

**Snow Goose in the Cayuga Lake Basin.**—On January 30, 1923, the coldest day of the winter, while watching a flock of about 30 American Crossbills feeding on *Tsuga* seeds along Six Mile Creek, Ithaca, N. Y., a flock of six wild fowl was spied flying up the stream. As the birds drew closer it was seen that they were Snow Geese, *Chen hyperboreus* (*nivalis*?) The Geese, traveling about twice as high as the trees, were in a broken V-formation in marked contrast to an irregular mob of Herring Gulls that had passed by shortly before. The sun shone full on the birds as they went overhead and made the white plumage contrast greatly with the primaries, which appeared to be coal black. The wing beats were slower than those of an American Merganser, but somewhat faster than those of a Canada Goose. In comparison with a Duck the necks seemed long and thick, and the tail long. The writer had a very satisfactory view of these Geese. Mr. E. H. Forbush recorded a flock of Snow Geese on the New England coast during the same cold spell.

The only other published record that I find for the Cayuga Lake Basin is that of two young birds that were killed near Ithaca, during the last of March, 1876, (see *Forest and Stream*, Vol. 7, p. 283; also Reed and Wright on *The Vertebrates of the Cayuga Lake Basin* in the *Proc. Am. Phil. Soc.*, XLVIII, 1909, p. 416.)

Eaton, in his 'Birds of New York,' gives but six records for the mainland of New York, and eleven for Long Island, the latest being 1903. I have not found any later records than this one of 1903.—THOMAS SMYTH, *McGraw Hall, Ithaca, N. Y.*

**Baird's Sandpiper in Dutchess County, N. Y. with Remarks on its Identification in Life.**—On September 9, 1922, Messrs. M. S. Crosby, Allen Frost, and I went to Morgan Lake, just outside of Poughkeepsie, to try and find some Shore-birds, as the lake had been allowed to run dry, leaving several acres of mud flat and we were not disappointed. As we approached from the north a large flock of mixed species flew away, leaving one solitary individual behind. A careful study of this bird at fifty yards through high powered binoculars convinced me that if indeed it were possible to identify a Baird's Sandpiper in life with absolute certainty, the bird before me was that species. Fortunately the means of proof were at hand. The specimen was promptly collected, and proved to be an adult female Baird's Sandpiper. This is apparently the first record for the Hudson River Valley. The skin is in the American Museum of Natural History.

Few groups of birds are more difficult to determine accurately in life than our smaller Shore-birds. With the species under discussion I had awaited for years the opportunity of proving that this could be done. To some it may seem unfortunate that collecting the specimen is the only possible proof, but I know of no other that is absolute with birds of such obscure patterns. If one pronounces a certain bird before one to be a certain species in a certain plumage, and the bird is collected, and proves