

if one would appreciate the bird. From Mrs. Gay's point, vegetation often hid it, but sooner or later it would swim slowly into the winding stream, head held high on long, straight neck, and draw quite tamely near. On March 31, soon after sunrise, I heard it, I think, before I saw it; a whoop, of similar quality to the honks of a lone Canada Goose overhead, but higher in pitch, came out of the marsh two or three times, as if in answer to the goose, before the great, majestic bird swam forth.

April 17, when it had been there twelve or more weeks, was the last day it was seen—by Charles Everett Allen of Spencer. Though late, this is not quite the latest date for Massachusetts, for on April 18–19, 1937, following a great storm from the southwest, a lone swan was on Norwich Lake in Huntington (Bagg and Eliot, *Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*: 756).—SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts*.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on Martha's Vineyard.**—Mr. William Ross Leigh of New York City has a summer cottage at Quitsa, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts—a region of barren, bouldery moors, close to the island's south or ocean shore and just east of Squibnocket where the Hornblower estate has attracted much ornithological attention. He was still living there in early November, 1942. The days were calm and sunny, the nights not unduly cold. On November 4, a bird flew westward past the house, opening and closing its extremely long tail like scissors, and alighted on a bush in the open moor. Mr. Leigh promptly pursued it with an 8-power glass, and often got within fifty feet of it as it sallied after insects, dipping, sailing, and banking gracefully, returning quickly to this or that low perch, keeping to an open, unobstructed area, and showing very little alarm at his scrutiny. Besides the extraordinary tail which it wielded so well in these forays—a black tail, seven or eight inches long, or nearly half the full length of the bird—it had a light gray head, gray upper parts, whitish breast shading into pink below, and black wings with white feather-edgings and a vivid spot of red at the bend.

For five more days it stayed in this nook, fairly shielded from north and west winds, but on November 9, shortly before the weather began to turn wintry, it took its leave, first perching on a gate post and permitting inspection with the glass at twenty feet. Two Arkansas Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) were present, too, that day, but neither species paid any heed to the other. Arkansas Kingbirds are, of course, regular (though still remarkable) visitors to Massachusetts in autumn, but the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) has hitherto been recorded in New England only in April–July: Wauregan, Connecticut, about April 27, 1876 (*Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, 2: 21, 1877); Plymouth and Duxbury, Massachusetts, May–July, 1918 (Minnie K. Batchelder in *Forbush's Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, 2: 326); and West Springfield, Massachusetts, April 25–29, 1933 (Bagg and Eliot, *Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*: 347–349). A late-fall occurrence is, however, interestingly parallel with that of other Scissor-tails recorded in Canada in October, 1924: one found dead on October 2 at York Factory, Hudson Bay, and one taken on Grand Menan, New Brunswick, on October 26 (reported in 1924 in the mimeographed 'Items of Interest' sent out by E. H. Forbush from the State House, Boston, Massachusetts; misdated "1925" in 'The Auk,' 44: 224, 1927). How interesting it might be to have a meteorologist analyze the winds recorded in the month or so preceding these various dates at weather stations between New England and Panama, and



MEANLEY: UPLAND PLOVER IN MARYLAND.

(Upper) Upland Plover incubating; Baltimore, May, 1936.

(Lower) Young Upland Plover, approximately three days old; June, 1936.

make a guess whether these flycatchers were voluntary vagrants or were blown northward willy-nilly!—SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Mass.*

**Nesting of the Upland Plover in Baltimore County, Maryland (Plate 15).**—In Maryland, breeding Upland Plovers are largely confined to the larger and more fertile valleys of the northern and western parts of the state. It is in one of these northern Maryland valleys, fifteen miles north of Baltimore, that for seven successive seasons Upland Plovers have nested. In this valley, one ungrazed hay meadow, comprising approximately eight acres of pure Kentucky blue grass was used exclusively for nesting each spring, and also served as a feeding ground after harvesting. Hilly pastures adjacent to the hay meadow represented the chief feeding habitat and was the type most frequented. Grain stubble was used to a considerable extent as an alternate feeding and loafing type. It seems reasonable to assume that grazing is an important limiting factor in the selection of a field for nesting, since only one nest was located in hilly-pasture type, and that was found at a late date after the ungrazed hay meadow had been harvested.

The plovers seem to choose their nesting site indiscriminately in the ungrazed meadow, placing their eggs in mere depressions down in the grass and apparently disregarding available clumps, knolls, or tufts offering a more substantial nesting site. Territorial relationships seem to be outmoded by the plovers in this valley since they nest together in the same meadows, feed together, loaf together, and show no signs of belligerence. On one occasion two nests were found eight feet apart and none of the nests found were more than fifty yards apart. When a nest was approached, neighboring birds would often join the inhabitants in a vociferous protest.

Nesting dates from ungrazed blue-grass meadow (all clutches fresh): May 15, 1936—Two nests found; one of three and one of four eggs. Nests eight feet apart. Nest of three eggs had four eggs on May 16. May 16, 1937—Nest of four eggs. May 21, 1938—Nest of four eggs. May 15, 1939—Nest of four eggs. May 17, 1940—Nest of four eggs. June 10, 1940—Nest of four eggs in pasture frequented by some thirty or forty horses; a quarter-mile from blue-grass meadow. June 8, 1941—Young approximately three days old, in blue-grass meadow. May 10, 1942—Two nests, one of three and one of four eggs; thirty yards apart. Nest of three eggs had four eggs on May 11.

The mortality rate of the Baltimore County Upland Plovers is quite low and it would seem that the plover population here should increase, yet it has remained nearly stable year after year. In 1935 there were five pairs present and each year thereafter through 1942, three pairs have returned to the valley to nest.—BROOKE MEANLEY, *Patuxent Refuge, Bowie, Maryland.*

**Mountain Bluebird in Minnesota.**—At the suggestion of Dr. T. S. Roberts of the Museum of Natural History of the University of Minnesota, I am writing to report a Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) which came to Duluth this past winter. I saw it first on February 4 and ten or twelve times after that and it was also observed by several other members of our bird clubs. Mrs. Robert Rowe told me she thought five or six of them had been feeding in her yard since between Thanksgiving and Christmas. I asked her to check closely as to the number and color to see if they were all males and she reported seeing three at a time, one of which was grayer than the others, indicating that it was a female. They came to eat the dry bread crumbs and cracked grain which she fed them. I saw a male