

1931 and another, also a female, on April 14, while one, possibly the last one collected, was seen near the city, fourteen miles away, on April 6.

So far I have been unable to find any records of this species in this state, and there are no South Carolina records, according to Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr.

The first bird shows much darker plumage than the last, but both are distinctly immature birds, both because of the feathers of the tail and back marked with color, and by the color of the iris, which in each case was brown. I have assumed that this species parallels the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) in that the color of the iris is brown in young, and yellow in the fully adult bird. Coues in his 'Key to North American Birds' says that the eye is yellow in the Glaucous Gull. Other works at hand do not mention any change of color with age in this or the Herring Gull, but it is perfectly apparent in the flock of Herring Gulls that has been with us all winter. The bill color in the birds taken was also that of a young bird.

I am indebted to Mr. Ernest Wells, of this plant, for noticing the first bird, and for calling me from my work when it returned the next day. He was also present when we saw the one on April 6 and we both marked the whiteness and large size, as compared with the other species present.

Pluvialis dominica dominica. GOLDEN PLOVER.—A single bird, taken on Oysterbed Island, Georgia, on April 10, 1931, is the only record of this species in recent years, though in the time of its abundance elsewhere, it may have been more common here in migration. This bird was alone, though in the vicinity of some Wilson's Plovers, which birds were going through their courtship antics. All over the several miles of beach near, Black-bellied Plovers were scattered, and it seems odd this bird did not seek their company. It was partially moulted into summer plumage, and was a male.

Wayne, in his 'Birds of South Carolina' (1910) mentions one specimen taken in that state, and Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 146, page 193) tells of several from the Atlantic coast south of North Carolina, all of which are fall records. Howell, in 'Birds of Alabama' records none from that state, despite the fact Alabama is nearer the spring migration route, than this part of Georgia.

The record is all the more remarkable because of the scarcity of spring records, among the few casual appearances of the species on this part of the coast.—IVAN R. TOMKINS. *U. S. Dredge 'Morgan,' Savannah, Ga.*

Some Bird Records from Florida.—*Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*. BROWN PELICAN.—When in 1923 the Brown Pelicans deserted Pelican Island near Sebastian, Florida, they were reported to have gone to a crescent shaped island southeast of the old "Haul Over Canal" in the south end of Mosquito Lagoon in Brevard County, Florida. I endeavored to gather from older residents of that region what evidence I could as to the previous occupation of that island. I wondered whether it was a new island for the Pelicans or if they had returned to an ancestral home. Some evidence seemed to favor the latter conclusion.

Referring to my notes of our early days in Volusia County, Florida, I found record of several conversations with the late Mrs. F. W. Sams, who was born at New Smyrna, Florida, April 9, 1847. She was a very intelligent woman, and well informed concerning the natural history of Florida. I have also records from other old residents. In the spring of 1912 Mrs. Sams gave me the following information about the Brown Pelicans. "They never nested commonly, if at all, at Mosquito Inlet. I knew of a few, perhaps a half dozen, nesting on a little island west of the inlet in 1866. At one time these Pelicans were as numerous on the island above Port Orange (then called Pelican Island) as they now are at Mosquito Inlet, but they did not nest there. The number at Mosquito Inlet was then estimated at 1000 to 1500 birds.

"I have seen them nesting in large numbers in trees and bushes on an island (also known as Pelican Island) in Mosquito Lagoon, east of the old 'Haul Over Canal'."

Mr. R. S. Sheldon, a brother of Mrs. Sams, stated on September 9, 1929, that as far back as any one can remember the Brown Pelicans nested in great numbers on a small island in the Lagoon (the same one above noted), and continued to do so until about ten years after the Civil War. They still nest there but not in the great numbers of the olden days. Capt. Murray Lourcey, a well-known old Indian River pilot, also tells of the Pelican "rookery" at the south end of Mosquito Lagoon.

The following have at different times been known as "Pelican Island": (1) Island above Port Orange; (2) Island south end of Mosquito Lagoon; (3) Island near Sebastian.

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos. WHITE PELICAN.—Mrs. Sams says: "About 1908 or 1910 a few of these were seen about Mosquito Inlet. None seen there before that time. Have seen hundreds of them at Mosquito Lagoon. They do not breed there."

Larus atricilla. LAUGHING GULL.—Mrs. Sams stated: "The Blackheaded or Laughing Gulls years ago nested by thousands on the same island in company with the Pelicans. The Gull's eggs were found in enormous quantities. We gathered them for food and found them to be very good."

Mr. R. S. Sheldon, brother of Mrs. Sams, says the Laughing Gulls still nest on the same island in the Lagoon. They collected eggs by the thousands in his younger days.

Haematopus palliatus. OYSTER-CATCHER.—Oyster-catchers formerly nested on some islands east of the same old canal. I found a half dozen nests and gave some eggs to Dr. Henry Bryant for the Smithsonian Institution. (Mrs. Sams).

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.—Mrs. F. W. Sams told me she killed a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Oak Hill, Volusia County, Florida, in 1872. She gave it to Captain Peters and thought it probably went to the Smithsonian Institution.

