

There were several of these birds on the grounds, and their singing was so much in evidence that boys took it up and could often be heard whistling an imitation.

L. B. CUSHMAN.

North East, Pa., Dec. 30, 1913.

Sandpiper Notes.

The fall migration of 1913 proved to be rather unusual in regard to the sandpiper movements. Many species lingered later than usual in this locality and several new species were noted. Immense mixed flocks of shore birds fed on the mud flats around the bayous from Aug. 20 to Sept. 12. In these flocks the usual Pectoral, Semipalmated, Least, and Solitary Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs were abundant. In addition Baird's Sandpipers (*Pisobia bairdi*) were present in considerable numbers from Aug. 22-27, and several specimens were taken. One Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) was noted Oct. 6. From the 12th of September the numbers decreased rapidly, although a few individuals remained much later. The last records for the more common species are as follows: Pectoral Sandpiper (*Pisobia maculata*), Nov. 12; White-rumped Sandpiper (*Pisobia fuscicollis*), Nov. 7; Least Sandpiper (*Pisobia minutilla*), Oct. 12; Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*), Oct. 12; Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*), Nov. 1; Solitary Sandpiper (*Helodromus solitarius solitarius*), Oct. 5; and Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), Oct. 8.

On the 6th of October, after the bulk of the shore birds had departed, a flock of four Red-backed Sandpipers (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*) were noted feeding on the deserted mud flats and one was taken. The birds were tame and unsuspecting and allowed a close approach. On the 10th the ponds were visited again and a flock of about sixty found in the same place. Four were taken at this time. All authorities to which I have access state that this species is uncommon in the interior in the fall and it was a surprise to me to find them so numerous at this time. This is the first time that I have noted this form in the fall. A few lingered until the 25th of October, when the last one was seen.

IRA N. GABRIELSON, Marshalltown, Iowa.

“The Guide to Nature.”

Many magazines, hundreds of schools and thousands of teachers and parents have tried to instruct children in a knowledge of nature. Yet the really natural child takes to nature for enjoyment like a duck to water.

Why urge the duck, why compel it to go into the water? When we destroy spontaneity and liberty, we prevent enjoyment and all consequent benefit. “We love the things that love us.”

It is, however, not nature nor even natural science as a matter of instruction, as the adult understands it, that the child wants, but the fun of seeing things. Where is the boy or girl that is not pleased by the