

flew straight into the water. With wings fully outspread and legs kicking it made its way rather slowly along the sandy bottom, until it was about eight feet out, in water over three feet deep. I pursued the bird, thinking at the time, strangely enough, that it was wounded. When I reached for it, it tried to go farther but apparently could not. Bubbles of air came from its mouth, and air bubbles were plainly seen clinging to the plumage of its back. At the time it was captured its mouth, eyes, and wings were all open, under water, and it remained at the bottom seemingly without difficulty. As it lay in my hands above water it seemed tired for a second or two, and then, without warning, shook itself a little, leaped into the air, and with loud, clear whistles, circled off a few inches above the water to a distant point of land.

At the time of this first unusual experience I was not in a position to know how often Sandpipers employ such means of escape. And since then not until May 7, 1925, at Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, did I see the action repeated. On this date I purposely came upon a Spotted Sandpiper suddenly and witnessed it employ almost the identical tactics in making an effective escape. At this time, however, the bird dove into running water, swam with wings and feet rapidly moving for about twenty feet, and emerged down stream, still flying, and made off in its characteristic way, only a few inches above the water.

If one is to observe this strange performance he must contrive to come upon the Sandpiper very suddenly. Rapid approach in the open always causes the bird to leave in its accustomed, usually deliberate, manner. I have never known the Sandpipers to escape the attack of a Hawk by diving, although it is reasonable to suppose that they sometimes do so.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

**Diving of the Spotted Sandpiper.**—A number of records of diving of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) have been published in 'The Auk' and elsewhere but Mr. Sutton's note adds materially to our knowledge of the matter. One instance that came under my observation may be worth recording. The bird in this case was flying across a deep pond near Cape May, N. J., September 5, 1921, and was struck at by a Pigeon Hawk. It dove instantly, but bobbed up at once, resting on the water nearly a minute before taking wing, the Hawk having passed on over the pond.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

**Boreal Limicolae Summering in Florida.**—Observations along the east coast of central Florida indicate that there is a not inconsiderable summer population of Limicoline birds which normally should be nidificating far to the north.

One expects to find an occasional straggler, out of season, as for instance, a Lesser Scaup (*Marila affinis*) which I picked up July 5, 1924, in an emaciated condition on the gulf coast of Wakulla County; or a lame adult Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) which was seen several times at Mosquito Inlet in the summer of 1923.

But one would hardly expect to find a flock of one or two hundred Sandpipers scurrying about on our beaches in June or July. Yet, the rather regular repetition of experiences of this sort leads me to wonder whether this state of affairs occurs elsewhere.

On practically every ride on the Ormond-Daytona Beach, a few Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres morinella*) may be seen, long after the abundant winter flocks have gone and before the return of the first fall migrants. These summer birds are not in the breeding plumage. In 1923, I saw Turnstones on June 3, 17, 24, July 1 to 15 (several different days), and from the first of August, common of course. In 1924, I was absent from this section from June 6 to August 9, but Turnstones were here when I left and common when I returned. This summer (1925) I have seen them each time that I have visited Mosquito Inlet and occasionally elsewhere along the coast. I have seen a few individuals on the gulf coast of Wakulla County on July 6.

On July 2, 1925, the commonest shore bird at Mosquito Inlet was the Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*). One flock of eighteen individuals of this species was seen, and scattered birds were seen along the beach as we rode down to the Inlet from the town of Daytona Beach. On July 19, ten or twelve Sanderlings were seen on a mud-flat south of Daytona, on the Halifax River. These birds are mostly in the pale plumage of winter. Incidentally, I have not infrequently seen Sanderlings running about on the asphalt streets of Daytona Beach, dodging automobiles and pedestrians, and seemingly quite at home in such an environment.

At the Inlet, July 1, 1923, I saw a flock of at least two hundred Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*). Four miles south of Daytona, along the Halifax River, I saw a group of about one hundred of this species; this was on July 19, 1925. In 1923, I saw small flocks on June 3, 13, 24, July 1 to 15 (several different days). In 1924, they were here when I left on June 9 and were present when I returned two months later.

In short, there does not seem to be a day in the year when one cannot find Turnstones, Sanderlings and Semipalmated Sandpipers in this part of Florida. The first two are abundant all winter; the latter common only in spring and fall.

In addition to these three shore birds, I have seen Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus griseus*) on the first day of July, and the middle of August. This species, by the way, is very uncommon on the central east coast. I have seen Knots (*Calidris canutus*) in small flocks all through the months of June and July. Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*) (never in adult breeding plumage) I have seen at Wakulla Beach on June 29 and July 4, and at or near Daytona Beach, June 3, 7, 17 and July 2. There were ten of this species at Mosquito Inlet on July 2 of this year. Blackbellies are generally common (often in breeding plumage) by the middle of August, as the southward migration has begun.

Concluding this discussion of the status of certain Limicolae in Florida in summer, I may say that the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)

may be seen here in every month of the year but June. Between May 25 and July 15, they are absent. I have, however, seen a few in Wakulla County on July 5. The Willet (*Catoptrophorus s. semipalmatus*), so common at Wakulla Beach and other points in the State, is quite uncommon in the vicinity of Daytona Beach until the fall migration has set in. I saw but five individuals of this species between March 15 (date of arrival) and the middle of July, 1925.—R. J. LONGSTREET, *Daytona Beach, Florida*.

**The American Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*) in Eastern and, Central Pennsylvania.**—While this species is known to wander widely during the summer, records from the central mountain district of Pennsylvania are always of interest. On July 2, 1925, a large white bird was observed along the Juniata River about a mile east of Mount Union, Huntingdon County. Subsequently it was found that the bird was slightly injured in the wing, and it was captured by Mr. Lynn Aukerman and shortly thereafter liberated. Two days later the bird was again captured and released by Mr. John Ross, of Mount Union. The bird apparently moved very little from the region where it was liberated, and on July 11 was again seen and captured by Mr. Robert Kidd who turned the bird over to Game Protector S. H. Price, of Shade Gap, who, in turn, forwarded it to me. Upon examination the bird proved to be an American Egret, probably (though not certainly) immature, but at least possessing a black-tipped upper mandible. Aside from a very minor injury in the left wing, the bird was in excellent condition, was quite fearless, and walked about the office quietly. It accepted live fish and ate them ravenously in the presence of an assembled group of observers. The fish were nibbled once or twice and swallowed alive. As they went down the neck their struggles could be observed almost until they entered the stomach. One large fish moved so violently after being swallowed that the whole body of the Heron quivered.

It is probable that this rare visitor wandered up the Susquehanna from the Atlantic Coast, and in its search for food followed the water-course north and west to the narrows of the Juniata. The bird was liberated at Wildwood Park Lake, near Harrisburg, where it was apparently much at home among the cat-tails and calamus of the marshy margin.

Since the above was written, a number of other occurrences of the Egret and Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) have come to my attention.—On July 20, 1925, Mr. H. R. Musselman, of Harrisburg, saw four American Egrets at a large pond along Conodoguinet Creek, between Cave Hill and Bellaire, Cumberland County. This flock of four was seen daily until July 26, the date of Mr. Musselman's departure from the region, and it is probable that they were present during the remainder of the month and perhaps longer, for food conditions were ideal for them. On July 26 two much smaller birds were seen, which were subsequently found to be Little Blue Herons. All of these birds, according to local fishermen, had been in the region for weeks previously.