

I had never heard these notes from the Black Rail inhabiting the Barnegat region where I am fairly familiar with the species—but since the notes came from the spot where I had seen the bird I assumed that it was the Black Rail calling, and I got some added confidence after reading William Brewster's comment on the notes of a supposed Black Rail heard in the Cambridge, Mass., region ('Auk,' Vol. XVIII, 1901, p. 321-328). However, upon consulting Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts,' I found that Mr. Brewster's Rail notes, identical with those I had heard, were in turn identical with the notes uttered by a Yellow-Rail kept alive by Mr. J. H. Ames. Mr. Ames described the call as a series of *kiks* ending in a *ki-queah*.

I have seen the Yellow Rail once in life, and it gave an obvious impression of light coloration. What I saw at Troy Meadows my eye says was a Black Rail. What I heard from the same spot Mr. Ames says were the notes of a Yellow-Rail. Which was it or both?—CHARLES A. URNER, Elizabeth, N. J.

Coot Breeding in Florida.—On June 29, 1930, a Coot (*Fulica americana*) was caught alive by Mr. Clyde Love, on Lake Griffin, Lake County, Florida, and put in a sack. The next morning, on removing the bird from the sack, a freshly laid egg was found. This egg was sent to the Florida State Museum, and is catalogue number 48219.—O. C. VAN HYNING, Florida State Museum, Gainesville, Fla.

Killdeer in Connecticut.—In the July 1930 issue of 'The Auk,' I note that Mr. Louis H. Porter of Stamford, Conn., comments on the apparent increase in Killdeers in this section of Connecticut. He reports finding a nest with young, or, perhaps, adults with young which had recently left the nest, and cites this as evidence that this species now may be definitely known to be breeding in our state.

I wish to report also that Killdeers are by no means uncommon here, and that Mr. Frank Benedict, of Belden Hill, Wilton, Conn., who is a keen observer of native bird life, has found Killdeers breeding near his residence, the last time being this spring. There can be little question but what Killdeers are becoming established here as regular summer residents.—DEVERE ALLEN, Little Forest, Wilton, Conn.

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*) Breeding in Southern New Jersey.—In the spring of 1929 David Leas of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club reported that he had seen several Willets in southern Cumberland County, N. J., and on June 4, 1930, John T. Emlen Jr., reported that he had seen four there while on June 29, 1930, the writers had the good fortune to find them actually breeding in this region. An old bird with three downy young was found in a salt marsh after a rather prolonged search and curiously enough one of the young showed albinistic tendencies, the down being creamy white with here and there a grayish wash; the eyes and soft parts normal while the bill and legs

were slaty blue like those of the adult. The two brown, normal young could not be found in the short grass even though seen with the adult from a distance. At least two other pairs of Willets were found on this occasion and on July 16 Messrs. Marburger and Potter found two young Willets just able to fly with the down still noticeable about the head, and the tails rather short. They took wing at the frantic urge of their parents and flew about fifty yards, making no attempt to conceal themselves by "freezing" as when in the downy stage.

A native of Beaver Dam, N. J., informed us that he had noticed Willets during the breeding season about five years ago and they had become fairly common during the past two years. The last actual breeding record of the Willet for New Jersey was 1884 (Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey' page 77—footnote).

The return of the Willet as a breeding bird to this region is a concrete example of the beneficial effects of the Migratory Bird Law.—EDWARD S. WEYL, 6506 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia; JULIAN K. POTTER, Collingswood, N. J.

Nesting of the Upland Plover near Lexington, Va.—In view of the present scarcity of the Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*), a nesting record is worthy of note, especially at a place so near the southern limit of its breeding range as Lexington, Va. I saw a nest of this species on June 3, 1930, in an alfalfa field two miles north of this place. A pair of these birds spent the summer of 1929 in a neighboring field and gave evidence of nesting but I was not able to locate the nest. The nest referred to above was uncovered by Mr. Alphin, the owner of the farm, while he was raking hay. There were four young at the nest, the eggs evidently having been hatched that morning. The shells in large pieces were still in the nest depression. The wheel of the hay-rake crushed one of the young birds, the skin of which I later saved. Knowing of my former efforts to find a nest, Mr. Alphin telephoned me at once and I reached the spot before the young had left the immediate vicinity of the nest. They were able to run about well in the stubble. Only one of the parent birds was in evidence. To my surprise, this bird did not feign injury, but did rush toward us with outcries when we came near the nest. When we moved off, it ran before us as if trying to toll us farther away. The little birds, when held in the hand, uttered a faint, mournful whistle, with such a peculiar ventriloquial quality that I was sure at first that it was the note of another adult bird on the wing at a great distance.—J. J. MURRAY, Lexington, Va.

Western Sandpiper in Massachusetts in Spring.—While the Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri* Cabanis) is not an uncommon spring migrant and occasional winter resident on the South Atlantic coast from North Carolina southward, there appear to be no records for its occurrence (other than occasional sight records) in spring for the North Atlantic States, except that of a specimen taken by Mr. I. N. DeHaven at Atlantic City,