

These birds were seen by many residents in that section, who brought me word from time to time of a strange pure white bird they had seen while passing the marsh. This species certainly seems to be extending its range and in increased numbers.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Two Records of the Stilt Sandpiper.—In looking over my collection I find two specimens of Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*). The first of these, No. 278, I took in a slough a little north of Burlington, Iowa, September 28, 1889. It was shot while feeding in the shallow water of this, then rapidly drying, slough.

On September 16, 1917, while returning to Washington through the Shenandoah Valley, we passed a cattle pool by the roadside a little east of Berryville, Virginia, in which a number of Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were feeding and one bird revealed his identity and recalled my 1889 experience by immersing his head below the water in his quest for food. Having a little collecting gun aboard, we added the specimen to our collection, where it is now No. 2170.

This is the only sandpiper that I have met with which systematically fishes for food by ducking below the surface of the water.—PAUL BARTSCH, *U. S. National Museum.*

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Southern California.—On September 16, 1921, while collecting shore birds on the mud flats of Mission Bay, near San Diego, a flock of eight or ten sandpipers dashed past me, uttering characteristic "piper" notes but of a tone and tune new to me. A few moments later a single bird was shot, which was of a similar appearance and may or may not have been of the same species.

The specimen proved to be a young male Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Pisobia aurita*), in first fall plumage and the first to be recorded from the coast of North America this far south.

When first seen the wanderer from northern shores was feeding along the edges of a tide pool, in company with one or two Least Sandpipers and showed little or no fear at my approach.—A. W. ANTHONY, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, Calif.*

The Purple Sandpiper (*Arquatella maritima maritima*), at Ithaca, N. Y.—On November 5, 1921, the writer collected a single specimen of the Purple Sandpiper at the head of Cayuga Lake, Ithaca, New York. It is now No. 898 in the collection of the Cornell University Museum. Apparently this is the first record of the species for the Cayuga Lake Basin.—GEO. M. MCNEIL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.*

The Mourning Dove in Newfoundland.—Mr. W. A. B. Selater, of St. John's, Newfoundland, has kindly permitted me to record the first known occurrence in Newfoundland of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura*

macroura carolinensis). The facts, which, together with a photograph of the mounted male bird, have been transmitted to me in correspondence by Mr. Sclater, are as follows:

A pair of Mourning Doves, male and female, were found together among the hills near Trepassey, Newfoundland, about October 1, 1920, and were shot by William Pennel, of Trepassey. They were received in the flesh by Mr. Sclater about October 10, 1920. The female was too badly torn by shot to make a presentable specimen, but Mr. Sclater had the male bird mounted and placed in the private museum of Mr. Frank Brehems, No. 1 Circular Road, St. John's, Newfoundland. It is probable that the arrival of these birds in Newfoundland was due to the very severe storm which passed northward along the Atlantic coast of North America on September 30 and October 1, 1920.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, 92 Argyle Ave., Ottawa, Ont.

What is *Buteo rufescens* Salvin and Godman?—In the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana,' Vol. III, p. 61-64, there is a considerable discussion of the Red-tailed Hawk, and the authors recognize all the races described at that time by American ornithologists. The following paragraph is of special interest. "In Western North America there is a large form which has been variously called by writers *B. montanus* and *B. calurus*. This bird has not apparently received a specific designation and we propose calling it *Buteo rufescens*. It is slightly larger than true *B. borealis*, with much more rufous thighs, but has the blackish throat of that species, differing from it in having a reddish patch across the lower breast and abdomen, on which the black spots are conspicuous. This form extends from Sitka and British Columbia to California, and in the Henshaw Collection there are examples from Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Our collection also contains specimens from Zacatecas, San Luis Potosi, Colima, Jalisco, the Valley of Mexico, Vera Cruz, Guatemala, and Nicaragua." The true *B. calurus* of Cassin is further on, said to be very large and dark in color.

This is undoubtedly a valid description, but seems to have been completely overlooked, and Dr. Stone has kindly informed me that he does not know it. So now that a new A. O. U. 'Check-List' is in course of preparation, it seems advisable to bring this name to the attention of the Committee. The writer has no personal opinion about *Buteo rufescens*, never having seen a specimen so named. From the range given it might apply in part to *alascensis* of Grinnell over which it has priority. Or it might well be one of the many puzzling phases of *calurus*.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) in Minnesota in Mid-summer.—On August 4, 1891, a young farmer caught a live female Snowy Owl in his field near the town of Madison. I kept it in captivity until August 7, when it died. Meat was offered every day during its captivity but it refused to