

saw it from the rear while it was flying some little distance. The side view showed an abnormally shaped body, much thicker and rounder than one expects to see in a woodcock; and from the rear view, when the bird flew directly from me, I received the same impression.

The bird was close to me, its legs hung down straight below the body, and both tarsi and the individual toes of the two feet were distinctly seen against the sky. The body, I repeat, seemed unnaturally deep from above downward, and this was the first thing noticed from the first instant I saw the bird until it disappeared over the hill. This roundness of form—depth of body from above downward—was due, I am satisfied, to the fact that the old bird was carrying a young one clasped between its thighs. I could not see the young bird as an individual, nor the thighs of the old bird; and the lower thighs and the object held between them appeared only as a part of the body of a woodcock of very unusual shape.

Observations of the well known practice of the woodcock carrying its young are scattered through the literature of ornithology and sport for many years back; but the descriptions given it naturally lack detail. The time for observation is short and the occurrence usually a surprise to the observer. I never before saw anything of this kind. Nearly fifty years ago, Mr. John H. Sage, of Portland, Connecticut, observed the act, but in that case the young bird was held in the parent's claws, and apparently was distinctly seen. There are many reports of the young one being carried between the parent's thighs, as in the case I report—GEO. BIRD GRINNELL, *New York, N. Y.*

Oyster-catcher on the New Jersey Coast.—While on a trip to Seven Mile Beach, N. J., June 18, 1922, with Mr. C. K. Roland an Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) was noted. Our attention was attracted to a small group of Black Skimmers some fifty yards distant, and while examining them through our binoculars we noticed a larger bird among them and almost at the same moment exclaimed "There is an Oyster-catcher." We looked at him for several minutes through our glasses and then tried to work up a little closer, but we had scarcely taken a few steps when the bird true to his wild nature took wing, giving an excellent view of his striking wing pattern as he made off. He flew due south settling on a distant bar where he was lost to view.

Both Mr. Roland and myself are familiar with the bird having observed this species on Cobb's Island, Va.—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Camden, N. J.*

Breeding of the Florida Gallinule in Ontario.—While at a cottage ten miles from Picton, Ont., between Lake Ontario and East Lake, I made the acquaintance of the Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*), June 4, 1922. As the cottage was on an outlet between the two lakes we had a fine opportunity to watch the pair of Gallinules nesting in the edge of the reeds directly in front of the porch. The nest contained nine eggs, was bulky, built well above the water in rushes and cat tails. Some of