

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

the rushes were bent over it. At morning, noon and evening we saw the birds, always at our meal times and in mid forenoon. They were so fascinating that I kept close watch. The sitting bird would utter a hen-like "kup" or "klack" two or three times, whereupon the mate would come swimming rapidly, practically always from the same direction, answering the call, meeting in about the same spot they would hurriedly greet each other, passing in opposite directions, the one summoned taking the place on the nest at once, while the other fed from the cow lilies. The time of feeding varied from half an hour to over an hour. As we were out often, there was no way of knowing the number of times she was relieved during the day, but for five days we saw them exchange places at least three or four times a day, the nest never being left alone. From the fact that they went in opposite directions our attention was called to the different one going on the nest and we verified this again and again.

Many Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Telmatodytes palustris*) were building still with no eggs on June 8; a Pied-billed Grebe's nest contained one egg, while a colony of Black Terns had both eggs and young.—ANNE E. PERKINS, M. D., *Collins, N. Y.*

**Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) at Cape May, N. J.**—On August 10, 1922, I had the good fortune to see a Wood Ibis sailing high overhead at Cape May Point, N. J.—the southern-most spot in the state.

There was a strong N. E. by N. wind blowing, and the sky was perfectly clear. I was watching half a dozen Broad-winged Hawks and thirty Turkey Vultures which were sailing high above me directly into the wind, suddenly I noticed another bird, with a wing spread about the same as that of a good-sized heron, but with the neck stretched straight out in front, just as the legs projected behind. It kept steadily facing the wind and rising higher and higher until upon lowering my binoculars I found I could no longer locate it with the eyes alone. It occasionally circled as it ascended but beyond a slight deflection of a wing tip there was no motion of the pinions, and the wings stretched at right angles to the body with no curve and practically no bend at the carpal joint. Within the next half hour I saw the bird twice more. Once it was going with the wind out towards the mouth of Delaware Bay, but being in the woods at the time I caught only a momentary glimpse of it. Later I saw it coming back again against the wind at a much lower altitude and I could see the prevailing white color of the plumage, and the black flight feathers, with primaries separated at the tips, the bare head and the rather short square tail beyond which stretched the legs. Altogether I had the bird under observation for nearly half an hour.

While satisfied personally with the correctness of my identification, I felt that some confirmation was desirable as I had never seen the bird in life before. I therefore sent a rough sketch of the bird as it appeared from below and a copy of my field notes to Dr. A. K. Fisher and Mr. Ludlow Griscom, these gentlemen also placed the data respectively before Drs.