

(*Steganopus tricolor*) about three miles northwest of Dickerson, Maryland, not far from the southern base of Sugarloaf Mountain, on some artificial ponds constructed for the commercial rearing of goldfish. The bird was in company with a little band of Lesser Yellow-legs, and fed constantly beside them, alternately walking where the water was shallow and swimming where the longer legs of its companions carried it into water beyond its depth. The Phalarope was in full breeding plumage and as I had it under easy observation for nearly an hour there is no possibility of error in identification. Because of the nature of the ground and the wariness of the Yellow-legs I was not able to approach near enough to secure it with the thirty-two pistol which constituted the only collecting gun I had with me.

So far as I am aware this is the first report for the state of Maryland.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Washington, D. C.*

Wilson's Phalarope Breeding in Michigan.—On June 13, 1929, at Stoney Lake, Mich., I observed a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes, the first I had ever seen. Their presence there at that date seemed indicative of breeding, so I watched them every day or so. As my work was that of Nature Councillor at the Y. M. C. A. camp on Stoney Lake, I had unlimited opportunities to observe the birds and I frequently took groups to see them.

Stoney Lake, a small lake of about two miles in length is situated about eleven miles east of Jackson, Michigan. At the head of the lake, several minutes' walk from camp, is a rather extensive wet meadow overgrown in places with a heavy growth of shrubby cinquefoil. It was in this meadow that on the evening of June 25 I flushed the male bird from a small downy young only recently from the nest. The next morning I mailed the bird to Dr. Norman Wood of Ann Arbor who informed me that the capture of the young bird established the first authentic nesting record for the state of Michigan although the species had been suspected of breeding and reported without definite evidence. In June, 1926, Dr. Wood observed several pairs about Saginaw Bay, but no nests or young were found.

The male bird was last seen on June 30 by Mr. Tinker of Ann Arbor and myself. Since that date we were unable to find either of the pair; the birds apparently had left the lake.—ROGER TORY PETERSON, *Stoney Lake, Mich.*

Wilson's Phalarope and Baird's Sandpiper in South Carolina.—Mr. Herbert Ravenel Sass in his article "Wilson's Phalarope and Black-necked Stilt in South Carolina" (*The Auk*, XLVI, p. 383) referred to my observation of a Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) on Morris Island in Charleston Harbor, May 5, 1929. In view of the rarity of this species in South Carolina a few more details may be in order.

This Phalarope was feeding with a few White-rumped Sandpipers and

a pair of Dowitchers in a small shallow pool near the north-central end of the island. It was still in the gray plumage with only a slight indication of the stripe down the neck and therefore, considering the date, it must have been a male. The long slender bill and lack of a wing stripe were noted and when compared directly with the White-rumped Sandpipers the Phalarope appeared slightly larger.

Earlier in the morning, while studying the shore-birds feeding on a mud-flat in the Port Terminal Reservation, an army reservation in North Charleston, I identified a single Baird's Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdi*). This bird was carefully studied for half an hour from a distance of about forty-five feet and direct comparison of size was possible with White-rumped Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Lesser Yellow-legs. The buffiness on the sides and breast was not clear-cut as in the Pectoral Sandpiper but 'faded out' and the general tone above was lighter. I am well acquainted with the Baird's Sandpiper, having seen it frequently in the middle-west and I feel as certain as one can, through sight identification, that this bird was of that species. Since there are no South Carolina records for this bird (see Bent, 1927, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., CXLII, p. 201) it should have been collected but as I was inside a military post I hesitated about doing this.

In a letter which I had from Mr. Alexander Sprunt Jr. of Charleston, written May 13, 1929, he says concerning the Baird's Sandpiper "I am sure that I saw one this past winter; that is, as sure as I can be without having taken it—your seeing a Baird's Sandpiper rather corroborates the chance that my bird was one also."—PHILIP A. DU MONT, *Wilton, Connecticut*.

The Booming of the Prairie Chicken.—During the past spring (1929) Prairie Chickens were reported as having taken up their residence in a large, boggy meadow fifteen miles southwest of Minneapolis. The location of their dancing grounds presented excellent opportunities for observation. Two or three small piles of slough grass lay on the ground not far distant and, taking this as a suggestion, a dome-shaped blind was constructed and covered with grass in the center of the dancing area. The birds accepted this immediately and were observed undisturbed during their early morning performances on four different occasions between April 27 and May 3, a total of fifteen hours being spent in the blind observing, sketching, and photographing them. The following is an account of the strange and amusing performances of the birds as they were observed under these very favorable conditions.

A usual morning's performance began about 4:15 A. M. when the birds arrived within a few seconds of each other, alighting directly on their respective "dancing grounds," that is, each bird did most of his displaying within a definite space, perhaps twenty yards across, the birds being about twenty yards apart during the performance. Immediately upon alighting, each set up a henlike cackling in an investigative tone, then the booming