

number of birds found per mile are as follows: at Westhampton: one on December 7, 1928 one on December 16 and four on December 17 or an average of 1.5 birds per mile. At Amagansett: four on December 27, nineteen on December 29 or an average of 7 birds per mile. At Montauk: fifteen on December 27 and eight on December 29 or an average of 9.2 birds per mile. At Montauk Point: three on December 27 or an average of 3 birds per mile. Only two of the Dovekies had no oil upon them, all of the rest having oil upon their breast feathers. Mr. Ludlow Griscom in 'Birds of the New York City Region' gives some 20 records of Dovekies for Long Island in the last 40 years.—LEROY WILCOX, *Speonk, L. I., N. Y.*

**Three Interesting Records from South Carolina.**—The following notes are from my rice fields at Sandy Knowe, along the winding strip of water known as the Thoroughfare, which connects the Peedee and Waccamaw Rivers, S. C. The observations slightly alter the local status of three species, according to the accounts in Wayne's 'Birds of South Carolina.' Identifications were made or confirmed by my guests Drs. Frank M. Chapman and Robert Cushman Murphy.

*Chaulelasmus streperus.* GADWALL.—One was shot during the middle of November, 1927, and two on November 17, 1928. The species was not familiar to the experienced negroes who care for the ducking grounds.

*Spatula clypeata.* SHOVELLER.—Examples shot during November of both 1927 and 1928. On November 24, 1928, many small flocks were observed, associating more or less with Mallards and Wood Ducks. As the "spoonbill" this duck is so familiar to the negroes that it must be a commoner bird than has been realized.

*Grus mexicana.* SANDHILL CRANE.—Dr. Murphy observed one at close range from a blind on the afternoon of November 23, 1928. Atlantic coast records north of Florida are now rare; nevertheless, the bird seemed perfectly familiar to the negro duck-man who also saw it, and who called it a "kronky." I have not been able to trace this name, though it is strangely like *Kranich* and other Teutonic forms of the word crane.—JESSE METCALF, *Hasty Point Plantation, Georgetown, S. C.*

**Some Recent Records from Coastal South Carolina.** *Oidemia americana.* AMERICAN SCOTER.—While walking along the front beach of Seabrook's Island, S. C., on January 31, 1929 in company with Francis M. Weston, of Pensacola, Florida, a flock of eight of these birds was seen. They were about two hundred yards distant, just beyond the surf line, and we watched them for some time through 6 x binoculars. The light was excellent, and the birds maneuvered into every possible position, showing views from all angles. They showed absolutely no white markings whatever, being of a uniform black. Both of us are thoroughly familiar with the Surf Scoter (*Oidemia perspicillata*), and Mr. Weston with the White-winged Scoter (*Oidemia deglandi*), and these birds were certainly not of either species. There is room, of course, for the possibility of their being

the European species, but this is highly improbable. The American Scoter has been recorded from South Carolina on but two former occasions, so that the presence of these birds is of great interest. The flock consisted of seven drakes, and one female.

*Calidris canutus rufus*. KNOT.—The writer recorded, in 'The Auk,' Vol. XLV, p. 206, the occurrence of the Knot on the Atlantic coast in winter, as a rarity. Being interested to ascertain whether any would be seen this winter, I am glad to be able to say that on December 13, 1928, a small flock was seen on Edingsville Beach, on January 7, 1929, four seen at Folly Island, and February 7, a flock of five on Seabrook's Island. These records, together with those of last year certainly point to the fact that this species winters regularly on the Atlantic coast as far north as Charleston, S. C.

*Charadrius melodus*. PIPING PLOVER.—On February 7, two specimens were seen on Seabrook's Island, S. C., by Messrs. Francis M. Weston, Herbert R. Sass, and the writer. One of the birds had an injured foot which seemed to cause it considerable annoyance. Both allowed close approach, and were seen feeding and resting. This is but the second positive record for the species on the South Carolina coast in winter. On February 9, 1928, one was seen on Dewees Island, S. C., by Messrs. Arthur T. Wayne, F. M. Weston, and the writer.

*Limosa fedoa*. MARBLED GODWIT.—A fine specimen seen in a small gully near the front beach of Seabrook's Island, S. C., on February 7, 1928. Messrs. Weston, Sass, and the writer studied the bird at length both with and without glasses. It fed quietly, probing the wet sand along the edges, and in the gully itself, burying the very long bill completely to the base of the head, and once or twice actually submerging the head itself. We finally flushed the bird purposely, and as it rose, it uttered a note surprisingly like the yelp of a Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*). After flying quite a distance down the beach, the bird circled, and returned to the gully.

Knowing that the bird was unseasonable, I examined the winter range in several ornithological works. I find that this is the most northerly record for the Atlantic coast during the winter. The bird seemed to be in perfect condition, and was in fine plumage. The up-curve of the bill was very distinct.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

**Winter Notes from South Florida.**—On January 26 while at one of the many lakes of south-central Florida a small nesting colony of Florida Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax dilophus floridanus*) was visited. There were about fifteen nests, in low, stunted Cypress trees, which grew in from one to two feet of water. At least one of these nests contained young for as an old bird hurtled off at our near approach a small young one was swept off the crude platform of sticks down into the water and before we came up to it a fish of considerable size seized it and made off. Several of the old birds remained on the nests during our stay of about ten minutes, until a gun was fired.