

The Ruff in New Jersey.—On October 2, 1932, about a shallow pond on the salt marshes near Tuckerton, N. J., the writer saw two birds which were identified, first by sight and later, for confirmation, by careful examination of skins, as Ruffs (*Philomachus pugnax*). The birds were seen first at a distance of fully one hundred yards, walking about in search of food, on the salt meadow. They appeared at that distance, with the rising sun striking them, quite light colored, the underparts of one being especially light, the other definitely tinted with and finely streaked with buffy across the breast. The birds were not as long-legged as the Greater Yellow-legs, of which many were present, but their bodies were fully equal in size. They were decidedly larger than Stilt Sandpipers which were close by for additional size comparison. The bodies were rather chunky, and when the birds stood at attention they reminded one, in general proportions and profile, very much of overgrown Buff-breasted Sandpipers.

The length of bill in relation to head conformed to that of the Ruff skins examined. The upper parts, while considerably darker than the breasts, seemed, when the birds took flight (they circled twice and lit again), a bit lighter and buffier in color tone than the Greater Yellow-legs. The span in flight was somewhat less than in that species. The outstretched wings showed a narrow white line, contrasting noticeably when the birds were near at hand with the darker wing. The rump and tail showed two conspicuous white areas on the sides, divided by a darker medial line, broadening out at the tip of the tail. I got very satisfactory views at about 40 to 50 yards. The birds left when startled and did not return.

The fall specimens of the Ruff that I have examined show quite a variation in color and while I have not yet found one with underparts appearing as light as the lighter of the two birds seen, there was a September skin matching perfectly the color scheme and pattern of the darker bird. There was also more difference between the two most similar fall skins than between the two birds I observed. I have no hesitation in recording the birds as Ruffs.

This is not the first Ocean County, N. J., record as I understand an adult female, taken at Barnegat, is in the Elliot collection at the American Museum of Natural History.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

A Probable Record of the Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) at Montauk Point, N. Y.—Easterly winds of September 15, 1932, increased during the night, and about five o'clock on the morning of the 16th steady rain began at Montauk Point. By daylight a lively storm was in progress, with half a gale blowing from the northeast.

My family and I had camped during the previous evening on the downs between the lighthouse and the most easterly of the large ponds, near the northern shore of the point. Soon after daylight our younger son called attention to four curlews coming from the direction of the sea. The birds circled for a short time, and then alighted among the vegetation of a

hillcock not far from our tent. With my two sons I stalked the birds, and we observed them through field glasses from a distance subsequently paced off at fifteen yards. The birds seemed wary but not shy, and when we finally flushed them they alighted again and permitted a second close approach.

The size, small straightish bills, mottled crowns without conspicuous central stripe, dark wings, and buffy faces and necks were all carefully noted. I neglected to record the color of the legs, and we heard no call of any sort. To the best of my belief, however, they were Eskimo Curlews.

Examples of this species have been collected as recently as January, 1925, in Argentina. While the present sight record is inconclusive, the circumstances connected with appearance, behavior, date, weather, and locality make it important, if only for bearing upon possible observations in the future.—ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

The Western Willet in Winter in Georgia and South Carolina.—

The 'Check-List' gives the winter range of the Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*) for the eastern United States as ". . . from the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, and Florida to Ecuador, . . ."

Nearly the same words are used, by Ridgway in 'Birds of North and Middle America' (1919), Forbush in 'Birds of Massachusetts, etc.,' (1925), and by Howell in 'Florida Bird Life,' (1932).

But Wayne in 'Birds of South Carolina,' (1910) wrote "This subspecies occurs commonly in autumn, winter and early spring." And in the Wayne collection, now in the Charleston Museum, are several specimens taken by him since this was written. Four specimens in the collection are in the speckled plumage of spring and summer, and are dated April 16 (marked "moulting") May 15, July 11 and July 12.

Since 1930 I have taken eight specimens near the Savannah River mouth, and on both sides of the Georgia-Carolina line. All were in the gray winter plumage, and each month is represented from October to February. If non-breeding birds were present in the summer plumage, I may have easily missed them. Of the eight all have bills well over the maximum length for the Eastern Willet (*Catoptrophorus s. semipalmatus*) in the same sex.

It is a little strange that no specimen of *semipalmatus* was taken with the others during the winter months, as no effort was made to pick out long-billed birds.

So, between Georgia and South Carolina, there are records of the western race with supporting specimens for all months but March, June, August and September. This should change the wording in any future revision of the 'Check-List.'—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge Morgan, Savannah, Ga.*

The Atlantic Kittiwake Taken in Central Iowa.—The first Iowa specimen of the Atlantic Kittiwake (*Rissa t. tridactyla*) was secured by