

When last heard from, towards the beginning of November, the birds were still with the herrings, and were found very abundantly off Gay Head, Menemsha Bight, Cuttyhunk, and elsewhere, both in Vineyard Sound and Buzzard's Bay.

The Jaegers were shy, and were generally killed singly as they flew past. They did not seem to associate closely with the Shearwaters.—S. F. BAIRD, *Washington, D. C.*

Phœnicopterus ruber as a South Carolina Bird.—In 'The Auk' for July, 1886, Mr. Loomis gave a short account of the capture of this species near Georgetown. As I am able to give a full account of its capture, I trust that the following will prove acceptable. Learning from my friend Dr. G. E. Manigault, that W. St. Julien Mazyck, Esq., captured the bird, I wrote to him for a full account of its capture. Mr. Mazyck very kindly wrote me, under date of November 22, as follows:—"The fall of the year 1876 was stormy, with much rain. Somewhere between the 10th and 16th of September there was a gale of wind. A day or so after the gale, Mr. B. H. Ward observed a large, strange bird on De Bardien Island, which he determined to watch and make an effort to capture. Inadvertently mentioning what he had seen, one of his neighbors the next day killed the bird, and brought it to Pawley Island, when I identified it as the Flamingo.

"That night, several hours after it was killed, I skinned such parts as I judged would be acceptable to Dr. Manigault. The legs and other long bones were badly shattered by the turkey shot, and with no experience I made a poor job of the bird. The heat and moisture of the weather softened it so much, Dr. Manigault wrote, that he could do nothing with it. He, however, identified it as a young male.

"The bird was evidently lost in the storm and driven to this shore, where he remained four or five days before being killed."—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Charleston, S. C.*

Occurrence of the Florida Gallinule at Springfield, Mass.—A Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) was taken October 1, 1884, at a point on the Connecticut River about five miles below Springfield. The bird was first noticed in the water close to the bank, in the act of diving. I immediately went to the spot with a dog, who dashed in where the bird disappeared, when it immediately came to the surface and instantly took to wing and was shot. A companion then informed me that it was similar to a bird that he had recently taken. Early in September, 1886, I was told that a strange bird, "like a very large Rail," had been seen in the reeds in a set-back, near the mouth of the Agawam River, which enters into the Connecticut directly opposite this city. On the 14th of September, upon going to this place, I at once succeeded in getting this bird up, but in shooting missed it. It alighted about a hundred yards up the set-back, where, after some search, it arose from some tall grass within a few feet of where I stood and was killed.

Four days later (September 18th), at very nearly the same place where

the first mentioned Gallinule was shot in 1884, the dogs drove out from the reeds another, which was shot; and on the same day, a little farther down the river, and about a mile north of the Connecticut State line, I saw what at first seemed to be a Grebe swimming rapidly out into the river; upon pursuing it with a boat it arose, flying slowly and near the water, and was also killed. This made the fourth time I had been present at the capture of a Florida Gallinule in this vicinity within two years. I also think I have seen birds of this kind on other occasions when they have not been taken, and have very little doubt but that my companion was correct in his statement in 1884, that he had shot one, although there is a possibility he had mistaken a Coot for a Gallinule. They very closely resemble each other in every respect, except the feet. At all other places where these birds were first found, the bottom was very soft and there was a rank growth of wild rice, upon the seeds of which plant the birds were feeding.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) in Rhode Island.—On September 13, 1886, one of these Phalaropes, in immature plumage, was brought to me by J. Glynn, Jr., who had noticed it among some birds shot by one of the local sportsmen, and seeing that it belonged to an uncommon species had obtained it from him. I understand that when shot it was in company with two 'Creakers' (*Tringa maculata*). This is the second record of the bird's occurrence in this State.—WILLIAM C. RIVES, JR., M. D., *Newport, R. I.*

Occurrence of Phalaropus lobatus at Syracuse, N. Y.—September 3, 1886, an adult male Northern Phalarope was shown to me by Mr. Charles Noxon of this city, who procured it September 2 on Onondaga Lake, on the outskirts of Syracuse.

The bird, in company with another (female), which was also secured, was discovered swimming gracefully about in the middle of the lake, and both were so tame as to be shot without trouble. Two days after (September 4) another specimen, a male, was shot in the same locality by Mr. E. M. Hasbrouk; on September 25, following, another was seen, but not procured. Previous to this the Northern Phalarope has been recorded but once in this County.—MORRIS M. GREEN, *Syracuse, N. Y.*

A Fern-eating Woodcock.—One of the most singular departures of birds from their ordinary food-habits that I have ever observed is the following: In examining the digestive organs of more than one hundred Woodcocks, I think I have never found in them anything but the common earth-worm, either entire or in various stages of digestion, excepting in one or two instances, a leech (*Hirudo medicinalis*).

The Woodcock in question was brought to me to be mounted by Mr. W. C. Alvord, of Washington, D. C., who shot it while Woodcock shooting at Martha's Vineyard. This bird was one of several killed on the 17th of October, 1885. When skinning it my attention was called to its very