

was a dozen yards long by five wide. The pools were set in deep sphagnum and other mosses and lichens, sedges and grasses, curlw 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

thirty Willetts, six White-rumped Sandpipers, and one Baird's Sandpiper.

Returning to the point where I had first seen the Buff-breasted Sandpipers, I saw six birds flying in. The four had returned with two others. They immediately "froze" in a half squatting position. One slowly turned his head, looking up as if expecting an attack from above. Soon they relaxed and while four started to feed in a rather indifferent sort of manner, the other two bathed. This was not a vigorous process as is the habit of most waders. One dipped the rear half of his body by teetering exactly like a Spotted Sandpiper. The other one just wet the under surface of his body by a series of squats. The wings were fluttered without touching the water. Both bathers seemed to fear disarranging their immaculate brown feathers. The birds moved about on the ground in a very deliberate manner, their folded wings extending just beyond their tails. Suddenly one uttered a short throaty "err," "err." Immediately alert, they all took flight, settling on the Brigantine Golf Course, about fifty yards away. Here two of them indulged in the curious performance of stretching one wing straight up over the back. Possibly the bathers were pluming themselves. Scattering they began to feed in the short grass—their backs just showing. Now and then their heads were raised for danger signs. I moved toward them but had taken only a few steps when they flew, darting swiftly inland. As they went, I heard weak twitters again.

From the viewpoint of the field student, this Sandpiper when on the ground could aptly be described as a diminutive Upland Plover brown and buff-colored from the base of his bill to the tips of his toes. In flight, the underwing pattern is quite distinctive. These characteristics are possessed by no other shore bird, I believe.—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) again in South Carolina.—On August 16, 1928, I secured a specimen of the Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) in an old rice field bordering the Cooper River, South Carolina. The bird was a young male.

The Stilt was with a flock of Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*) and Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*) and a few Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*).

So far as I can ascertain, this is the first record for the Stilt in South Carolina in nearly fifty years. Mr. Arthur T. Wayne in his "Birds of South Carolina," p. 43, tells of seeing several pairs of Stilts on Sullivan's Island in May, 1881; judging from their actions, he was sure the birds were breeding.—E. VON S. DINGLE, *Huger, S. C.*

The Possibility of Tularemia in the Ruffed Grouse.—An article on "Tularemia in Birds" occurs in the 'Journal of the American Medical Association' for May 26, 1928. It seems to be a condensation of an