

preserved, so the present record accompanied by a good skin, preserved in the Wheaton Club Collection at the Ohio State Museum, is a notable addition to the bird fauna of Ohio.—JAMES S. HINE, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*

**An Unpublished Record of the Eskimo Curlew for Wisconsin.—**

I have in my collection an Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) the record of which apparently has not been published. It was taken by Mr. Delos Hatch, Mar. 22, 1903, (original label) on the Horicon Marsh at Leroy, Fond du Lac County, Wis. I made a considerable trip last fall to check up the data and Dr. H. C. Oberholser substantiated the identification of the bird while visiting here last year. I have some doubt as to the collecting date, but that it was taken in the spring of that year is without question. The specimen was not sexed.—OSCAR P. ALLERT, *McGregor, Iowa.*

**Flight of Hudsonian Curlew over Barnegat Bay.—**One of the largest southward flights of Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) that Barnegat Bay, Ocean County, N. J., has witnessed in many years was recorded between July 14, and 19, 1927. Only a few years ago this bird was considered rather rare about Barnegat, and was usually seen in numbers only during strong south or south-west July winds, when it followed a course parallel and close to the west or landward side of the Bay. I have spent practically every week-end in the Barnegat region during the south Shorebird migration since 1923. In 1923 I saw but two Curlew on the southern flight; in 1924 but two; in 1925, 4 records with a total of 31 birds; in 1926, 3 records with a total of 98 birds, the largest number (72) on July 18 flying over the ocean past Point Pleasant.

The 1927 southern flight started early. Dr. Wm. B. Ley of Elizabeth, while fishing on the Bay, saw 4 Curlew on July 2 and about 20 July 9. On July 12 Mr. Oscar Ayres and other Barnegat guides noted the beginning of what proved to be a very large flight. The wind that week blew fresh, chiefly from south to south-west and small flocks of Curlew began to pass Barnegat dock, coming from the north-east, most of them apparently entering the Bay over the outer strip north of the Forked River Coast Guard Station. The wind held and the flight increased through the 13th, 14th and 15th. On the 16th Dr. Wm. B. Ley, who spent the entire day about the Bay, estimated fully 1,500 passing birds, this total being confirmed by the observations of others. On the 17th Dr. Ley and Mr. Ayres reported a large early flight passing the Barnegat dock. Mr. M. S. Ley and I reached the dock about 9 a.m. on that day and in a little over three hours we counted 311 birds. They were passing in waves at irregular intervals at the rate of about 100 an hour and over two relatively narrow courses. I am informed that the flight continued through the afternoon of July 17, tapering off through the 18th and 19th and dropping sharply after that date. However there was a fairly large scattering southern

movement through the remainder of the month and well into August. I believe a minimum estimate of 5,000 Curlew passing over Barnegat Bay in the daylight hours from July 14 to 19 would be very conservative. Some who witnessed the flight place the number at several times that figure.

It is interesting to note that no Curlew were seen passing Barnegat City at the ocean inlet five miles east of Barnegat on July 17 by Mr. Allen Frost of Poughkeepsie who spent part of the day bird hunting on the outer strip. At Point Pleasant, on the ocean and about 25 miles north of Barnegat City, early in the morning and during the afternoon of July 17 the writer saw no Curlew pass either over the ocean or over the ponds inside the beach, the latter route being occasionally used. Nor were any Curlew seen earlier in the week at Point Pleasant by my son, Stephen, who spent much of his time on the beach fishing. Evidently the big flight that passed Barnegat dock passed Point Pleasant over the ocean too far out to be observed.

Guides about Barnegat very generally remark that the Curlew flies south against an opposing south or south-west wind rather than with a favoring wind. That Shorebirds prefer to migrate on an opposing or cross-wind has been observed by others. The question arises in the case of the Curlew, whether the reason for its appearance in numbers during the southward migration on the west side of Barnegat Bay only when strong south or south-west winds prevail may not lie in the fact that under these conditions the birds are seeking a more sheltered course, while under more favorable weather conditions the flight passes unseen at sea. On July 17 I noticed that several of the flocks crossing the marsh dropped so low in following the marsh creeks that they were out of sight below the short marsh grass, the evident purpose being to avoid the wind. The Curlew is such a long range flier that it seems improbable that weather conditions at the start of its flight should be consistently similar to those prevailing as it passes the New Jersey coast.

Curlew as a rule rarely alight during southward migration on the Barnegat marshes. More stop to feed and rest on the Sheep Head and Absecon marshes further to the south, in fact the bird appears to have been commoner in recent years south of Barnegat Bay than about the Bay or further north on this coast. Those baymen from Beach Haven, N. J., southward, with whom I have talked, while agreeing that the 1927 southward flight was the largest in many years, state that for a number of years upwards of one thousand Curlew have been seen passing south each July over the Sheep Head meadows or vicinity.

Records from Long Island during the 1927 season also indicate a substantial increase in the southern Curlew migration. Mr. J. T. Nichols of the American Museum of Natural History in 'The Auk,' 1921, p. 111, estimated the annual southward flight of Curlew passing Long Island as one thousand. He estimated the 1927 flight on similar data as four thousand. He writes: "In my opinion there has been a very unusually large number present on

Long Island this year, as many or more than in any previous year of which I have cognizance . . . but I have been out comparatively little and have not as good data on which to base an estimate of numbers as in 1921." Mr. Nichols is of the opinion that all the birds seen in New Jersey do not pass over Long Island.

Mr. Ludlow Griscom also states that reports reaching him indicate a substantial increase in the southern flight of Curlew down the Atlantic coast in 1927.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

**Hudsonian Curlew in southern New Jersey.**—Hudsonian Curlew seem to have always been much more abundant in southern New Jersey and occur every year in large numbers in May and again in July and August, from the marshes back of Sea Isle City, south to Cape May, and some remain until early September. The southward flight begins early in July and seems to be always during a southerly wind, no birds moving when the wind is from the north although there may be plenty of them on the marshes. The line of flight in South Jersey would seem to be over the land but north of that it must normally be over the sea to judge by the experience of Mr. Urner and others at Barnegat Bay, and I question whether any flight occurs during a north wind.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

**Hudsonian Godwit in New Jersey.**—On July 3, 1925 the writer observed a Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa hæmastica*) in full breeding plumage flying north over the salt marshes of Elizabeth, N. J. The bird, picked up with a glass in the distance and coming on, was first taken to be a Black-bellied Plover because of the dark appearance of the breast. But, passing at close range, the long, apparently straight bill, richly colored underparts, black tail and white rump or upper tail were well seen.

I have questioned a number of guides about Barnegat Bay as to the status of this species in that section of the state. There it is usually referred to as the "Marlin" and Capt. Chadwick of the Sandy Isle Gun Club reported to me that he had seen three in the fall of 1924. When I visited Barnegat dock on July 17, 1927, I was informed by some of the guides that there were a few "Marlin" in the big flight of passing Curlew. Securing a boat Mr. M. S. Ley and I rowed out to one of the lines of flight where Curlew were crossing the marsh very low. We had not been there long when two birds passed, somewhat smaller than the Curlew, with apparently straight bills, darker, not brown, upper parts, a wing pattern, dark tails with a conspicuous white band at the base. The under parts were not as well seen as the backs, the birds passing quite low. Under the wing the feathers seemed dark but the breasts relatively lighter. I identified them as Hudsonian Godwits, either immature or adults in fall or changing plumage. Later five other birds, two with rather dark under parts, passed at a greater distance. They were probably, not positively, this species.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*