

**Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) in Pennsylvania.**—On August 26, 1928, following a storm, an immature Northern Phalarope visited Rothermel's Dam, at Moselem, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

It was quite tame, and swam or pushed its way among the masses of pond-weed that abound in the dam while I watched it at a range of less than forty feet, noting every detail of plumage and action.

It appeared to pick up minute insects or water-creatures of some sort, as it spun about in half-turns, peering down into the water, and darting its needle-like beak at its prey.

The last previous record of the species from this vicinity is a specimen in the same plumage taken thirty-eight years ago and now in the collection of the Reading Public Museum.—EARL L. POOLE, *Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pa.*

**Breeding Range of the Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*).**—

On July 27, 1906, Dr. Glover M. Allen and I found four Northern Phalaropes acting as if they had young at a fresh-water pool in the center of Great Caribou Island, near Battle Harbor, Labrador, at the entrance of the Strait of Belle Isle (Birds of Labrador, Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 1907, p. 346). Twenty-two years later, on July 23, 1928, I again visited this spot and was greeted by two Northern Phalaropes that rose from a pool and flew about me complaining. The female soon departed, but the male continued to show great anxiety and nervousness during my presence there. He would circle about within fifteen feet of me and then alight on the water of the pool, all the time uttering scolding notes—sharp *quips* and *twits* or double notes, *get-it* or *twit-it*. After swimming about nervously on the water for a moment he would rise again and fly around, me still scolding. I made search for young or eggs, which I felt sure were concealed nearby, but failed to find any. On my departure, the male accompanied me, still complaining, for about fifty yards but then left me.

Two hours later I returned and found both birds in the pool. The slightly larger size and brighter colors of the female served to distinguish her from the male. On this occasion the male acted as solicitously as before, constantly complaining, but the female was silent and apparently indifferent. She was actively occupied, however, in the pursuit of game, swimming about the pool and darting at insects on the surface. Every now and then she would quickly thrust her head and fore part of the body under water, an action which resulted in the tipping up of her tail, much like the action of a tipping duck. She secured in this way several large beetles and a worm. After about fifteen minutes she flew silently to the adjoining pool, the male after her, but he soon came back to scold me and the female disappeared. After I had left the pool, I saw the pair flying off and circling together.

The region is typically arctic. One pool where this performance took place was about forty yards in diameter, and the other, close beside it,

was a dozen yards long by five wide. The pools were set in deep sphagnum and other mosses and lichens, sedges and grasses, curlew berry and bake apple and Labrador tea, creeping willows and birches. Nowhere on the island did spruces, balsam firs or larches rise more than two or three feet from the ground and then only in sheltered spots. This same arctic character extends along the whole eastern coast of Labrador. Henry B. Bigelow, who explored the coast from Battle Harbor to Nachvak, says of this bird (Auk XIX, 1902, p. 28): "Breeding in almost all the suitable marshes." Mr. Oliver Austin, Jr., tells me he has found definite evidence of this bird breeding as far south as the north shore of Hamilton Inlet, and he has found it present in summer south of that point at various places along the coast. The southern coast of the Peninsula as far west as Natashquan is also Arctic in character, and Audubon found these birds and their nests there in 1833. I have never found any evidence of their breeding on this part of the coast at the present day.

The "American Ornithologists' Union Check-List," 1910, gives the breeding range of the Northern Phalarope on the eastern coast only as far south as northern Ungava, and Mr. Bent in his "Life Histories" extends the range in Labrador to Nain and Hopedale. The evidence I have given above extends its breeding range considerably farther to the south.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Brigantine, New Jersey.**—On September 9, 1928, while looking for waders in a fresh-water pool about an acre in extent and a short distance back from the beach at Brigantine, N. J., I obtained a fine view of six Buff-breasted Sandpipers. As I neared the pool from the north, two small long-winged shore-birds sprang up from a rough puddle-spattered area. They dashed rapidly away, showing dark-bordered white wing linings. As they flew, I could hear a series of weak twitters. The under wing pattern and notes were different from those of any wader with which I was acquainted, so for a moment was greatly disappointed at not being able to obtain a better view of the birds.

Training my glasses on the spot from which they had flown, I soon saw a small brown dove-like head peering over the top of a mudlump. Presently the bird walked out in full view and was immediately followed by another one. Their small heads, thin necks; their brown and buff plumage and their yellowish brown legs told me almost at once that they were Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Scarcely had I secured a good look at them when they flew and settled among a mixed flock of shore-birds some forty yards distant. The striking under-wing pattern which I had noticed on the two birds first seen was also shown by these birds.

When I approached the flock which the rare visitors had joined, they could not be found. Apparently they had flown again while I was "watching my step." During the next hour or two I studied the waders in and about the pool and in all recorded nineteen species. This list included