

which recalls a similar experience of my own. On September 25, 1925, at Ipswich I observed a Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo p. platypterus*) drifting along before a strong northwest wind near a flock of at least a thousand Starlings. The latter were performing evolutions in mass formation and from time to time would envelop on all sides the hawk. Occasionally the hawk would descend out of the throng of Starlings but would at once return into their midst. At no time did the hawk or Starlings appear to attack. I recorded in my notes that it seemed to be "merely play," thus agreeing with the conclusions of Mr. Brooks. Two years later, on October 7, I saw a similar action of Broad-winged Hawk and Starlings.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*

**Eastern Red-tailed Hawk Breeding on the South Carolina Coast.**

—On March 28, 1933, three heavily incubated eggs of *Buteo borealis borealis* were collected from a nest in a loblolly pine, fifty-one feet above ground, on John's Island, Charleston County. One parent flushed from the nest and both remained in the vicinity for over an hour. It is estimated that the eggs would have hatched in less than a week. Allowing an incubation period of 28 to 32 days, would place the laying date during the first week in March.

At the time the writer was aware of no other breeding records for this coast. However, Mr. H. L. Harlee, of Florence, S. C., has since reported that in April, 1932, he found two nests of half-grown young, and on February 16, 1933, a nest of two eggs. All near Dale, Beaufort County.

A. T. Wayne (Birds of S. C., pp. 73-74, 1910), considered this species a winter visitant, leaving the coastal area in March and breeding in the interior of the state. In later years other observers have reported it during the spring and summer months.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *The Charleston Museum.*

**The Western Pigeon Hawk in Florida.**—In a recent examination of our collection of Pigeon Hawks I have found a male of the western race (*Falco columbarius bendirei*) collected at Key West, Florida, April 3, 1886, by naturalists of U. S. S. Fish Commission Steamer 'Albatross.' The specimen (U. S. N. M. No. 108,868) is paler above than normal in *bendirei*, approaching *Falco c. richardsoni* in that respect, but has the tail band colored as in *bendirei*. Mr. J. L. Peters, who has examined it at my request agrees with me that it is nearer the western form and should be so identified.

This makes the third recorded specimen of this bird from Florida. A. H. Howell in his work 'Florida Bird Life' (1932, p. 190) having listed two others from Tortugas Keys, April 8, 1890, and Key West, October 27, 1986.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Notes on the Prairie Chicken in Indiana.**—For the last twenty-five years the Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido americanus*) has been considered very rare in Indiana. It is now extinct in many areas, but in the prairies of the state a few remain usually in small flocks.

During March, 1933, at the Jasper-Pulaski Game Preserve, in the southern part of the old Kankakee marshes, I discovered one hundred and fifty Prairie Chickens which had wintered, roosting each night in a section of prairie, south of the Ryan's Ditch, in the very heart of the preserve. This roosting place unlike much of the preserve was not covered with prairie grass but with a thick tangle of willows and briers. The big flock had broken up before my arrival and from nine in the morning until about five in the afternoon, smaller flocks could be observed feeding in various corn fields. The numbers noted ranged from one to forty, the larger assemblages after heavy snows or severe weather. A few days after each storm, when the weather became better, they broke up again.

On the afternoon of March 24 at 6:15 I heard the slow rythmatic booming of Prairie Chickens, less than half a mile east of us and about a mile from their roosting place. Apparently about thirty to forty chickens were booming at the same time, and the booming continued loud and clear for twenty minutes, after which it ceased abruptly just as darkness began.

We have estimated that this flock of one hundred and fifty given a good breeding season will increase to about five hundred next fall.—SIDNEY R. ESTEN, 4112 Graceland Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Some Feeding Habits of the Solitary Sandpiper.**—In August 1932, alongside a stagnant pool 15 by 6 feet in a brook bed, a Solitary Sandpiper (*Helodromas s. solitarius*) fed for five consecutive days. Conditions for observation were most favorable, the bird being within 25 feet of me and usually much nearer. Other Solitaries were daily visitors to the pool, arriving in late afternoon and leaving in some twenty-four hours.

By draining the pool once or twice each day about an inch additional food was exposed, and the bird in question would slowly walk again and again around the margins, gleaning the food newly uncovered.

Most of the time was spent in taking from the surface, within reach of the shore, minute aquatic life, indistinguishable with binoculars. Other food came from the wet margin of the pool. From this narrow area hellgramites and other forms sought the water and were snatched up. The pool was thickly infested with small pollywogs and tiny shiners that swam in schools. The bird pursued both on a spurt through the shallows. Pollywogs were twisted more or less between the mandibles until stilled, then the bird tipped its bill upward and swallowed them often with much gulping. In a little more than a half hour twelve shiners, sixty pollywogs, five large hellgramites, seven caddis-fly larvae, and many small flies attracted to the water, besides other minute forms, were eaten. The bird was seen to take up small snail shells—which were abundant—and extract the snail with one flirt of the bill that also discarded the shell. Once when a hellgramite bit onto the lining of the bird's bill it shook its head vigorously to loosen it and, flipping it free, dashed into the water for it and this time minced it well by rolling it between the mandibles before attempting to swallow it. The occasional plop of little frogs (just out of the pollywog