

About noon the next day, August 7, we found five birds of the same species on the beaches of the little estuary at Rye Harbor. At one time a Herring Gull was standing near them, and the vastly greater size of the Egrets was evident. I made an attempt to crawl through the marsh and secure one of the birds, but a belt of black mud prevented me from getting in range. A game warden, who appeared on the scene at the sound of my unsuccessful shots, informed me that the birds had been in that vicinity for a month or six weeks.—S. F. BLAKE, *Washington, D. C.*

White Herons at Lakehurst, N. J.—To me, accustomed to spending my summers in New England, this past season in the New Jersey Pine Barrens has been full of interest and novelty, chief place in the latter category being the presence in my "front yard," to-wit our little lake, of White Herons. They appeared about July 25, three Egrets and six Little Blues. The numbers of the latter were soon augmented, fifteen being the largest number seen at one time. As the sphagnum marshes about the irregular lake are quite extensive, I could not be sure that the numbers were not greater. But I am confident that there were but three Egrets. The latter left about Sept. 1, and the little ones on the 10th. All were quite tame while feeding. About sunset, or just after, they left nightly, flying east.

I am told these White Herons summer here regularly.—LEWIS B. WOODRUFF, *Lakehurst, N. J.*

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) on Fishers Island, N. Y.—One of our game keepers saw a Long-billed Curlew, on September 10, 1923. We have never seen one here before and I know that it is a rare bird in New York. The keeper is familiar with the Hudsonian Curlew and was absolutely sure of the identity of the bird.—HARRY L. FERGUSON, *Fishers Island, N. Y.*

Recent Observations of the Long-billed Curlew at Cape Lookout, North Carolina.—For more than twenty years I have been spending my summers at Cape Lookout, North Carolina, making collections of specimens and notes on the fishes of that region, and incidentally I have kept somewhat in touch with its bird life.

Recently my attention has been called to a published statement (which I find accepted as fact), that the big Sickle-bill Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) had not been seen on the coast of North Carolina since 1885. (1919, *Birds of North Carolina*, Pearson, Brimley and Brimley.)

I note this with surprise, as, during the month of July, from 1903 to 1908 inclusive, I saw almost daily a flock of from 5 to 10 of these big Curlews fly from the region of Core Sound and spend the day feeding on the flats of Cape Lookout, and at the same time much larger flocks of the smaller Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) made the same daily flights. Although I do

not recall ever having seen the two species in the same flock in making the flight, yet I have often watched them with my glasses, at a distance of two hundred yards or more, feeding together, and at such times there could be no question about the accuracy of the identification of this easily recognized bird.

During the years immediately following 1908 I was so intensively engaged in my fish work that I made few bird notes and cannot be so positive that I observed them.

However, on May 24, 1923, one of these big Curlews, which had just been shot, was brought to me on my houseboat at Cape Lookout. It had a wing-spread of 39 inches and a length of bill of seven inches (dried). Owing to the breaking and loss of my bottle of arsenic I lost the skin of this bird, but I have presented its wings and bill to Mr. John Treadwell Nichols, of the American Museum of Natural History staff, who now has them.—RUSSELL J. COLES, *Danville, Va.*

A Note on the Food of the Passenger Pigeon.—The New York State Museum has recently acquired the dried skins of a pair of Passenger Pigeons taken many years ago, probably in the vicinity of Glens Falls, N. Y. When the skins were relaxed, they were found to contain not only most of the bones and flesh but in the female, the crop full of food. Where the flesh had been removed from the breast and thighs, the skin had been filled with sawdust. The food consisted of twenty-five well preserved seeds of the sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*, Marshall, Close to the base of each fruit, the wing had been sheared off and discarded.—S. C. BISHOP, *State Museum, Albany, N. Y.*

Habits of the Osprey.—I am indebted to Mrs. Harry E. Holmes of Malden for information of a rather notable Osprey's nest near her summer home at South Thomaston, Me. The nest is located in a quarry and is placed seemingly precariously on top of a very tall pole of a derrick. It has been occupied for a long time by the Ospreys. The huge structure is in some way interwoven with the wire guys of the derrick which, together with the small top of the pole, seem to furnish at best but an indifferent support. The quarry lay idle for several years but work began there again last summer. Nothing deterred by the noise the Ospreys nested as usual, and Mrs. Holmes saw as late as Labor Day two young in the nest.

Audubon says in his 'Ornithological Biography' that he was never able to corroborate the oft-told tale of the Osprey catching a fish too large to be lifted from the water, with the result that the too-hungry bird, being unable to withdraw its claws, drowned miserably, the fish also perishing. But Nuttall states this to be a fact; and the occurrence is well known. One such case came to my attention two years ago in Quebec. Mr. Felix Davis of *Anse Aux Cousins*, Gaspé, said that while fishing on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, he and other fishermen noticed an Osprey acting as if about to drop down and seize a large salmon. They saw the