

Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*) and Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) toward each other. Several years ago, when I was quite a small boy, we had here at my home what I now know to have been Carolina Wrens. As I grew older and became interested in birds, I realized that Carolina Wrens were the first birds ever to have chosen a house of my construction for a nesting site. But they were then gone from my premises, though they were still to be found in my neighborhood, and House Wrens were using my houses. They reigned supreme for several seasons; then the Carolina Wrens returned. The House Wrens left, and have not been here to nest since, but the Carolina Wrens nest with me each year. A pair of House Wrens come each spring but they do not stay. Though the Carolina Wrens are with me at odd times throughout the winter, they spend the greater part of this period in the heavier woods; one spring when they were later than usual in beginning to nest, a pair of House Wrens came and began a nest in a rick of wood, but the Carolina Wrens appeared before the nest was complete, and the House Wrens abandoned the premises.

House Wrens are quite common in this vicinity; almost all farm homes have one or more pairs each season, though most of them do not have the Carolina Wrens. My premises appeal more to the Carolina Wren than do most homes here, due to the fact that the forest comes almost to my door. However, I know that if it were not for the Carolina Wrens, I would have at least one pair of House Wrens nesting with me each spring. But I am not complaining. I like the Carolina Wren well enough. Nevertheless, I certainly wish that both species of wrens could get along together peaceably. I would like to have them both. But, whether true in other localities or not, I know that here, where many different birds throng each spring, the two species of wrens do not agree.—GRANT HENDERSON, *Greensburg, Ind.*

Bird Notes from Lake County, Ohio.—Twice in past years I have reported the Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) to the WILSON BULLETIN, but both were dead birds found on the beach of the lake. However, on August 17, 1930, I saw my first live specimen, and to make it more interesting it was in the black phase of plumage with the contrasting straw color on the neck. When first seen it was flying swiftly just above the water and close to the beach. A Spotted Sandpiper left the shore and I was immediately treated to some wonderful aerial gymnastics, as the Sandpiper mounted by twisting spirals high into the air, while the jaeger easily kept pace and at times rose above to strike at the victim with its bill. The sandpiper finally escaped and the jaeger came flying swiftly back past me, again low over the water, affording another fine view of its plumage and falcon-like appearance.

I was much surprised on October 21, 1930, to find a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) busily feeding in a quiet little bay of Grand River, fully three miles from the lake, where it has previously been reported on rare occasions. The bird was entirely unsuspecting and fed up to within six feet of me as I stood at the edge of the water. A full plumage description was taken on the spot and the bill proportions noted.

On the same day as the discovery of the Red Phalarope (October 21), I had the pleasure of a good study of the Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*), though I had seen the bird and suspected its identity on October 18. It was an immature bird, which as yet had acquired no noticeable black feathers on the

