

Feeling certain that this bird was not an unusually late *M. crinitus* (my latest record being September 16) I began circling the tree to obtain a clear view of the lower back and tail then hidden by the branch, but unfortunately before I had taken a half dozen steps both birds took fright and vanished in the distance.

Although the observation was short, and the white web of outer tail feathers was not visible I feel convinced that this bird was the Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), for it was not the well known Crested Flycatcher of our Connecticut woods and orchards.

While the "wanderlust" of the American Egret has enabled northern bird students to report small groups of *Casmerodius egretta* during the past summer I might add that at sundown on September 4, 1921, I saw a white fleet of twenty of this species and with them two Great Blue Herons flying westward at Saybrook Point, Connecticut.—LESTER W. SMITH, Meriden, Conn.

Notes on Early Summer Birds of the Virginia Coast.—The following notes were made during a visit to Wallop's, Cobb's, Pig and Bone Islands, Virginia, from June 28 to July 2, 1921, in company with C. K. Roland. Apart from the observations on the breeding birds, the results of the trip seemed to me of unusual interest, due to the abundance of many species of shore-birds and water-fowl which we had no idea of meeting in this vicinity at this particular time of the year.

One is naturally led to speculate on the reasons for the presence of many of these birds so far south at so early (?) or late (?) a date. A search of the available migration records for the states to the north seem to shed no light on the subject and we are still at sea as to whether: (1) the present year has been an unusual one for the earliness or lateness of migrants; or, (2) the islands in question, because of their isolation, form a haven of refuge for many barren, crippled, or non-breeding birds or (3) many individuals of the species in question pass directly over a large portion of our Atlantic seaboard on the southward flight and may appear here long before they are to be expected in more northern latitudes.

June 27 to 29 inclusive, were spent on Wallop's Island, Accomac County, where, under the protection of the Wallop's Island Association, the owners, a couple of colonies of possibly 40 pairs of Least Terns, and a somewhat smaller number of Common Terns were nesting. Piping Plovers were also rather plentiful, and we saw several of their half-grown young along the deep wind-swept beaches at either end of the island. Among the other breeding species of note we might mention the Boat-tailed Grackles, which were quite common, although this is about the northern limit of their breeding range.

On June 27 we saw three female or immature Red-breasted Mergansers, and the following morning came upon one resting on the beach along one of the inlets. On June 29 a flock of ten Double-crested Cormorants flew over, heading north, and Black Terns were noted on both the 29th and 30th.

On the evening of June 30, upon our arrival at Cobb's, we found possibly twenty Black-bellied Plovers, all in the winter plumage, four Turnstones, and a male American Scoter, within a few hundred yards of our landing place.

On the following day we made a trip to the northern end of the island, and a brief visit to Pig Island, which is accessible by wading for a couple of hours during low tide. Here we found an immense colony of Skimmers in possession of the island, which is probably no more than three feet above ordinary high-tide at its highest point. Their nests were so close that we had difficulty in picking our way among them, and during our visit the air was filled with their graceful, if somewhat grotesque forms. They were easily the most abundant birds on the island, although our stay was too short to attempt any estimate of their numbers. We were told that a recent visitor to this particular island had tarried too long and had only been saved from spending the night on the island by the timely assistance of a passing fisherman.

On the adjoining beach of Cobb's we spent a very interesting half-hour with a young Oystercatcher which was just in that awkward stage between the downy and juvenal plumage, although it was fully as large as an adult Upland Plover. Its sprinting ability would have done credit to a young ostrich had it chosen a straightaway course, but the plaintive peeping of its parents in our rear caused it to double back, and a well-placed hat impeded its progress until we gathered it up and placed it in an improvised pen in the hatchway of a nearby piece of wreckage.

After trying vainly to find an exit it soon became quiet and allowed us to handle it quite freely, lying flat on the sand much of the time, while we examined, sketched and photographed it. A few minutes later we gave it its liberty and when last seen it was racing pell-mell down the beach toward its parents. As nearly as I could judge there were probably half a dozen pairs of these striking birds on the island at the time, doubtless all breeding.

Laughing Gulls, Gull-billed, Common and Forster's Terns, Clapper Rails, one or two pairs of Willets, and possibly the same number of Wilson's Plovers were also seen on the island during the course of the day. The Least Terns have never returned since the days of their millinery popularity, and, we were also told by Captain Isdell, the genial and interesting proprietor of the hotel, that the Laughing Gulls had entirely forsaken a portion of marsh near the hotel after being scared off several years ago by a flash-light.

The migrant birds were particularly interesting, too: Black-bellied Plovers, a large flock of Knots, several in the spring plumage, and one Semipalmated Plover being seen along the beach.

It was on July 2, however, while on a visit to Bone Island, at low tide, that we saw the unusual spectacle, for this season, of myriads of Knots, Dowitchers, Sanderlings, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, with a

few Pectoral, White-rumped, and Red-backed Sandpipers, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, a Wilson's Snipe and a Turnstone, scattered over the broad mud-flats toward the landward side of the island. Toward the seaward side, which is scarcely higher than Pig Island, were hundreds of Skimmers, Terns, Gulls, and a scattering of Oystercatchers, circling about, or perched in "rafts" along the low flat bars exposed by the tide and in the bay a solitary Horned Grebe and a Red-breasted Merganser were riding the swells. The whole scene formed a very fitting climax to one of the most enjoyable and profitable ornithological pilgrimages in which it has my good fortune to participate.—E. L. POOLE, *Reading, Pa.*

Some Records from the Madison, Wisconsin, Region for the Spring of 1921.—

1. **Chaulelasmus streperus.** GADWALL.—Four individuals observed on May 6.
2. **Bartramia longicauda.** UPLAND PLOVER.—One specimen on fence post. Allowed two observers, on foot, to approach within fifty feet.
3. **Buteo borealis krideri.** KRIDER'S HAWK.—One individual, in flight, studied at close range, directly over-head. It was engaged by several crows, and remained under perfect observing conditions for a considerable period.
4. **Falco peregrinus anatum.** DUCK HAWK.—Mr. Herbert Stoddard of Milwaukee introduced me to two nesting sites of the falcon, both about twenty-five miles northwest of Madison, and both on lofty and relatively inaccessible rock ledges. Each contained young birds. Mr. Stoddard, in the initial article of this 'Wilson Bulletin' of December last, has written the record of his connection with both nests.
5. **Phloeotomus pileatus abieticola.** NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER.—Several birds heard or observed in this extreme northwestern part of Dane County along the Wisconsin River and in Sank County through which this Baraboo Range of sharp and rugged hills extends. The forbidding nature of the region renders it safe from easy pedestrianism and constitutes it one of the last stands in southern Wisconsin for these epic woodpeckers.
6. **Empidonax virescens.** ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—One singing male collected on May 25.
7. **Sturnella neglecta.** WESTERN MEADOWLARK.—This bird seems to be growing more common with us. During the spring of 1921, I heard six or seven singing, and doubtless nesting, birds. The types of country selected by *neglecta* was identical with that chosen by *magna*.
8. **Chondestes grammacus grammacus.** LARK SPARROW.—One singing male collected from a small nesting colony twenty-five miles to the north-west of Madison on April 30. The colony has been established on its restricted sandy flats for a number of years.
9. **Zonotrichia querula.** HARRIS'S SPARROW.—One male bird observed near Madison on May 21.