

but we did not locate their breeding grounds. The Wilson's Plovers were very common here, although we saw no eggs nor young.

It was the migrating *Limicolae* that attracted our attention particularly at this spot, an ideal one for their purpose. The tide, in rising eighteen inches or so, covers and uncovers a great sand flat of some 200 yards in depth and on this flat at low tide we found most of the shore-birds observed during our stay. Besides the resident Willet, Wilson's Plover and Oystercatcher, on June 24, our first visit, there were a pair of Black-bellied Plovers and a small flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers.

On the June 26, besides the Black-bellied Plovers of the 24th, four Hudsonian Curlews were feeding on the flats. On the 27th, following a storm, several new species appeared, namely, Dowitchers (45) Least Sandpipers (2) one lame Sanderling, and the Hudsonian Curlews had increased to 6, while the Black-bellied Plovers had added 12 more, one in full plumage, to their numbers.

These observations it seems to me, are rather interesting as confirming those made on the Virginia coast last year, (Auk, July 1922) and commented upon by J. T. Nichols. It is evident that the conditions noted at the former locality are probably not unusual on these southern islands, but that the migration of *Limicolae* frequently "overlap," as far as the different species are concerned.

Among the "strays" or unusual summering birds we frequently saw Red-breasted Mergansers, and on one occasion each, a Loon and a Canada Goose. The latter however may have been an escaped decoy, as these are quite common in a semi-wild state at Ocracoke. One day, in Core Sound, we saw a fine old Bald Eagle swoop down from some piling and capture a large mullet so neatly that I doubt if it wet a feather.

The country on the mainland was full of many birds which we had only too little time to study. A couple of brief stops at Marshallburg and Atlantic producing an abundance of such interesting species, to us, as the Bachman's Sparrow, Nonpareil, Boat-tailed Grackle, Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warblers, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The well-known heronry at Marshallburg is now evidently a thing of the past, as no birds have been seen there this year.

One of the curiosities encountered on the trip was a colony of Purple Martins which were nesting by the side of a lighthouse far out in Pamlico Sound.—EARL L. POOLE, *Reading Public Museum*.

**Some Biloxi, Mississippi Bird Notes.**—The writer spent the first three weeks of February, 1918 at Biloxi, Miss., and was much interested in Mr. Julian D. Corrington's paper: 'The Winter Birds of the Biloxi, Mississippi Region,' appearing in the October 'Auk'. As I noted several species not seen by Mr. Corrington it seems advisable to place the following on record:

***Larus atricilla*.** LAUGHING GULL.—Included in Corrington's list but not recorded by him. I observed two of these Gulls on Deer Island, February 13, 1918.

**Cathartes aura septentrionalis.** TURKEY VULTURE.—Corrington writes: "Allison reports this species as common. Strangely enough I saw not a single Turkey Vulture during my stay in Biloxi and am at a loss to account for this apparent absence of so typical a bird." Turkey Vultures were seen a number of times by the writer during his 1918 visit, three birds being observed on one occasion. However the Black Vulture was by far the commoner species.

**Circus hudsonius.** MARSH HAWK.—Corrington states that he found this bird only on the islands. I observed a Marsh Hawk at Ocean Springs, Miss., February 6, 1918.

**Seiurus noveboracensis.** (subsp.?). WATER-THRUSH.—Not included in Corrington's list. One of these birds was seen in the Biloxi Cemetery, February 9, 1918.—CHRESWELL J. HUNT, *Chicago, Illinois*.

**The Type of the Genus Colymbus Linn.** —There seems to be but one Linnaean genus of birds concerning which ornithologists are not in agreement. This is *Colymbus* which British authorities have used for the Loons while Americans, since the appearance of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' in 1886, have universally applied it to the Grebes.

This is one of the instances where the old method of fixing types by elimination produced different results according to who did the eliminating. With the adoption of the "subsequent designation" method by the International Commission the way seemed open for agreement and since the first designation seemed to be that of the A. O. U. Committee in the 1886 'Check-List' it seemed as if the American custom in the use of the name must prevail, especially when the 'List of British Birds' by Hartert et al adopted the name *Colymbus* for the Grebes.

However the end was not yet. It was discovered that Gray who had made an untenable designation for the genus in his 'List of the Genera of Birds' in 1840, specifying a species not in the 1758 edition of Linnaeus, had corrected his mistake in the 1855 edition of the same work and designated *Colymbus arcticus*, a Loon, and one of the species included by Linnaeus in 1758. This action apparently constituted a valid designation and fixed the name on the Loons so that our British colleagues immediately returned to their original usage.

The American Committee considered this new evidence but decided that since Gray in making his 1855 designation explicitly mentioned "Linnaeus 1735," a prebinomial edition of the 'Systema,' and a work not considered in binomial nomenclature, his designation was therefore not valid for the 1758 edition from which most of his genera date. While the writer concurred in this view at the time, a subsequent review of the whole matter has tended to change his attitude. The question at issue is really what edition of Linnaeus was Gray considering when he made his type designations? There was by no means uniformity of opinion at that time as to which edition should be considered as the beginning of zoological nomenclature, indeed most British ornithologists began with the 1766 edition. It