

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.*