

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

stage) near it, always startled the sandpiper and caused it to jump entirely off the ground with raised and quivering wings. Yet when two horned-pouts ventured from the murky water to the shallows and thrashed about close to the bird it showed no alarm. Its low *peet* was given about once a minute, regularly, and sometimes twice in succession.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

A Willet in the Connecticut Valley in New Hampshire.—On August 14, 1932, in Walpole, N. H., in a dry stubble field one hundred and fifty yards from the Connecticut River, a Willet (*Catoptrophorus s. semipalmatus* or *C. s. inornatus*) was flushed and was afterwards leisurely observed through binoculars. When it took wing it gave a call note *pil-willet*, which was repeated at intervals while in the air. The only other regional record that I have of the Willet is a bird seen on July 8, 1931.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

Northern Phalaropes on the New Jersey Coast.—On May 6 during a strong northeast wind with fine drizzle of rain I saw a hundred or more Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*) flying over the surf at Stone Harbor, Cape May Co., N. J. They alighted on the water and arose again to escape a breaking wave. Several of them driven onto the beach by the wind fed for some minutes at a time with the Semipalmated Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plover, or sat directly on the sand with head and neck erect; others swam and spun about on shallow beach pools above the high tide line.

The day following Mr. Joseph W. Tatum reported some of these birds accompanied by a few Red Phalaropes on the ocean just beyond the surf, off Long Beach, a little farther up the coast, while some of the Northern Phalaropes were also seen at Cape May City.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Second Occurrence of Northern Phalarope in South Carolina.—On May 30, 1933, a female Northern Phalarope was seen at the U. S. Wild Life Reservation, Cape Romain, S. C., by the writer, in company with Messrs. H. F. West, E. A. Simons and Andrew Simons. The bird was first noted just beyond the surf in the ocean and as soon as binoculars were trained upon it, it was evident that it was a Phalarope. Hardly had we focussed it, however, than the bird arose and flew straight in to the beach, alighting not twenty-five feet from us.

It was then that we saw it to be a female *L. lobatus* in high plumage. The bird was in rather bad shape, one leg dangled very loosely, and as it sat on the sand, the head drooped perceptibly. The writer walked up once, to within ten feet of the bird as it sat motionless on the sand. It took flight twice, circled a little, and alighted again. Finally it took off and flew out over the ocean, alighting there.

This is the first specimen actually observed alive in the state. On June