

able to note the white line over its eyes and a wash of chestnut on the sides of its neck. This record is the first of the Northern Phalarope for Dutchess County.—EDWARD D. W. SPINGARN, *Amenia, N. Y.*

Early Nesting of the Woodcock in South Jersey.—On April 5, 1925, Salem, N. J., while searching a sweet gum thicket for a Woodcock's nest, I flushed a female Woodcock from her brood of three chicks. The young were at least ten days old. One that I captured retained very little down and its retrices and remiges were well advanced, though it was unable to fly. The chicks ran after their mother, who had flown only several rods and was running about crying, and making believe she was crippled; they ran rapidly with fluttering wings, raised upright.

According to my experience, April 5 is the usual date to find Woodcocks' nests with eggs in Southern New Jersey, and the earliest clutch I have ever found was on March 30; but allowing ten days as the age of these young Woodcocks they must have been hatched about March 25, and as the incubation period for eggs is eighteen days, the clutch was probably complete about March 7.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Hudsonian Godwit on Long Island in Spring.—At Long Beach on the south side of Long Island on May 23, 1925, the day preceding a rather severe northeast storm, we satisfactorily observed an adult Hudsonian Godwit, (*Limosa haemastica*) in full plumage,

The bird came in from the south about eleven A. M. My brother and I were observing shore-birds on an extensive mud flat directly east of the Ledo Country Club, when we heard a loud clear note, and turning sharply beheld a large shore-bird flying in from the south, the line of flight being at right angles to the beach. As the bird approached and got into favorable light conditions we were impressed by its large size and graceful build. It appeared about the size of the Greater Yellow-legs but struck us as being thinner and narrower in the shoulders. The flight was swift and direct, the wing beats relatively slow. The upper parts were brownish gray and the russet red breast was clearly observable. Probably the most striking characters were the shining pure white upper tail coverts and the white shaft in the wing strongly suggestive of a Willet but not nearly so striking. The bill was excessively slender and quite long, but at no time was the recurve observable.

The bird when it passed was not more than fifty feet up and probably a hundred and fifty feet from us. Upon reaching land it began dropping, and when it reached the inner side of the sand bar it swerved suddenly and flew at about right angles to its previous direction. After following the bar for probably a hundred feet, it came to within a foot and a half of it and we thought it was surely going to alight, but evidently detecting our presence it increased its speed and flying in a northerly direction was soon lost to sight.

When skimming over the sand it was only a moderate distance from us

and was in excellent light so that with the aid of 8× binoculars the characters above mentioned stood out prominently.

I find that neither Eaton nor Griscom mention any spring date for this species on Long Island, but the former states that the Marbled Godwit was formerly a "regular spring and fall migrant on the shores of Long Island." Hence this is one of the first definite spring records on the Island.—JOHN F. KUERZI, 978 Woodycrest Ave., New York, N. Y.

Purple Sandpiper on Long Island in Summer.—On July 28, 1925, I collected a female Sandpiper at Gardiner's Point, Long Island, which Mr. Griscom of the American Museum of Natural History has identified as an adult of this species, moulting into winter plumage. While the bird could apparently fly well, the primaries were reduced to six on the left wing and two only on the right wing, one of which was obviously deformed and abnormally shaped. There is no previous summer record of this rare winter visitant.—RALPH ELLIS, JR., Jericho, Long Island.

Diving and Swimming Activities Displayed by the Limicolae.—In reference to Mr. George Miksch Sutton's and Dr. Witmer Stone's interesting notes on the diving and swimming powers of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) in 'The Auk,' October, 1925, I would like to call attention to the fact, that though so many, if not all Sandpipers possess these powers, they are very seldom put into practice. After many years spent in observing and collecting shore-birds, the observer becomes more and more surprised that these birds when wounded, or surprised at close quarters, so very rarely attempt escape by diving, when by doing so, escape would be easy in certain situations such as in pools encumbered by weeds etc. The Redshank (*Totanus calidris*) in my experience resorts to the diving habit when wounded, more often than any of the other Limicolae with which I am acquainted. I once saw a crippled Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) dive when we approached it in a boat.

One day when collecting specimens here, on the Arrow Lakes, I saw a wounded Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) run into a pool, swim a short distance, dive, then crawl out of the water and crouch with head and neck laid flat on the ground concealed by a tuft of grass.

On September 8, 1925, I had an experience somewhat similar to Dr. Stone's. Skirting the lake shore in my sneak boat a Spotted Sandpiper was repeatedly disturbed, flew along in front of the boat to settle again and again on the shore. It then made off to cross a small bay, when a Pigeon Hawk dashed out from some trees and made a stoop or two at the dodging Sandpiper, which would certainly soon have been captured in the air if it had not suddenly alighted on the water, this, for a few seconds confused the Hawk, which circled just over its quarry and appeared to try to capture it with its talons. The Sandpiper dove, remaining under three or four seconds. The Hawk on the disappearance of its intended victim, at once made off at a great pace. The Sandpiper came to the