

The history and status of the Ruff in eastern North America.—There appears to be no recent survey of the occurrences of the Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) in eastern North America. This analysis is based on an examination of all published records of Ruffs along the Atlantic coast states and provinces in the period from the spring migration (April) of 1868 to April, 1965. (The majority of the earlier records appeared in *The Auk*, and most records since 1947 have been published in *Audubon Field Notes*.)

Range of occurrences.—Ruffs have been observed along the Atlantic shore of North America from Nova Scotia to North Carolina. Numbers of records from each state and province are: Massachusetts, 36; New Jersey, 24; Pennsylvania, 18; New York, 22; Delaware, 11; Maine, 7; Nova Scotia, 4; Rhode Island, 4; Maryland, 2; North Carolina, 6; Virginia, 2; Connecticut, 1; New Hampshire, 2. (Note that inland records, Ontario, Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, are not included.)

The high number of records obtained in Massachusetts is attributable both to its geography (with Cape Cod projecting into the Atlantic) and to its large number of active "birders."

Particularly frequent areas of occurrence are: Newburyport, Massachusetts; Tinicum Refuge (Philadelphia), Pennsylvania; Jamaica Bay (Long Island), New York; Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey; Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware.

Dates of occurrences.—The Ruff occurs most frequently during the periods of spring and fall shorebird migrations. For the region considered, the records for each month are: March, 4; April, 17; May, 28; June, 2; July, 20; August, 36; September, 18; October, 7; November, 7. (One remained at Tinicum Refuge through the winter of 1954–55, thus in December, January, and February.)

It is reasonable that May and August include almost half of the occurrences as these months, in which migration peaks occur, are the periods of longest flights and wanderings of the Ruff.

Numbers, sex, and plumage.—In all, 139 records of the Ruff have been published for the region of this analysis during the past 97 years. Of this total, only 16 birds have been specifically recorded as being female. This low number of occurrences is probably related to the much smaller size of the female; she would have less stamina than the male, and would be less likely to wander to North America. Further, her smaller size makes detection and identification more difficult than that of the male. Because of the great size difference between the sexes, identification of the sex, even in the field, should be no problem; persons reporting Ruffs should indicate the sexes of the birds. (Also, the use of the name "reeve" for females would add clarity.)

Males in breeding dress have been seen on at least five occasions. One of these males was a member of the only recorded mixed pair seen along the coastal region (observed 12–18 May 1962, Newburyport-Salisbury area, Massachusetts). There are eight records for unisexual pairs of Ruffs. There is little evidence to indicate whether such birds arrive in a given locality together.

Records per year.—During the end of the nineteenth century and through the beginning of this century, there was seldom more than one Ruff reported for a given year (1892, 1900, and 1932 had 2 occurrences each). Many years produced no records (e.g., 1869, 1873, 1875). Since 1943, however, Ruffs have been reported annually except for 1950. In the period from 1943 to 1954 there were from 0 to 5 Ruffs each year; the average per year was 2.3 individuals. From 1955 to 1965 there were from 2 to 17 Ruffs per year with an average of 8.3. The "best" years: 1956, 10; 1964, 17; and 1963, 10.

The increased rate of occurrence in recent years is probably best explained in terms of an increase in the number of observers, improved techniques for identification, and better equipment. Yearly fluctuations may reflect the random nature of occurrence.

On 12 May 1963 a Ruff was reported from each of the following locations: Bon Portage Island, Nova Scotia; Hackensack Marshes, New Jersey; Bombay Hook, Delaware; and Little Creek Refuge, Delaware. The presence of at least four Ruffs along the coast on that date, together with the several spring and fall records which occur regularly each year, require that the status of the Ruff be redefined. In the area of the eastern North American coast considered in this analysis, it seems that the Ruff must be described as casual, rather than accidental.—CHARLES F. LECK, *Cranbury Road, Princeton Junction, New Jersey*.

An inland nesting record for the Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*, in Arkansas.—On 20 and 22 May and 1 June 1965, we visited a rookery located southeast of Blytheville, near Hillcrest, Mississippi County, Arkansas. An eight-acre lowland deciduous woods, approximately three miles from the Mississippi River, was the nesting site of about 2,000 Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), about 75 Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), and 3 pairs of Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis falcinellus*).

The area was entirely free from water and was bordered by a wheat field on the south side and cotton fields on the other sides. On the southwest corner of the woods the trees are smaller and there is much underbrush including masses of trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*), honeysuckle (*Lonocera* sp.), and wild grape vines (*Vitis* sp.). The Glossy Ibises were all located in this area. One nest was taken from an entanglement of wild grape vines three feet from the top of a persimmon tree (*Diospyros virginiana*) about 18 feet tall. A Little Blue Heron's nest was in the same tree, seven feet below the ibis nest, and contained two fresh eggs.

The Glossy Ibis nest was 12 to 14 inches wide, 8 to 10 inches deep, and lined with leaves. Larger sticks made up the outside part. Three eggs, averaging 53×38 mm, were present and were collected on 1 June. One was broken to determine stage of incubation, which was estimated to be over one week; a live embryo was present.

The Little Blue Herons, on 1 June, were at various stages of development. Some young were half grown, others were hatching, while some nests had eggs at various stages of incubation.

A female Glossy Ibis was taken from the tree where its nest was located, and is now specimen no. 40 in the Arkansas State College collection. The total length of the specimen is 61.4 cm; the bill (chord of culmen from base) measured 10.6 cm; the wingspread is 92 cm. Analysis of stomach contents showed that the bird had been feeding on small clams. The feeding area, Mississippi River sloughs and backwaters, was three miles away. Flights to and from the feeding area were made throughout the day by the birds in the colony.

The nearest reported nesting of the Glossy Ibis to this area was in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, on 25 May 1932 (E. G. Holt, *Auk*, 50: 351-352, 1933). The record given here represents the first reported nesting for the interior of the United States and the first definite report of this species for Arkansas. The first Arkansas record of the genus *Plegadis* was a bird first seen at Lonoke on 16 September 1956 and collected there on 21 September (University of Arkansas Collection 381). This immature bird could not be identified to species (D. James, *Proc. Arkansas Acad. Sci.*, 14: 8, 1960).—EARL L. HANEBRINK AND RICHARD COCHRAN, *Department of Biology, Arkansas State College, State College, Arkansas*.