

The Purple Gallinule in Connecticut.—On May 5, 1932, I found a Purple Gallinule (*Jonornis martinica*) on the border of a swampy area at Fairfield, Conn. The bird was easily approached and observed in good light from about twenty feet; the rich purple color, white frontal plate and other characters being easily made out.

Four records of the occurrence of this bird in Connecticut are mentioned in the 'Birds of Connecticut,' Mr. Forbush recorded another in his 'Birds of Massachusetts.' Mr. Frank Novack informs me that one was brought to him to be mounted by Mr. Chas. Disbrow which had killed itself by flying into a garage window at Stratford, Conn., on May 28, 1926. My record is therefore, to my knowledge the seventh for the species in the State.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, 48 Longview Ave., Fairfield, Conn.

The Golden Plover Again in South Carolina.—On the afternoon of November 19, 1932, two Golden Plovers were seen on the golf links of the Wappoo Country Club, James Island, S. C. The writer had seen but two individuals previously in South Carolina (Auk, 1931, 415, 1932, 81) and the late Arthur T. Wayne had taken but five in fifty years of field work in the coastal region of the state.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

Feeding Habits of the Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*).—On October 1, 1932, a pair of Turnstones was observed through eight-power field glasses at distances of fifty-four to forty feet feeding on the sandy ocean beach, five miles north of Bethany Beach, Delaware. The wavelets of the incoming tide were breaking several feet above the pebble line so that the birds, feeding at the edge of the water, could turn over stones only by immersing their entire bodies. When first observed they were standing motionless, watching the feeding antics of a lone Sanderling. As soon as the latter found a good feeding place they walked sedately over to it and commenced thrusting their bills vertically downwards into the sand. While so engaged the water washed over their tarsi and even wet the feathers of the tibiae. Vertical thrusts failing to provide food, the birds either allowed their feet to sink into the sand or knelt down, so that the wings and tail, when slightly spread, were flush with the shallow water. These were then vibrated rapidly, the wings vertically, the tail laterally, while the bill was repeatedly thrust forward and downward (at an angle of approximately 45° from the horizontal) into the water. These manoeuvres were pursued for over ten minutes without any pause to adjust the plumage or preen the feathers, as is customary in bathing. When they desisted from this vibrational feeding it was to follow the Sanderling, in whose perspicacity they seemed to have absolute faith, across dry sand to an auto track, where, beside a sand crab's hole some satisfying morsels were located. The plumage was not shaken nor were the tail and wings spread to hasten drying, up to the time observation ceased, ten minutes later.

Mechanical vibration and an examination of the sand along the shallow water at the border of the tide disclosed assorted sizes ($\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches)

of the crustaceans known as sand bugs (*Hippa talpoides*), which are not known to be a food of the Turnstone.—PHOEBE KNAPPEN, *Washington, D. C.*

Avocets and Spoonbills on Merritts Island, Fla.—On September 18, 1932, the writer and Messrs. J. Connery and J. Howell, saw three American Avocets on Merritts Island, near Titusville, Florida. The birds were feeding in company with two Willets in a shallow pond. We were able to approach them closely and observe that they were in the fall plumage.

On this same occasion we saw six adult Roseate Spoonbills. These birds flew up from the mangroves and passed directly over our heads. We could see their spoon-shaped bills very clearly, and we had no need of binoculars to see their color.—BENJAMIN C. HIATT, *61 Clark St., Newton Centre, Mass.*

Avocets in New Jersey.—On September 15, 1932, on what was formerly salt marsh near the Newark, N. J., airport, and at a point where the high tide still partly floods the fill with a mixture of salt water and sewage, the writer found three Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*), among flocks of hundreds of assorted shorebirds. There were two black and white and one dark brown and white bird. The heads and necks showed no color tint. The legs appeared clay-colored. One old bird called occasionally when disturbed, though they were very tame. Its notes reminded one of the Lesser Yellow-legs, but louder and fuller, at times with a shade of hoarseness. The individual notes, when uttered in sequence, were often spaced with an appreciable interval between.

The birds fed both by "side-swiping" the surface of the water, as does the Lesser Yellow-legs, and by probing. They spent most of their time about one pool, where they were the central sensation of a great mid-September local concentration of shore birds, including, in addition to the commoner species, Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes, Stilt Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper and Golden Plover, the latter in large flocks (over 300 seen at one time).

News of the presence of this locally rare trio spread rapidly and during the ensuing two weeks (the birds remained until October) they were photographed for stills and movies and wax impressions of their webbed footprints preserved.

One bird developed a decided leg weakness after a few days, being barely able to stand long enough to feed and being forced to use its wings to move from place to place. This trouble, however, passed and the bird was normal when last seen.

The birds were never seen to swim until October 1 when, pursued by a Duck Hawk, they took to deep water where their profile afloat with stern carried high, seemed distinctive and a good field mark at a distance.

This is the first New Jersey record of the species of which I have knowledge, since the late I. Norris De Haven shot a specimen near Tuckerton, Ocean County, in August, 1886.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*