

old building so, of course, the swifts were not there. However, a pair of Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*) were using a nest that I had seen on my first trip, a many-storied nest above the north window of the downstairs room.—GRANT HENDERSON, Greensburg, Ind.

Some Observations on the Eastern Willet at Nesting Time.—The nest of the Eastern Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*), its notes and migrations, have been quite well covered, but little seems to have been written about the nesting habits and period of incubation.

I had the opportunity during April and part of May, 1931, to spend a part of the time along a sandy fill where these birds nest abundantly, but unluckily had to leave before completing the season with them. The Long Island Fill and the connected Oysterbed Island are in the neighborhood of the Georgia-South Carolina state line, and on the north side of the Savannah River, near the entrance, and looking out toward Callibogue Sound and the open sea. The willets feed on the extensive mudflats and nest in the thick Bermuda grass on the higher sandy ground.

The nests show the individuality of the pair, though always scanty as nests go, as sometimes eggs are laid on the ground and very little grass is added during the incubation. Others prepare a nest before laying the eggs, and while some use dry grasses only, others include some green material. In all, eleven nests were logged and visited from day to day as eggs were added. No attempt was made to set up a blind near the nests. The presence of the birds was noted with reference to the time of day, and of tides, and it was found that the eggs were seldom uncovered for more than a few minutes at a time, after incubation had commenced, which was as soon as the last egg was laid. One exception to this concerned a nest which could be found uncovered quite often, and it later seemed that only one bird was caring for the hatching. Whether this was a case of desertion or accident, of course cannot be told, but if this nest alone had been relied on, some very different, and erroneous conclusions might have been reached.

Both birds incubate. They change at quite frequent intervals, though flushing the bird from the nest may have been the reason. To determine this, a small swab covered with prussian blue in oil, in once case, and with smeary maroon paint in another, was placed in the nest. One pair appeared with maroon paint on the wing of one and the belly of the other. The second pair had one unmarked bird, and one with a large blue area underneath. Several times I flushed one bird, and a half hour later found its mate on the eggs. The feeding grounds are so near that usually both birds are near, or within call.

In a couple of cases the birds would allow close approach, before leaving the eggs. One, in particular, would sometimes stay until I parted the grasses directly overhead. The eggs are laid at one or two day intervals, varying with different pairs, and until the full clutch is laid are not covered at all times. The temperature and protective coloring probably makes covering unnecessary.

After leaving the vicinity, I made a trip back, and found two young birds in the nest. The clutch had been completed on May 6 or 7, and this was the 30th, which gives an incubation period of twenty-three or twenty-four days. These two young had been hatched not much over an hour, yet one persisted in trying to crawl into the surrounding grass. The young birds are seldom seen from the time of hatching until the flight feathers are partly grown, when they begin picking up food along the sand and the mudflat edges.

After the nesting season the willets are shy and retiring, not nearly so conspicuous as the yellowlegs, until the next spring, when they become one of the noisiest birds of this locality, often crying all night long, as well as in the day.

During the winter months there are a few Western Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*) mixed with the few Eastern Willets present. I have never been able to identify them in the field, but the larger size and longer bill of the western bird is plainly apparent when in the hand.

The willets of this coast have certainly been increasing during the last few years, for where there were two or three pairs in 1923, now there are at least twenty pairs. On April 26, 1931, a few miles to the southward, a flock of twenty migrating birds was seen. At this time most of the locally breeding birds were already mated.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *Savannah, Ga.*

Additional Bird Records for South Dakota.—The manuscript for Bulletin No. 9, Birds of South Dakota, passed from the authors to the Department of Publications of the University of South Dakota during the winter of 1916. Due to the stress of the war period and to lack of funds, it was not published until March, 1921. The authors had no control over these circumstances, and during this interval did not have access to the manuscript. But from 1916 to the present we have made many corrections and revisions, and have added twenty-nine species and subspecies to the former list.

It seems necessary because of lack of authentic records to eliminate Bonaparte's Gull and the Greater Snow Goose from the list, leaving a total of 320 in the old list, or, with the new additions, a total of 349 species and subspecies for the state. It is not practicable to publish a new, revised edition at this time, hence we are submitting the new records. The University Museum has acted as a clearing house, and is grateful to the many observers over the state for assistance rendered in keeping the records, as far as known, up to date.

American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*). A straggler. Authentically identified on June 4, 1929, by W. F. Kubichek, of Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This bird was with a colony of Black-crowned Night Herons on a wooded island in Rush Lake, Day County. (See note by Youngworth, *WILSON BULLETIN*, XLIII, December, 1931, p. 309).

Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*). A straggler. One seen by W. H. Over and H. Rice in Clay County, June 11, 1921. Later seen by L. G. Atherton of Flandreau.

White Ibis (*Guara alba*). An old record, of about 1890, but one was repeatedly seen during that summer at a small lake in the northern part of Clay County by Dr. G. S. Agersborg and Fred Heglin. Dr. Agersborg was the first resident bird student of note in South Dakota, and published a list of birds of Clay and Yankton Counties in the *Auk* in 1885.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*). Rare in migration. Taken on Lake Madison, Lake County, by J. C. Green of Sioux Falls. Specimen now in the University Museum.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Pisobia fuscicollis*). Fairly common in migration. Specimens taken in Sanborn County are in the Museum.

Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes maurii*). Common some years in migration. Skins are in the Museum that were taken in Lyman County, April 13, 1928, by Walter Thietje.