

Hurricane in southern Florida brings rarities to northern part of state.—The severe hurricane which crossed south Florida September 17–18, 1947, resulted in gale winds, overcast skies, and brief but frequently heavy showers on the northern portion of the state's east coast. On September 18 the wind, according to local airport instruments, averaged about 45 MPH, with gusts going to 50 MPH or better. On the date I twice visited a causeway ten miles south of St. Augustine, my first stop being at just about the time the center of the hurricane was passing due south, but about 280 miles distant. This road crosses a large area of grassy salt meadows and mud flats on which considerable numbers of water and marsh birds feed. The excessively high tide which accompanies hurricanes had flooded the entire area except the road, which is of sand and little travelled.

The high water, together with the gale which was almost directly from the south, caused a large concentration of shore birds along this road, together with a few terns and skimmers. The birds had difficulty in walking or even standing in the wind. They were evidently tired and were so reluctant to take wing that by moving slowly I was able to put my car within 15 feet of many, and in some instances was able to drive alongside and within a yard of ordinarily timid species. Some interesting rarities are listed below. While these were sight observations they were made at distances tantamount to having the birds in my hand.

Although not of hurricane strength, a second storm five days later produced at St. Augustine about 36 hours of winds as heavy as those of September 18. These winds reached maximum on the afternoon of September 23, and conditions on the above-mentioned road were similar, but several additional species were observed. These brought the total of shore birds observed on the two days to 24 species, a notable percentage of the possibilities in Florida. Only two Sooty Terns were present on the 23rd.

GOLDEN PLOVER, *Pluvialis dominica dominica*.—On September 23 three Golden Plovers circled around my car. One alighted and remained in the road for an hour. It was more nervous than the other species, but allowed reasonably close approach. Howell lists this species a "very rare or accidental migrant."

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, *Erolia bairdi*.—Six Baird's Sandpipers were among the flocks of shore birds on the road. Howell in his 'Florida Bird Life' reports this as a rare species in the state.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE, *Lobipes lobatus*.—At least two Northern Phalaropes were noted at close range, and other birds seen at a considerable distance I believe were of this species. Howell lists only two records, one of which was 40 miles south of the point where I saw the birds. One September 23 two Northern Phalaropes were swimming in shallow water within 40 feet of my car. They remained there for an hour, and were still feeding when I left.

SOOTY TERN, *Sterna fuscata*.—About noon I saw eight of these tropical terns, and on my return in the afternoon found 18 in view at one time. They appeared to be exhausted, and on several occasions settled on ground at the road edge in the lee of my car. One I almost picked up in my hand. Four more were noted on a flat seven miles to the north. Howell reports that this species was recorded twice by Longstreet at Daytona Beach, 40 miles to the south, once on the identical date 21 years earlier.

CABOT'S TERN, *Thalasseus sandvicensis acustavida*.—On my first visit to the causeway a Cabot's Tern alighted in the road about ten feet in front of my parked car. It stood there until I drove away. In the afternoon the same bird, presum-

ably, was on a near-by mud bank from which the water had receded. Howell reports only one record for Cabot's Tern from the east coast of Florida—three birds seen by Wetmore, February 14, 1919.

It was an odd fact that not once during my two trips to the causeway, or while there, did I see any gulls of any species.

No noticeable movement of land birds was taking place at this time, and I noted no effect of the storm on such birds, except for a few wind-blown flocks of Eastern Kingbirds.—CLIFFORD H. PANGBURN, *St. Augustine, Florida*.

Chuck-will's-widow at Norman, Indiana.—Excluding the records of Robert Ridgway as published by Amos W. Butler, in 'Birds of Indiana,' 846–847, 1897, and the latter's note in *The Auk*, 46: 236–237, 1929, giving details on the 1878 and 1908 records of the Chuck-will's-widow in Knox County and at Indianapolis, respectively, there are no published records for Indiana, not even recent ones, although there are two recent unpublished ones. In view of the scarcity of records and the possibility that the species may be extending its range, it is well that every observation for the State be published. Shortly after dusk on the nights of July 17, 18, 24 and 25, 1947, it was my good fortune to hear a single Chuck-will's-widow uttering its calls from a deep hollow in a deciduous woodland a mile northwest of Norman, Indiana. This small village is 850 feet above sea level and is situated in the western part of Jackson County in the Norman Upland and in the Driftless Area of the State. Due to the lateness in the season, the bird did not utter its characteristic call more than eight times while under observation, and had I not been within hearing distance and listening for it at the appropriate time, shortly after the Whip-poor-wills had started calling, I would have missed the "chuck's" call on account of the more numerous calls of its cousin, the Whip-poor-will. Although the bird was heard calling from the same hollow and woodland on the four occasions just as if it had a territory and was nesting, observations at this late date would not be convincing. Olin Hegwood, a resident of Norman for many years told me that he had heard the calls of a strange night bird for several years. This strange bird might well have been the Chuck-will's-widow. Future field work in the area at the appropriate time might reveal a colony of nesting birds and the first nesting record for the unglaciated, south-central part of the State.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Folkston, Georgia*.

Wilson's Phalarope near Washington, D. C.—On September 8, 1947, I was bass fishing on Tridelphia Lake in Montgomery County, Maryland, just twenty miles from Washington, D. C. Suddenly a small bird arose from the water about a hundred yards from the boat, flew a short distance and alighted. This was repeated a number of times. It swam buoyantly and busily picked some minute substances from the water. I identified it as a Wilson's Phalarope, *Steganopus tricolor*.

I had no gun with me, and hence could not collect it, but any phalarope around Washington was certainly a rare bird. Accordingly the next best thing was to see how near I could get with my small boat. To my surprise it allowed me to approach within five feet by rowing very slowly and carefully. It showed no alarm at my near presence, but kept on busily feeding, uttering only an occasional "chirp." At length it became alarmed, took wing, and settled again about a hundred yards away, whereupon I again went through the same procedure. I could have caught it with a crab net several times. Observation at such a short distance could of course leave no doubt as to identity. The only other record for this bird near Washington is a sight record by Wetmore at Dickerson, Montgomery County, Maryland, on May 12, 1929, as reported in the *Auk*, 46: 538, 1939.