

spring record. Dr. William C. Rives in his, 'A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias,' recorded the occurrence of two at Cobb's Island in the autumn of 1889, one of which was collected; and Dr. E. A. Smyth, Jr., reported ('The Auk,' XLIV, Jan., 1927, p. 45), the capture of one at Hampden-Sydney, Va., Sept. 25, 1920. There are also two Washington records, both in August.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia*.

Phalaropes in New Jersey in Spring.—J. L. Edwards of Montclair, N. J. and the writer were fortunate in witnessing the great visitation of Red Phalaropes (*Crymophilus fulicarius*) which occurred on the New Jersey shore during a north-east storm on May 12, 1932. The visitation is referred to by W. Stuart Cramer in 'The Auk' of July, 1932. We saw a few birds over the Tuckerton Marshes. In the poor light, fighting a strong wind, the first bird seen looked absolutely black, like a Black Tern with a white stripe in the extended wing. As we crossed Barnegat Bay over the Manahawkin Bridge to Long Beach another individual was seen. Driving south toward Beach Haven we found others in the Bay and one swimming in a puddle at the roadside. Soon we became conscious of the fact that all the shore-birds which were passing over the dunes making slow headway against a heavy wind and rain, were of this species.

When we reached Beach Haven Inlet, a rare sight greeted us. The place fairly teemed with Red Phalaropes. We stood on a small spit of sand, while in a sheltered bit of water, literally right at our feet, a large flock of these striking and agile birds fed over a mass of seaweed and garbage. We collected two and later picked up another dead on the road.

The birds were in every degree of plumage change, about forty per cent being fully colored. A few were still in almost complete winter plumage except that the forehead, white in the winter birds, was dark. The darkening of the forehead is probably one of the first noticeable changes toward the summer attire. A good many birds were fully red but showed little or no definite white area on the side of the head (not even as much as the male bird shows in summer). The white face is thus probably the last feature of the breeding plumage to be acquired. We saw fully 300 birds, and probably more.

Among the flocks riding the waves along the shore we finally picked out one Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) still in winter plumage. The birds were so close that we could note the thinner bill of the Northern and the absence of yellow at the base. The few Red Phalaropes still in winter dress but with the dark foreheads could easily have been mistaken for Northern Phalaropes but for the yellow on the bill, visible only at short distances. Seen alone, without contrast, the bills of the Reds did not seem particularly heavy.

A few days later, on May 18, Ludlow Griscom, J. L. Edwards, Lester L. Walsh and the writer found, on a muddy flat near Troy Meadows, N. J. a beautiful adult female Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*), an extremely rare spring transient on the Atlantic Coast.

For a "land-lubber" to see all the Phalaropes in New Jersey is quite a rare privilege. To see all three within a week during the spring migration is a consummation too unlikely to seem possible.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

Wilson's Phalarope in New Jersey.—On August 28, 1932, at Brigantine Island, N. J., in a large flight of shore birds I found a single Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) running about on a mud flat busy feeding. It presented a comical sight with tail held up at an angle and neck stretched out in front while it held the body in more or less of a crouching position. The species is very unusual on the New Jersey coast.—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) on the New Hampshire and Maine Coasts in July.¹—In his 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States,' Forbush says (p. 82) that this gull is "rarely seen in Massachusetts waters before September or early October when young birds appear among flocks of Herring Gulls."

While waiting on the pier in Portsmouth harbor on July 18, 1932, for our boat en route to Duck Island, several Ring-billed Gulls were noted at close range, and watched with binoculars, as they flew about and alighted on the water with *L. argentatus*, in dark plumage, hunting stray scraps of food.

At Hampton Beach on July 17 Mr. J. P. Melzer and I watched a Ring-billed Gull which was in perfect adult plumage, except for a broad deep black subterminal band equal to a quarter the length of the tail itself; probably a bird in its second year.

When, on the 18th, three such birds but with narrower tail bands, rose together with the thousands of *L. argentatus* and the few pairs of *L. marinus* as we neared Duck Island, it seemed convincing that the birds seen earlier were not merely accidentals.

Dean C. F. Jackson, of the Marine Zoological Laboratory on the nearby, Appledore Island, informed me he has seen such birds at Duck Island in other seasons and the bird may yet be found breeding.

Duck Island is the northernmost island in the Isles of Shoals group, and is, incidentally, wholly in Maine, the boundary cutting through the upper half of this group of islands.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia imperator*) in Camden County N. J.—On August 20, 1932, John A. Gillespie and the writer were looking over a flock of shore birds on a bar in the Delaware river at Fish House, Camden County, N. J., when a large light-colored bird flew in and settled on the exposed mud. Mr. Gillespie who had his glasses on it recognized it as a Caspian Tern and the unusual size, heavy red bill and comparatively short tail, not reaching the folded wing tips, quickly dispelled any doubt as to the bird's identity. Presently it was joined by another of the same

¹ Published through the Jonathan Dwight Memorial Fund.