Dendroica discolor. PRAIRIE WARBLER.—March 23, 1909, singing its fine low song. It is something of a ventriloquist. Frequents the mangroves

on the islands. Sometimes quite numerous. Said to nest here. Sat in a boat, minutes at a time watching one of these birds which was only five feet away. Its song sounds to me like this: *we, we, we, we*, slightly rising to the fourth, which is given with emphasis; then shorter and more rapid like *wi, wi, wi, wi-i-i-i*, with last three notes still shorter and ending very high. The song is repeated frequently, at times with fewer syllables, but always with the same characteristics. To me it is the Mangrove Warbler. [This is the recently described Florida Prairie Warbler, *D. d. collinsi* H. H. BAILEY.]

Tyto pratincola. BARN OWL.—Seen at old Fort St. Augustine, Florida, February 8, 1908. The custodian of the Fort showed me two of these Owls which he said were of a brood of four. He stated these were young birds which had been hatched in one of the chambers of the Fort and that the eggs were laid in August last (1907).

Campephilus principalis. IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER.—Mrs. Sams told me she saw, in April 1911, an Ivory-billed Woodpecker about two and a half miles west of Turnbull Hammock, near New Smyrna, Florida. She also said: "About 1907 I saw two of these birds while going to the 'big tree' in Turnbull Swamp, west of Ariel. It is a rare bird here. I have never seen any except in secluded places in Turnbull Hammock."

Mrs. Sams gave me the skull of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker, one of two killed by her cousin, Tom Murray, on the Kissimmee. I saw Mr. Murray and this is his account: "I killed a pair of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, November 1908 on the St. John's River about fifty miles below St. Cloud or Kissimmee. I skinned the birds and brought them home. The skins spoiled but I kept the skulls, one of which I gave to Mrs. Sams for you. Another person killed one also but only its head was preserved. The last time I saw Ivory-bills near New Smyrna was about 1903 or 1904. I think a few are to be found in the cypress swamps near here yet (1912)."

Charles Dury says: "In 1874 and 1875 I searched for this species in Volusia County, Florida, but saw none. In 1877 Mr. John S. Baker bought an adult male from a hunter who shot it in Volusia County (No. 21, Cuvier Club, Cincinnati, Ohio.)"

Conuropsis carolinensis. CAROLINA PAROQUET.—Two, male and female, procured by H. C. Culbertson, February 12, 1893, Kissimmee, Florida. Mounted by Charles Dury, Cuvier Club Collection, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Dury in a letter says: "My note book mentions seeing a flock of eight Paroquets flying over the St. Sebastian River, February 12, 1874. The birds were very shy." The same writer also says: "While riding from (New) Smyrna to Enterprise, Florida, late in April, 1874, I saw a small bunch of six Paroquets. They flew across the road alighting in a tree in front of the wagon. While a fellow passenger was getting out his gun they darted away. At this time the species was very scarce. My note book mentioned going out to Dunlawton plantation (two miles from Port Orange) after Paroquets several times but 'none seen'."

Mr. Tom Murray said: "The last Carolina Paroquet I saw was about

1892. It was on the other side (west) of Turnbull Hammock. I have in my time killed hundreds of them. They were in the above Hammock up to 1900 or 1902. I am told there are some down on the 'Chobee near Lake 'Chobee (Okechobee) (1912). I never saw their nests but I know a man, Alfred Grover, who found them nesting in a hollow cypress on the Tomoka River about 1892. He got their eggs and hatched them and had about twenty young birds."

Captain F. W. Sams told me he saw a flock of eight or ten Paroquets in 1909 at Cabbage Slough on the west side of Turnbull Hammock, some twelve or fifteen miles southwest of New Smyrna. He said: "they ate cockspurs, cockleburs and cherries. Those who hunted them lined them, like a bee hunter lines a bee to its tree. When they found their roosting place in a hollow tree they caught the whole flock by putting a net over the hole by which they entered and left. They also caught them in a net by using a crippled bird as a stool pigeon."

Mrs. F. W. Sams said: "I never saw a Paroquet's nest but I have known persons who have seen them. John Saul, of Enterprise, Florida, found their nests in a hollow tree. He could not get to them. There were young birds and the old birds were carrying food to them. All the nests I have heard of were in Cypress swamps. In such places as the Egrets' nest. Formerly they were very common here. They fed upon cockleburs and sandspurs. They were very fond of prickly ash berries and came in such numbers as to cover the trees. I have winged Paroquets and put one in a room when the whole flock would come in to it. Among these I observed young birds that were barely able to fly. They were resident here."

Following an inquiry made of Mr. Robert Ridgway, I have his reply of April 5, 1920. He says: "I do not remember that I ever published anything in connection with my experience with Carolina Paroquets in Florida. I met with them at two localities: about twelve or fourteen miles southwest of Kissimmee and on Taylor's Creek near Lake Okechobee. At the latter place, I secured 26 specimens from a single flock, besides three others which, being only slightly wounded, I brought home (to Brookland, D. C.) and kept in captivity for several years. Two of them mated and reared a brood of young, all of which grew to maturity. One by one they died, from a sort of menengitis, possibly from eating too much hemp seed."

Creciscus jamaicensis. LITTLE BLACK RAIL.—April 12, 1912, Mr. B. J. Pacetti of Ponce Park, Florida, brought me one of these Rails. He said it was killed the night before by striking the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse and stated that several others of the same species were found dead.—AMOS W. BUTLER, *Indianapolis, Ind.*

Combined Protection of Young Birds.—In crossing a small pasture lot in the spring of 1927, as I approached a small hawthorn, a pair of Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) flew at me, screaming. An investigation revealed a nest two feet from the ground, with four young birds. The parents expressed their annoyance by a sharp-whistled "when," flap-