinois, on July 30, 1938. I observed them many times at close range; their black legs and yellow feet were noted, as well as the lack of bluish color on the under primaries. On September 27, 1938, Ferd Luthy and I watched three of these egrets with 8 × 30 binoculars at Duck Island, Banner, Illinois. We compared them with nearby American Egrets and Little Blue Herons.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, *Nyctanassa violacea violacea*.—Since I found this species nesting in the Illinois River Valley (*Auk*, 55: 122, 1938), I have seen numerous other individuals along the river. I noted one adult near the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers at Grafton, July 9, 1938; five immature birds (which were readily distinguished from immature Black-crowned Night Herons) on Sangamon Bay, Browning, Illinois, August 23 and 24, 1938. On July 21, 1940, I saw an adult of this species on Gilbert Lake, near Grafton.

WHISTLING SWAN, *Cygnus columbianus*.—While Whistling Swans in recent years have appeared regularly in the Chicago region, there are few records of this species in the Illinois River Valley. I saw one swimming about an ice-encased opening with numerous Mallards and Lesser Scaups on the Starved Rock navigation pool, near Ottawa, January 2, 1939. One immature Whistling Swan was shot by a hunter on Lake Chautauqua, November 13, 1940. The bird was confiscated by Patrolman Milford Smith of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is now in the collection of the Illinois Natural History Survey. Another individual was seen, November 16, 1940, at Lake Chautauqua by Arthur S. Hawkins of the Illinois Natural History Survey and several others.

HUTCHINS'S GOOSE, *Branta canadensis hutchinsi*.—Notwithstanding the few definite records of this goose in Illinois, it appears to be more common than is generally believed. A crippled Hutchins's Goose was kept for many months at the Brownstone Club, Bath, Illinois. In July 1938, it was measured by C. T. Black and the writer, who definitely determined it as *hutchinsi*. On October 18, 1939, Harry Anderson of the Illinois Natural History Survey and I saw one Hutchins's Goose at Crane Lake, near Snicarte, and on October 23, 1939, we saw twenty-five of these

geese at the same place. On October 23, 1940, I saw 118 Hutchins's Geese at Crane Lake and four on Lake Chautauqua, October 31, 1940. Small size, short necks, and high-pitched calls readily distinguished them from nearby Canada Geese. Two specimens of this small goose were secured for the Illinois Natural History Survey collection. One was killed five miles northeast of Havana by U. S. Senator C. Wayland Brooks, November 7, 1940; the other specimen was taken by Homer Bradley of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, fifteen miles north of Havana, December 16, 1940.

The only spring record is that of an individual seen by Arthur S. Hawkins and Lyle K. Sowls on Spring Lake, near Banner, March 30, 1940.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, *Anser albifrons albifrons*.—There are few records of the White-fronted Goose in Illinois. According to the 'Birds of the Chicago Region,' specific records of its capture in that region are lacking. Nevertheless, according to old-time hunters, this species appeared regularly but in small numbers each fall along the Illinois River and has become rarer in recent years.

I have observed this species on two occasions along the Illinois River. On April 30, 1938, at Duck Island, near Banner, twenty White-fronted Geese were feeding in a winter-wheat field along with forty Blue and four Lesser Snow Geese. Fourteen 'Speckle-bellies' flew from Crane Lake directly over my head on October 11, 1940. The speckled breasts of the several adults in this group were easily discernible.

GREATER SCAUP DUCK, *Nyroca marila*.—There are few definite records of the 'Big Broadbill' in Illinois, and most of these records are from the vicinity of Lake Michigan. I picked up a dead scaup, November 16, 1940, at Liverpool, which on examination proved to be an adult male Greater Scaup. It was made into a skin and is now in the collection of the Illinois Natural History Survey.

OLD-SQUAW, *Clangula hyemalis*.—A common wintering duck on Lake Michigan, this species is rare inland. I saw a pair at close range, with an 8 × 40 binocular, on Peoria Lake, November 8, 1940.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, *Melanitta deglandi*.—Uncommon on Lake Michigan at Chicago, this species has not been recorded recently in the Illinois River region. A crippled White-winged Scoter was seen by Jacob H. Lemm and the writer on Peoria Lake, November 8, 1940. After considerable pursuit, Mr. Lemm collected the bird, which is now in the Illinois Natural History Survey collection.

