

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 guarauna*.—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.

HUDSONIAN CURLEW, *Phaeopus hudsonicus*.—Three seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on May 13, 1940. These birds were observed for some time resting on a mudflat. With an eight-power binocular at 150 feet the light median crown-stripe bordered by dark lateral crown-stripes was very conspicuous. Semple and Sutton (1938) collected the only specimens known from the State in Beaver County in 1937.

WILLET, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* subsp.—A flock of thirteen Willets was seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on May 21; four seen in the same area on May 22, 1939; three seen at Boomer Lake on April 26, 1940; a single bird seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on May 10, 1940. Nice (1931) lists five records for the State. One of these was a specimen taken near Stillwater by G. A. Moore (1928). Karl W. Haller (Sutton, 1938) took a specimen of *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus* in Beaver County in northwestern Oklahoma.

DOWITCHER, *Limnodromus griseus* subsp.—A flock of four seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on November 14, 1939; one seen in the fish ponds at Lake Carl Blackwell on May 15, 1940; one seen at Boomer Lake on May 8, 1940; a flock of five seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on May 12 and May 15; one seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on July 29; six seen in the same area on October 20. Nice (1931) has three records for Oklahoma. Stevenson (1936) saw a single dowitcher at Crystal Lake in Woodward County on April 29, 1935; also three birds on the west shore of Lake Overholser, Canadian County, on October 6, 1935. Sutton (1938) collected specimens of both subspecies in Beaver County, and observed a single bird in Comanche County in southwestern Oklahoma, in 1937.

STILT SANDPIPER, *Micropalama himantopus*.—One seen at Boomer Lake on May 28, 1939; flocks ranging from four to twenty-seven birds seen at Lake Carl Blackwell during the period from May 15 to May 21, 1940. Nice (1931) lists five records from central and western Oklahoma. Sutton (1936) records a specimen from Ellis County near the western boundary of the State. Sutton (1938) records three specimens taken in Beaver County. Nice (in correspondence) believes that this species is now a regular transient in the western half of the State.

MARBLED GODWIT, *Limosa fedoa*.—A flock of eight seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on May 12, 1940. Nice (1931) lists one record from the western part of the State.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT, *Limosa haemastica*.—Three seen at Boomer Lake on April 20, 1939; one seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on May 15, 1940. Nice (1931) lists three records including two specimens from Payne County taken by Moore.

CASPIAN TERN, *Hydroprogne caspia imperator*.—A flock of eight seen at Lake Carl Blackwell on September 23, 1940. Nice (1931) lists one record for the State. Stevenson (1936) reported seeing a large tern, probably of this species, over Lake Spavinaw, Mayes County, on September 20, 1935.

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—A. M. BAUMGARTNER AND F. M. BAUMGARTNER, *Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater, Oklahoma.*

Hudsonian Curlew in District of Columbia.—On May 18, 1941, at about 2 p. m. E.S.T., we were looking for birds, as part of an all-day 'Century Run' (eventual total within the District of Columbia, 91), along the Potomac River and its western shore line from the road running around the new airport under construction at Gravelly Point, D. C. When we were at the most northeasterly portion of this road, i. e., that part farthest out in the river and nearest the City of Washington, we observed a mixed flock of three Black-bellied Plovers and four Hudsonian Curlews (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*) flying at an altitude of about 500 feet (*cf.* Washington Monument) from the east toward us and the airport; when half-way across the Potomac they turned (perhaps they were then able to ascertain that the airport was not a mudflat) at right angles toward the city and flew north over the buildings of the Department of Agriculture and disappeared in the haze over the city. The white forehead and black belly on the plover and the all-dark body and longer, slightly down-curved bill of the curlew were clearly visible. Although the Black-belly has been recorded with some regularity in the District of Columbia this apparently represents one of the very few records here of the Hudsonian Curlew.—HENRY H. COLLINS, JR., 3116 Rodman St., N. W., AND JOHN S. WEBB, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

Ruff in Massachusetts.—On July 30, 1940, in a marsh-pool close to the highway that skirts Newburyport harbor, the tide had begun to ebb and many shorebirds had congregated—among them a large one that I noticed with swiftly mounting excitement was none of those I knew. It was running about, among many Lesser Yellow-legs, where the water was still two or three inches deep. It stood as tall as they, on legs of a green-gray color, very pale, and it was decidedly heavier, more robust, than they, and bellicose when they came near it. Its bill was about the same length as theirs, dark, and slightly decurved, like a Pectoral Sandpiper's. Its feathers looked ruffled, very dark-mottled in front and on the whole head but shining white on the rear under parts and—as, presently, it bathed and preened—on the wing-linings. Then it took several short, circling flights, displaying more white in the upper surface of the wing and—most satisfactorily—two oval patches of white on either side of the narrowly dark central tail-coverts. This, I knew, clinched the identification, but I drove later in the day to Salem and saw the Peabody Museum's specimens of *Philomachus pugnax*, ascertaining that as my bird had no whitish throat nor breast-spots, it must be a ruff-less male Ruff.

My mind then flashed back to May 14, 1934, when at a marsh-pool in Hadley, Massachusetts, I had studied a similar bird but missed the oval croup-patches; the tail had looked, in flight away from me, like those of the accompanying Yellow-legs, a Greater and two Lesser. That bird had yellowish-green legs and a less robust body, but its fore-parts had been similarly dark—in fact, darker and decidedly ruddier, without any light color save a tiny spot at the mouth which was exactly matched by the Newburyport bird. My wise friend and counselor, Ludlow Griscom, had commented on my description of this puzzler: "Either a male Ruff in the erythristic phase, or a Curlew Sandpiper." The latter was impossible, because of its shorter legs and markedly down-curved bill, but the Ruff had only *seemed*