

reverted to grassland. The ovary is described on the original label as "undeveloped."

Mr. Herbert Deignan of the United States National Museum kindly checked the Mindoro specimen against the series in that institution and has given me permission to quote from his notes. Mr. Deignan states, "The Mindoro bird has been compared with four specimens of *philippensis* from Luzon, nine of *chandleri* from Celebes, and eight of *pelewensis* from the Palau Islands. It appears that *chandleri* and *pelewensis*, compared with each other, are pretty good races, especially in series, but that *philippensis*, the first-named form, is variably intermediate between them . . .

"The Mindoro bird, when placed in the series of *chandleri*, cannot be picked out, without reference to the label. However, the same thing is true of a Luzon specimen, and this Luzon bird agrees in every way with the one from Mindoro. Under the circumstances, one must call the latter *philippensis*.

"It is regrettable that the oldest name for the species as a whole was bestowed upon the unstable Philippine population."

Like most rails, *Rallus philippensis* is secretive in its habits. It may, therefore, be present on other islands of the Philippines where it is as yet undetected.

The Mindoro specimen is now number 21385 in the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Collection at Cornell University.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Southernmost nesting of the Florida gallinule in the United States.—Although the Florida gallinule, *Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*, is known to breed through Tropical America and South America to the Argentine, it apparently has not been reported in this country south of Cape Sable, Florida. The writer has worked for many years in the Florida Keys but has no knowledge of a nest of this species ever having been found there. No mention of such is made in either Florida Bird-Life (Howell, 1932) or Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds (Bent, 1926).

On June 17, 1948, while making a population survey of the sooty and noddy tern colony on Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, the writer happened to be on the edge of a smaller pond on that key. On the north shoreline, about midway of the pond, he stopped by a bay cedar bush, *Suriana*, to make some notes. He happened to look down, and there, directly at his feet, was a well-made nest. It was about one foot from the ground, attached to stems of mixed growth of bay cedar and high glasswort, *Salicornia*, and measured about ten inches across the top. It was a shallow, though noticeably depressed, platform of dried grasses and weeds, a type of nest utterly unlike any to be expected in these keys. Looking about, and under it, several small feathers were to be seen, many of them in the nest itself, exposed and partially exposed amid the grass material. Some dozen of these were removed. The nest was otherwise empty. These feathers were from a half inch to an inch long, downy and of a dark grayish shade. These were forwarded to Dr. Alexander Wetmore with the request that he name them. He replied that they were those of *Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*. The writer has worked at Tortugas for four consecutive seasons (June) with several trips prior to 1945, and no such nest has ever been seen on any of the keys comprising that group. It certainly must constitute the most southerly nesting for this species in its range in the United States.

No mention of the Tortugas is made in connection with this species by Howell (Florida Bird-Life) though he does mention the locality in regard to the purple gallinule, *Porphyryula martinica*. However, Paul Bartsch gives a record for it, as occurring on Tortugas in 1890, on authority of W. E. D. Scott (Bird Rookeries of

the Tortugas, Smithsonian Report, 1917). Scott's observations were recorded (Auk, 7: 301).

It may be of further interest that on Long Key, the writer's son picked up on June 16 a pair of wings attached to an almost complete sternum and ribs. These were identified by the writer, and corroborated by Dr. Wetmore, as those of a purple gallinule.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina*.

The southernmost nesting of the killdeer.—On June 1, 1948, Glenn T. Chandler found a nest and four eggs of the killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*, at "Nigger Duck," three miles west of the mouth of the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, Glades County, Florida. On June 20, the writer went to the spot with Warden Chandler and saw the bird on the eggs. As far as can be ascertained, this is the southernmost point at which this species has been found breeding in this country. Old-timers in the Lake Okeechobee-Kissimmee Prairie region, who have spent their lives in the area, stated that they had never seen or heard of the "killdee" except in winter.

Donald Nicholson (MS) found killdeer eggs hatching at the mouth of the Kissimmee River on June 7, 1943. The most southerly record next to this is that by Howell (Florida Bird-Life, 1932: 221) at Lake Istokpoga, some 20 miles to the northward. The breeding range is now extended at least to Lake Okeechobee.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina*.

Long-billed curlew breeding in Colorado.—Peters (Check-list of Birds of World, 2: 263, 1934) reports that the long-billed curlew, *Numenius a. americanus* Bechstein, "now breeds only in southern Idaho, eastern Nevada and Utah; formerly bred east to Wisconsin and Illinois." It seems appropriate, therefore, to record our finding breeding birds and downy young just out of the nest along Two Buttes Creek, 14 miles north of Springfield, Baca County, Colorado, in early June, 1948. At this locality a dozen or so pairs were nesting on grassy flood plains along the creek. Downy young were handled and photographed by members of our group on June 10.

Birds in breeding condition were also collected three miles south of Campo, Colorado, on June 8. This is some 40 miles south of Two Buttes Creek. The birds were paired and behaved as if they were nesting.

In 1947, several curlews were observed on grassy flats three miles southeast of Texline, Dallam County, Texas, on June 2. A male collected there had large testes in breeding condition. It is quite likely that these birds were nesting in the vicinity.

These records indicate that some of the former breeding range, at least, is being reoccupied. Also, they suggest that the numbers of curlews are on the upgrade.

Measurements in millimeters of two males were: culmen, 137 and 162; wing, 265 and 265; of two females: culmen, 200 and 216; wing 285 and 293. Measurements of the females are well above the maximum for *N. a. parvus* and within the range of variation for *N. a. americanus*.—WILLIAM B. DAVIS, *Department of Wildlife Management, College Station, Texas*.

Status of the upland plover in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.—Lancaster County, perhaps more so than any other parts of Pennsylvania that are hilly and still quite generally wooded, today affords conditions well-suited to *Bartramia longicauda*. Originally of the midwest plains, the species probably came into this part of eastern North America only after this heavily timbered region had been cleared into broad farmlands, for the bird's adopted habitat must be sufficiently prairie-like.