

gives an observer a fictitious impression of a bird's actual abundance. On the other hand, the suggestion that the estimate for the Killdeer is too high is probably due to this species being scattered over the island rather evenly, at no time concentrated at those points where one looks for shore-birds. Figures for the Western Sandpiper are admittedly unsatisfactory due to the difficulty in always distinguishing it from the abundant Semipalmated Sandpiper.

As to changes during the ten-year period, unusually large numbers of the Greater Yellow-legs in 1919, unusually small numbers of that species and the Black-breasted Plover, and large numbers of the Hudsonian Curlew in 1920, are probably fortuitous as was one of the well-known periodic flights of the Stilt Sandpiper in 1912. The changes of perhaps greater significance which the writer believes to have occurred over the ten-year period are as follows: a marked decrease of the Semipalmated Sandpiper; a decided increase of the Pectoral Sandpiper and Wilson's Snipe; an appreciable increase of the Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, and Golden Plover; a gradual increase and decrease again of the Western Willet and greater frequency of the Marbled Godwit in the closing years.

The question which naturally follows upon the above remarks is what relation the present numbers of shore-birds bear to those of the past. So far as data with which the writer is familiar are concerned numbers in the past are for the most part a matter of pure hypothesis; in fact the present estimate has been drawn up with the idea of having something a little more definite to go by in the future. To judge from hearsay and some shooting data about thirty years before the decade under discussion the two Yellow-legs, Black-breasted Plover and Hudsonian Curlew, are present in approximately the same numbers now as then, the Pectoral Sandpiper and Dowitcher have fallen off. Of course, we know that the Golden Plover has fallen off greatly from its one-time abundance, but the break probably occurred more than thirty years ago. The south-shore gutter along which the majority of migrants flow is still full of them, giving an impression of greater abundance than really exists, whereas formerly they very probably overflowed from it into considerable territory which is now unoccupied. The apparent recent increase in the Pectoral Sandpiper and Dowitcher, species which had been notably reduced even along their main migration route, and of the Golden Plover, is a hopeful sign as regards efficiency of recent legislation. One could not expect signs of increase even if such an increase exists in species where there has been little apparent falling off for many years.—J. T. NICHOLS, *American Museum Nat. Hist., New York City.*

Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus americanus*) in Arkansas.—On November 15, 1919, an adult female was shot by a farmer about eight miles west of this city. No others were observed. Undoubtedly it was a straggler. The species is extremely rare in the State. Have not had reports of its occurrence in the past eight years.—ALBERT LANO, *Fayetteville, Ark.*