

unusual activities of the Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) swimming on the Green River, near Green River City, Utah. At this particular point the river was from eight to twelve feet deep and about fifty yards wide. The current was rather strong. The bird was first observed out in the middle of the stream swimming toward the west bank, where the writer was hidden in a clump of dense shrubbery. When the bird came within a few feet of the shore it arose with as much skill and grace as a duck, and flew a few yards up stream and again lit. After about five minutes it once more flew to the middle of the stream, and seemed to drift with the swift current. However, it was apparently swimming, for the current took it down stream only about one-third as fast as it carried some small drift wood. The third time the bird was seen to rise and light on the muddy stream. After another ten minutes on the water it left and flew inland. While on the river it was not observed securing food. It seemed to be perfectly at ease in rising, lighting, and swimming.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Brigham Young University.*

Mountain Plover at Daytona Beach, Florida.—On December 17, 1927, I took a specimen of the Mountain Plover (*Podasocys montanus*) on the beach a few miles south of Daytona Beach. The bird was with a flock of twelve Knots (*Calidris canutus*) and was noted as I was riding down the beach in my car. I observed the Plover at close range for several minutes (it was quite unsuspecting), but was unable to determine the species. My gun was at home, about four miles away. However, I took a chance that the bird would remain, made the eight-mile round-trip, and found him waiting for me on return, with the result that the specimen was taken and is now mounted in our local Pier Museum.

According to Forbush, in his 'Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States,' the Mountain Plover is "at home on the desert lands of the West and on the shores of the Pacific," and in eastern North America is "accidental in Florida and Massachusetts." So far as I can ascertain, there is but one published record for Florida—that found on page 175 of Maynard's 'Birds of Eastern North America' (Revised Edition), where the author writes, "On the first Day of December, 1870 . . . at Key West, I observed a small flock of about half a dozen birds [Mountain Plover] . . . they were extremely wild . . . but at last I secured a specimen . . ."—R. J. LONGSTREET, *Daytona Beach, Florida.*

Lapwings Invade Newfoundland and Canada.—It is a matter of great rarity and interest when single birds (not wandering seafoal) of European species appear in North America as 'stragglers' travelling on their own wings; but now has occurred the astonishing fact that hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Old World Lapwings (*Vanellus vanellus*) have visited the northern shores of this western continent during the early months of the present winter.

Early in January of this year I began to receive from correspondents in Newfoundland letters addressed to my Natural History department of 'The Family Herald and Weekly Star' of Montreal, asking the name and habitat of unknown birds that had suddenly appeared in various parts of that big island. From the rough and scanty descriptions given me I judged that the strangers must be European Lapwings, and consultation with Mr. W. DeWitt Miller and other ornithologists and their collections at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, confirmed my conclusion. These Lapwings were observed first on December 1 and during that month appeared to be well scattered over Newfoundland, and further reports rapidly came to my desk, enabling me to publish a fair account of this novel invasion in my page of the 'Weekly Star', under date of January 25, 1928. While a few writers mentioned or implied that only a single-bird—quickly noticed, for nothing like this Plover exists in America—was seen by them at the time of writing, most of my correspondents spoke of 'flocks.' One letter said that 'hundreds' arrived at Harry's Harbor on December 20, 1927, and flocks are reported on the same day in the Fogo district—*islands adjacent to Cape Fogo, a forward point on the northeast coast.* Several other communications spoke of 'eight' to 'thirty or forty,' and in general it was made evident that great numbers of these birds were visible, in companies and over a large territory, from mid-December to mid-January.

All the letter-writers asserted that easterly gales had assailed the northern coasts about the time the foreign birds became noticeable, one man reporting that he had picked up a specimen on the seashore in the midst of a raging wind. "During the second week of December, 1927," to quote a letter from Mr. Theodore Bugden, of Deer Lake, Nfld., "there was a succession of strong easterly storms, with rain, followed by cold westerly winds about the third week. . . . The birds remained at Deer Lake for three days only, and disappeared during a strong westerly wind. None have been seen since." (A westerly wind there would blow toward the forested, thinly settled interior of the island.) Other correspondents note a similar sudden departure from various places—whither no one knew.

On their first coming, as all agree, the Lapwings appeared very weary, thin and tame, but began at once to search for and find food on the ground; and as they rested and gained strength they became wilder and noisier. No evidence is at hand as to whether females as well as males were present, the small differences between the sexes not being noticeable in the circumstances.

As was to be expected, I presently heard of Lapwings in various parts of the adjacent Canadian mainland. They soon crossed St. Lawrence Gulf to Cape Breton and scattered over Nova Scotia, even finding their way to the remote island of Grand Manan. In New Brunswick they were quickly reported about the city of St. John, where it is said that 'hundreds' were soon killed by a great snowfall.

Where did these birds come from?—when?—how? Mr. P. A. Taverner,

of the Canadian National Museum, tells me that the first one they heard of at Ottawa was reported from Baffin Island in October, 1927! Two cases of Lapwings, far apart in time, are on record (Macoun's Catalogue) as seen or taken in Greenland; and one instance of this bird having been taken in Newfoundland near St. John's (See 'Auk,' Vol. 23, p. 221). Such lone stragglers are familiar everywhere; but that large flocks should have come, as these Lapwings have, to our shores, is not only unprecedented, but a very remarkable fact in ornithology. Its sequel will be investigated and regarded with great interest.—ERNEST INGERSOLL, *Hotel San Remo, New York, N. Y.*

A Hybrid Scaled × Gambel's Quail from New Mexico.—Mr. R. T. Kellogg of Silver City, New Mexico, last July sent to Mrs. Bailey the skin of a Quail which is clearly a hybrid between the Arizona Scaled Quail and the Gambel's Quail of that region. The bird was killed on November 26, 1916, by W. E. Watson, on Whisky Creek near Pinos Altos, which is not far from Silver City in southwestern New Mexico. It was with a covey of Gambel's Quail when shot and seems to be an adult male in mature plumage. The parentage of the bird is evident although the general characters of the Scaled Quail predominate over most of the body. The crest and head and belly markings are a compromise between the two.

As Mr. Kellogg wished Mr. Louis Fuertes to see the specimen Mrs. Bailey sent it to him at Ithaca, N. Y. and in acknowledging its receipt he wrote on August 4, 1927 "The beautiful little "*Calliphortyx*" or "*Lophopepla*" which came yesterday afternoon is so pretty and interesting that I am going to paint it before shipping it on to Mr. Kellogg. The presence of rufous as a substitute for a half developed black is very significant. It is often, as you know, the female substitute for male black (Merganser heads etc. etc.) and the crest just half way between the parents in character and the throat show this very nicely. I once painted a very interesting wild hybrid (male) *Lophortyx californicus* and *Oreortyx* for Mr. Loomis. I have a little print of it somewhere but both the specimen and the drawing went up in smoke in the San Francisco fire. I hope to see you all at the A. O. U. in Washington where I may show this queer picture."—VERNON BAILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

Total Albinism in the Bob-white.—Through the courtesy of Mr. W. E. Nolte, of Bamberg, S. C., I have received from him, a totally albinistic specimen of the Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus*). Upon skinning the bird, I did not find a trace of color on a single feather, each one being pure white.

Occasional specimens of this species are sometimes taken locally which show a few white feathers, and I have seen one or two which were quite mottled with patches of white, but a completely unmarked specimen must be very rare. The bird was a female, and in good condition, showing no