

Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Cape May, N. J.—On September 25, 1926 on a shallow pond back of the dunes below Cape May, N. J. I found a single Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) in company with several Pectoral Sandpipers. The bird stood out prominently in contrast to the Pectorals on account of the uniform light buff coloration. It was studied through the binoculars at a distance of about forty feet and all details of plumage could easily be seen, the shell like pattern of the upper parts and the small spots on the sides of the breast. The very short bill was also noticeable and in conjunction with the buffy plumage recalled the larger, Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*). The Buff-breast had lost part of one leg and was content to rest perfectly still with the plumage somewhat ruffled up. When disturbed it flew a few yards and finally becoming alarmed flew off toward Delaware Bay.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Wilson's Phalarope in Massachusetts.—On August 15, 1926, Mr. Charles E. Clarke, of Medford, Mr. George W. Bryan, of Salem, and the writer saw a Wilson's Phalarope at Clark's Pond, Ipswich, Mass. It was in adult fall plumage, very light—about the color of the Sanderling in autumn. The bill was long, slender and black in color, legs and feet dull yellowish and there was no white in the wing. The sides of the head, under parts and tail were mainly white, and once when it flew a short distance and alighted facing away from us we remarked on the peculiar shape of the tail, which is described as doubly emarginate. We watched the bird for over an hour through our binoculars. It was in perpetual motion, darting first one way and then another, with lowered head and neck outstretched and with a slight sinuous motion of head and neck, apparently feeding on minute insects in the air. For the greater part of the time it was on the land, and when in the water merely waded along the edges.

On August 28, at City Point, South Boston, another bird of this species was seen by a number of observers, including Mr. Francis H. Allen, of Boston, and the writer. This bird was resting at the edge of a pool and preening its feathers. It allowed us to approach within twenty feet before taking wing, and all the characteristics of bill, legs and absence of white in the wing were carefully noted.

There have been very few previously recorded instances of the occurrence of this species in Massachusetts.—GEORGE L. PERRY, 68 *Thurston Street, Winter Hill, Somerville, Mass.*

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*) at Sound Beach, Conn.—On May 30, 1926, the writer with L. De F. Johnson of Searsdale were on the beach at Tod's Neck, Sound Beach, Conn. from 7:30–10:30 A. M. standard time, and having been particularly lucky with shore birds, cut across into the salt meadows, to the southeast end of the neck. Here our attention was attracted by three Plover which we took, at a distance, to be Black-bellied (*Squatarola squatarola*). Cautiously approaching

within a hundred feet with the sun at our backs we saw that the birds were really "Gold-backs;" one male in full nuptial plumage with two females. Collection would have been not only sacrilege but unnecessary for identification as the birds were later approached to within fifty feet, being as tame as the numbers the writer found on the golf course at Galveston, Texas, early in March. We believe that this is the first authentic record of this species along the Westchester-Fairfield shore of Long Island Sound, and, to our knowledge, the only spring record for the New York City region since May 10, 1885.—RUTGERS R. COLES, *Mamaroneck, N. Y.*

Another Late Nesting of Bob-white.—In the "General Notes" of 'The Auk,' January, 1926, I mentioned having found a Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*) incubating eggs on September 11, 1924. An even later nesting date occurred this year (1926). On September 21 young hatched from nine eggs in a nest observed by Mr. Allen A. Green in Des Moines County, Iowa, who states that some twelve days before, while mowing alfalfa, the female Bob-white was flushed from the nest, and the eggs were left so generally exposed it was a surprise they were not abandoned.—HAROLD M. HOLLAND, *Galesburg, Ill.*

Monetary Value of Marsh Hawks.—The appraisal of the value of birds and its estimation in dollars and cents has given rise to a varied assortment of figures. From the very complexity of the problem and the many intangible factors that may enter into it, not to mention the variable degree of personal zeal displayed by the appraiser himself, such figures fall largely in the category of mere guesses. Few of them can be looked upon as products of truly scientific deduction. With any one of our common birds feeding on hundreds of specifically different items, each one of which in turn may have a greater or less effect for good or harm, what chance is there in our present state of knowledge to interpret this work in terms of the coin of the realm?

It is with a bit of hesitation, therefore, that I submit this contribution on the Marsh Hawk. The fact that the appraisal given is an estimate of the value of only one activity of this bird, exhibited under peculiar conditions where its worth could be readily compared with factors upon which a more or less definite monetary value could be placed, affords the necessary excuse.

During September, 1926, I was engaged in working out measures of crop protection against the depredations of Red-winged Blackbirds and Bobolinks on the Oaks Plantation, ten miles south of Wilmington, N. C. With the exception of a few acres on one other plantation a few miles to the south, the Oaks Plantation supports the only cultivated rice now being grown in North Carolina. Here Bobolinks on their southward migration meet the first of the few remaining ricefields in the South Atlantic States. These birds aided by resident and migratory Redwings are still important hindrances to the successful production of rice. Bird minding must be