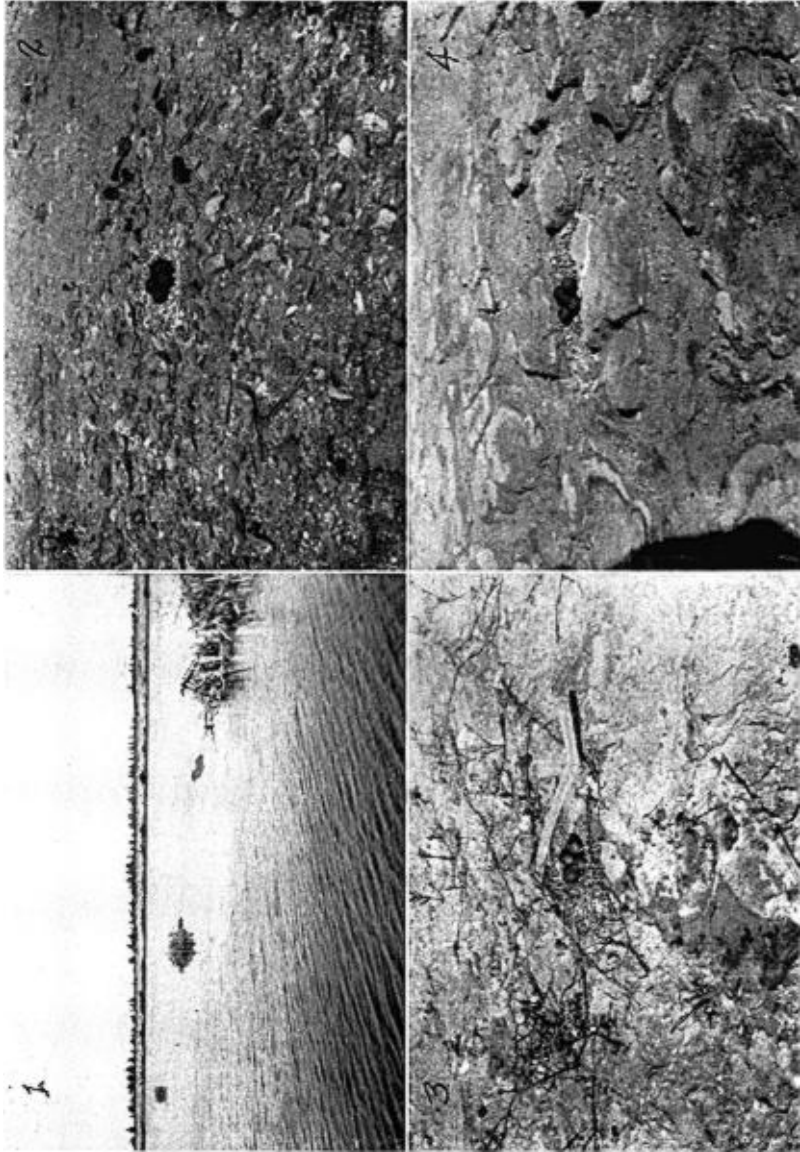


FIG. 45. Habitat and nests of the Black-necked Stilt in Florida. 1. Lagoon, with the "fill" in the distance. 2. Nest of the Black-necked Stilt with shell lining. 3. Another nest with twig and grass-stem lining. 4. Another nest placed on the marl fill and lined with a small amount of shell and grass-stem.

breast, but the black malar stripes were at once in evidence and served to distinguish it quickly from the white-throats and white-crowns with which it was associated. The broad buffy-brown flank stripes were also noted as well as the large size of the bird, its light bill, the buffy line over its eyes and the buffy sides of its head. It also would fly up and perch when startled from the ground instead of scurrying away like the white-throats.

While making a Christmas bird census on December 22, 1930, I was lucky enough to discover a Franklin's Gull (*Larus franklini*) standing all alone at the lake. It was an immature bird in its first winter plumage, and the white forehead contrasting with the dark nuchal collar, which it wears at this period, made it easily separable from any other species of small gull. As the bird has remained at the same place up to the present writing (last of January, 1931) and I have had several opportunities for observing it, the identification is unquestionable. The eye ring, broad black subterminal tail band, pure white breast and black-tipped wings with their narrow white lower edges, combined with the striking head markings, made it an unusual looking little gull for this section.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

Some Types of Nests of the Black-necked Stilt in Florida.—While the Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) have bred in many localities in Florida in the past, it was not until last year (1930) that a suitable artificial breeding place, and one to their liking, was made for them by the real estate development companies.

This was near the head of Biscayne Bay, and adjoining the inland waterway canal where a large area was filled by suction dredging, or pumping up from the bottom of the canal. Muck, sand, marl, and shell areas showed on top of the fill when it had finally settled, to which was attracted for a breeding ground, not only the stilts but Least Terns, Wilson's Plovers, and Florida Nighthawks. Brackish water rises and falls in the lake or lagoon, the depth depending on the tide (1 in fig. 45), and here the birds find an abundance of food at all times.

While looking for nests over this area, tracks of raccoon, civet cat, and bobcat were seen, and incomplete sets of eggs left one week were missing the next, so I presume mortality will be high because of these animals.

One type of nest shows the slight depression, or wallow, lined and surrounded with small shells and bits of shell, and placed in a heavy patch of shell (2 in fig. 45). Another shows the nest out in the open, and made of small black twigs and grass stems (3 in fig. 45). The third type, shows the nest placed down in the crack of the dried marl area, the lining being both shell and dried stems (4 in fig. 45).

On Merritt's Island, I have found them nesting out in the short, newly grown green marsh area that followed a fire, also around brackish water ponds and at the edge of the shore grass. They also breed in the "Glades", around open sawgrass ponds, where water has receded, and on the shores of ponds found on many of the keys in Florida Bay, and in back of the Cape Sable region lakes.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Miami, Fla.*