

**The Marsh Hawk in the North Carolina Mountains.**—In 'The Birds of North Carolina,' by Messrs, Brimley and Pearson, the range of the Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*) is given as "whole state east of the mountains in winter; otherwise recorded by Cairns as an uncommon fall transient in the mountains of Buncombe County, and by Coues as a common resident near Beaufort, on the coast."

Though no definite elevations are given by Cairns for Buncombe County in regard to the observance of this species, his statement that it is uncommon coincides with the writer's experience, although rare would be more applicable for, after some fifteen years of study of the summer and fall birds of the mountain region, I have observed the Marsh Hawk on but one occasion on August 20, 1931, at Blowing Rock, Watauga County, at an elevation of 4000 feet.

Four days later, on the 24th, Miss Mary L. Vardell, saw a Marsh Hawk over the golf links of the Green Park Hotel, about two miles and a half in an airline from Cone's Lake. In view of the fact that the species seems never to have been observed about Blowing Rock previously, it is highly probable that the same bird was seen on both occasions. Though often spending much, or all, of September in Buncombe County, at an elevation of about 2500 feet, the writer has never seen *Circus hudsonius* in that section. The line of migration evidently passes some distance to the eastward.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

**Early Fall Records of the Marsh Hawk in Alabama.**—While driving along a country road on August 25, 1931, I saw a Marsh Hawk at close range flying low over a pasture on the plantation of W. H. Vaughn, about five miles southeast of Montgomery. A week later, when I related the occurrence to Duncan McIntosh, of Fairhope, he told me that he had seen a Marsh Hawk at Gulf Shores, near Foley, on August 30, 1931, and another the next day at Cochran Bridge, near Mobile.

The earliest date of arrival of the Marsh Hawk in Alabama that I find in the literature is September 15 (Howell, Birds of Alabama, 1924, p. 130). The dates given above, therefore, set a new record.—ERNEST G. HOLT, 312 Bell Building, Montgomery, Ala.

**Virginia Rail in the Stomach of a Green Frog.**—At Bush River near Perryman, Md. in June, 1929, I discovered in the stomach of a green frog a downy young Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*).—W. STUART CRAMER, 44 E. Orange St., Lancaster, Pa.

**The Recent Nesting of the Piping Plover in Connecticut.**—That the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) has increased in recent years and now breeds regularly on beaches of Long Island and Massachusetts is well-known. These changes in shore-bird life, however, take place more slowly on beaches within Long Island Sound than on those of the open ocean. For the past ten years I have been watching for the return of the Piping Plover without success until this year, 1931.

On May 13, 1924, Dr. Winsor M. Tyler and Mr. Samuel E. Brown saw a single bird of this species on the beach at Great Marsh, Westport, Conn. This bird, however, was not seen again and was evidently only a migrant. It is the only Connecticut record I know anything about between 1904 and my record of this year (1931).

On June 6, 1931, while watching the still migrating shore-birds on Lordship Beach, Stratford, Conn., I came upon a pair of Piping Plovers, acting very much as if they had a nest or nesting intentions. On June 13, I returned, in company with my son, Stanley B. Saunders. We searched the beach for about two hours, finding five nests of the Spotted Sandpiper but no nest of the plover, though we obtained a good idea, from the actions of the birds, of the vicinity in which it was probably located.

On June 20 I returned again, and after some search finally located the nest, with its four eggs. It was less than fifty feet from one of the sandpiper nests found the previous week. How difficult it was to see the eggs, unless the eye was directly on them, was shown by one of my foot-prints made some ten minutes before, and less than a foot from the rim of the nest. All of the sandpiper nests were hidden in the beach grass, but the plover's nest was on the open beach. The nest was merely a hollow in the sand between two large oyster shells. The bottom was beautifully lined with bits of broken shell.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Conn.*

**Incubation Period of the Killdeer.**—A Killdeer's nest was found on the cinder grading about three feet from the track of a small electric train at the salt works near the Great Salt Lake, Salt Lake County, Utah. The nest itself was a shallow depression in the cinders but was difficult to locate because small white pebbles had been placed, apparently by the bird, about the nest.

When first found on April 29, 1931, the nest contained three eggs and on the following day the fourth egg had been deposited. The site was passed almost daily and each time the bird would fly off the nest but toward the latter part of the incubation it would only raise off the nest and settle back as soon as the engine had passed.

On May 27 the nest still contained four eggs and when observed on the 28th three small birds followed the parent from the nest. The fourth egg remaining in the nest failed to hatch. The incubation period in this instance was just 28 days.—JOHN W. SUGDEN, *Salt Lake City, Utah.*

**Occurrence of the Golden Plover on the South Carolina Coast.**—In view of the fact that the writer published, in 'The Auk,' (Vol. XLVIII, page 415), an account of the first occurrence of *Pluvialis d. dominica* in South Carolina during the spring migration, it will perhaps be of interest to note that this record is now followed by the first October record of the species for the state.

On October 15, 1931, in company with Messrs. Edward A. Simons and E. Milby Burton, both of Charleston, the writer saw a fine specimen of the