

The Western Willet in Wisconsin.—In Kumlien and Hollister's 'Check-List of Wisconsin Birds,' the Willet (*Catoptropterus semipalmatus*) is listed as the species occurring within the borders of Wisconsin as a rare summer resident, with the suggestion that possibly in the examination of a good series of skins, some specimens of the Western Willet might be discovered. There is apparently no good series of these skins.

In 1925, Taylor reported in 'The Auk' (Vol. 43, p. 251) seeing a Western Willet and attempting to collect it but the first actual record of the race is one which the writer collected on April 30, 1932, near the mouth of Bar Creek, Sheboygan County, along the Wisconsin Shore of Lake Michigan. In speaking to some fishermen, I was told of several very large sandpipers seen on the beach that morning and upon going there I saw two fine specimens of willet, leisurely feeding along the shore. The birds were quite tame, and allowed rather close approach. The larger one was collected, and upon examination proved to be a female Western Willet. The skin is now in the collection of the Milwaukee Public Museum.—CLARENCE S. JUNG, 2502 E. Stratford St., Milwaukee, Wis.

Marbled Godwit near Montreal.—On May 15, 1932, I observed a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) on the south shore of the River St. Lawrence near Laprairie, about four miles from Montreal. It was fairly tame and allowed me to approach within about fifty feet, at which distance every detail of the plumage was plain through a pair of Zeiss 8 x 40 binoculars. I made a full description of the bird, although the long slightly upturned bill, the curlew-like build, the barred tail and the striking rufous-buff coloring are sufficient identification.

Whilst under observation the bird was standing on the river shore, and from time to time snapped its beak open and shut. The movement was so quick that at first it was difficult to follow, but it soon became clear that the upper mandible was flexible, like that of the Woodcock and some other shore-birds. When the beak opened the normal upward curve of the upper mandible was accentuated until the tip pointed for an instant vertically upwards, though the base was still almost horizontal. The bending took place in the distal inch and a half of the beak. This observation, of which I have been unable to find any mention in descriptions of either American or European species of godwits, was confirmed by my brother who was with me. The bird watched us intently all the time, so that the movement may have been an expression of alarm. It was quite silent, and remained on the same stretch of river shore until evening.

There is one previous record for the district, mentioned by Wintle without date, except that the bird was taken in autumn (Birds of Montreal, 1896, p. 42).—V. C. WYNNE-EDWARDS, *McGill University, Montreal.*

Concerning the Occurrence of the European Ruff in N. A.—Since 1914 there has been no published record of the European Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), for North America.