SURF SCOTER, *Oidemia americana*.—A hunter firing at several Coots on Lake Chautauqua, October 24, 1940, was surprised to retrieve an unknown "black" duck. The bird was secured by Homer Bradley, refuge manager. Identified as an immature female Surf Scoter, it was made into a skin and deposited in the collection of the Illinois Natural History Survey.

RUDDY TURNSTONE, *Arenaria interpres morinella*.—While this species is a regular, though uncommon, migrant along the shores of Lake Michigan, little is known of its occurrence elsewhere in Illinois. On May 18, 1939, I observed three Ruddy Turnstones on a sand levee of the Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, near Havana, Illinois. I saw seven individuals in the same vicinity on May 27, 1939. No other records of this species are known for the Illinois River Valley.

WESTERN WILLET, *Catoptrophorus s. inornatus*.—Regarded as a rare migrant by Ford, Sanborn and Coursen in 'Birds of the Chicago Region,' this bird is given only fall-migration dates by them. The writer saw two Western Willets on the Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, May 18, 1939.

AMERICAN KNOT, *Calidris canutus rufus*.—An uncommon migrant along Lake Michigan, this shorebird is rare inland. Since there are no known records of its occurrence in the Illinois River Valley, it is felt worthwhile to record that I observed a single individual in partial nuptial plumage on August 11, 1939, at Duck Island, Banner, Illinois. It was seen with an 8 × 40 binocular at a range of ten yards.

LEAST TERN, *Sterna antillarum antillarum*.—While there are scattered records of this tern along the Mississippi River as far north as Quincy, no recent records exist for the Illinois River. Arthur S. Hawkins and the writer saw several individuals about Flat Lake near Brussels, Illinois, about July 16, 1938.—FRANK C. BELLROSE, *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois*.

Rare water- and shorebirds in north-central Oklahoma.—The recent large-scale program of building artificial lakes and ponds in the Plains States has made conditions more favorable for waterbirds of all types. The following records for 1939 and 1940 from the vicinity of Stillwater in Payne County, Oklahoma, indicate that certain species may be swinging east of their normal migration routes or stopping more frequently in this area on account of the new habitats.

WATER-TURKEY, *Anhinga anhinga*.—Two seen in a patch of drowned trees in Lake Carl Blackwell on July 29, 1940. Mrs. Nice (1931) lists one record for Murray County in the south-central part of the State. A nesting colony in McCurtain County in the southeast corner of Oklahoma has recently been reported by Nice (1938).

WHITE-FACED GLOSSY IBIS, *Plegadis guarana*.—Two seen at Boomer Lake on April 20, 1939; one seen in a fish pond below the Lake Carl Blackwell dam on June 5, 1940. Nice (1931) lists one record for central Oklahoma. Semple and Sutton (1938) took two specimens in Beaver County in extreme northwestern Oklahoma, in 1937.

PIPING PLOVER, *Charadrius melodus*.—Three seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on May 15, 1940. As far as can be ascertained, this is the first record for this species in Oklahoma. These birds were under observation for more than half an hour as they fed on a mudflat less than one hundred feet away. Semipalmated Plovers were present for comparison and the differences in coloration were very conspicuous. The orange-yellow area at the base of the bill and the prominent collar readily separate this species from the Cuban Snowy Plover that nests on the salt plains and has been recorded in migration in the eastern part of the State.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, *Squatarola squatarola*.—One seen at Boomer Lake on May 21, 1939; twenty-three seen in two flocks at Lake Carl Blackwell on May 15; two seen and one, a male, collected at Lake Carl Blackwell on September 27, 1940. Nice (1931) lists one sight record but no specimens. Semple and Sutton (1938) saw a flock of about thirty Black-bellied Plovers in Beaver County.

RUDDY TURNSTONE, *Arenaria interpres morinella*.—Three seen at Boomer Lake on May 28, 1939; one seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on May 15, 1940. Apparently these are the first published records for this species in Oklahoma. Mrs. Nice informs me that she has two unpublished records.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW, *Numenius americanus americanus*.—One seen at Boomer Lake on April 15, 1939; one seen at the same location on May 21, 1939; a single bird seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on March 27, 1940; another in the same area on May 22, 1940. Nice (1931) lists only one record for central Oklahoma.