

Notes from Madison, Wisconsin.—*Micropalama himantopus*. STILT SANDPIPER.—During the summer of 1926, the water level of a pond near Madison was lowered greatly by pumping of the water to wash gravel. The shores under normal conditions are largely gravel, but the pumping exposed stretches of mud which attracted shorebirds in unusual numbers. On August 7, I found eight Stilt Sandpipers intermingled with Yellow-legs, Least Sandpipers, and Semipalmated Sandpipers. There was no cover, but after exercising much patience, I collected three specimens, two males and a female. The following morning, when a male was collected, only two of this species were found. On August 14, there were two on the pond and a male was taken. The sixth specimen was a female with an injured tarsus, taken on August 25. Mr. John Main secured a lone bird on the same pond on September 12.

This species appears to be a rare migrant. The statement of Kumlien and Hollister in 'The Birds of Wisconsin' (1903), that young barely able to fly had been run down at Lake Koshkonong, must be taken as an unfortunate error. Since the above date, only one specimen has been recorded. Stoddard took a male in Sheboygan County, August 13, 1921, and remarks (The Auk, 40, 1923, 321) that this is the only one that he has observed on the Lake Michigan beaches.

The best account of the habits of this species in migration is given by Allen (The Auk, 30, 1913, 430). My observations differ in some respects, perhaps due to more limited opportunities for observation. When first seen, the birds were scattered about among members of other species, each bird feeding methodically in a circumscribed area. They dabbled in water reaching to the belly and frequently thrust under the head and neck "to the hilt." Bartsch (The Auk, 39, 1922, 106) states that this is the only species of Sandpiper that he has encountered which systematically feeds by ducking. The Long-billed Dowitcher, to which the Stilt Sandpiper is closely related, is confirmed in this habit. I have also frequently observed submergence of the head by Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper. One Stilt Sandpiper having encroached on the domain of another in shallow water, the birds squatted and with outstretched necks rigidly faced each other. The intruder finally decamped, stared out of countenance. I have observed Yellow-legs assume the tourney pose, then spring into the air like roosters in heroic combat.

A bird having fed to satiety, drew up a leg and rested with the head between the shoulders. On my first shot, the mixed flock of shorebirds alighted but 300 feet distant. The Stilt Sandpipers did not segregate and were the first to dismiss suspicion.

It is not easy to distinguish the Stilt Sandpiper from the Yellow-legs in flight, but I see no reason for confusion when the birds are feeding. The former is the more deliberate in its movements, its neck appears shorter, and it does not jerk its superstructure as does the Yellow-legs. The white line over the eye, and in most cases a rusty spot behind the eye, were prominent field marks. Incongruous as it may seem, the rusty spots were much more conspicuous in the field than in the hand.

Pisobia bairdi.—BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.—This species was observed on several occasions in August at the above pond. I took a female on August 15, and another female on August 27.

Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus. LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER.—My only fall record is a male taken August 12, 1926.

Sphyrapicus varius varius.—YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—Rare winter resident. A female taken December 25, 1926, is of further interest in that it represents the form with a black crown. The latter had sagittate markings of ecru drab.

Astur atricapillus atricapillus. GOSHAWK.—On the morning of January 1, 1927, near the run in the Wingra woods, a fine adult Goshawk approached me and passed within 50 feet without paying the slightest heed to my presence. The Hawk's passage aroused cries of protest from a Song Sparrow that otherwise would have escaped observation.—A. W. SCHORGER, 2021 Kendall Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.

Three New Birds for Kansas.—While working under the supervision of Mr. C. D. Bunker at the Kansas University Museum the following important records have come to my attention. All of the specimens reported here are now in the Kansas University Museum bird collection.

Pelecanus occidentalis. BROWN PELICAN.—A single specimen of this species was found dead after a severe storm June 6, 1916 near Parker, Linn County, Kansas.

Callipepla squamata pallida. ARIZONA SCALED QUAIL.—I collected three specimens of this species from a flock of six about fourteen miles north of Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas, on August 19, 1926. They were beneath some low shrubbery at the foot of a cliff and did not flush until I had approached to within about fifteen feet of them. These three specimens are to my knowledge the only ones taken in the State.

Geococcyx californianus. ROAD-RUNNER.—A fine male specimen of this species was killed three miles west and seven miles north of Caldwell, Sumner County, Kansas, September 30, 1926. This species has been reported as occurring occasionally in the extreme southwest part of the state, but as far as I know there have been no specimens taken to make the report authentic. The occurrence of a Road-runner as far north and east as Caldwell, Kansas is unusual and unless absolutely accidental it would indicate that the species was extending its range in that direction.—W. H. BURT, Kansas University Museum, Lawrence, Kas.

The Role of the Snake Skin.—It would seem that before an explanation of a phenomenon is in order it is desirable to make sure that there is something requiring explanation.

In this country at least it appears to be reasonably sure that the recurrent speculation as to why certain birds use the exuviae of snakes, is due to the fact that the Great-crested Flycatchers (*Myiarchus crinitus*) use this material on occasion not only in nest construction but as seeming "scare-crows" dangling from the openings to their nests or prominently employed