

The Dowitcher, A New Bird for Kansas.—On July 7, 1933, while on a fossil-collecting trip in the north-central part of the state, I had the pleasure of examining a group of birds collected and mounted by Mr. Charles Heine, a farmer living near Lucas, Russell Co., Kansas. Among them was a Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus griseus*), in spring plumage. This bird was taken in a low, marshy area in Mr. Heine's pasture on April 26, 1919. It was with a flock of Wilson's Snipe when taken.

So far as I have been able to learn, this is the first recorded occurrence of the Dowitcher in Kansas. The Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus*) has been taken several times in eastern Kansas, and in Missouri, as well. Since these birds commonly migrate in the Mississippi Valley, it is strange that they have not been recorded from Kansas long before this. As a further check the specimen was sent to the U. S. National Museum, where Dr. Herbert Friedmann confirmed the identification.

In addition to the Dowitcher, Mr. Heine's collection contained two other specimens of note, a Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis exilis*), and a Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*). The former was killed with a long cane fishing pole at a small pond which had no vegetation or place of concealment for a bird. The presence of this species on the short-grass prairie of Russell County is unusual, to say the least.

I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. C. D. Bunker, Assistant Curator in Charge of the Museum of Birds and Mammals, for permission to report this record. W. S. LONG, *Museum of Birds and Mammals, Lawrence, Kansas.*

Dowitcher in Michigan.—On May 30, 1928, I saw my first Dowitcher (*Limnodromus g. griseus*) in Michigan and on August 20, 1933, I observed my first pair in fall plumage at the same place, Portage Lake, Jackson Co. They were in company with White-rumped, and Pectoral Sandpipers, and other species of waders. I could drift in my canoe to within six or eight feet of them and study them in detail. The Dowitcher does not seem at all common in this state.—EDITH K. FRY, *Jackson, Mich.*

The Red Phalarope at Martha's Vineyard Island, Mass.—On May 9, 1933, I found an adult male of this species dead on the lawn of Ocean Park, Oak Bluffs, Mass. There was a rather severe northeast storm the night of May 6 and 7, and the bird had evidently been driven in from the sea and perished. Doubtless many of these birds have been forced to the shores of this island, as it is subject to severe easterly storms, but I have found no previous record.—CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, *Taunton, Mass.*

Northern Phalarope and Baird's Sandpiper in Berkshire Co., Mass.—On August 20, 1933, I visited the Pittsfield sewer beds with S. Waldo Bailey. We were much surprised to come upon three Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*) swimming about in one of the beds. We

studied them with 7 and 8 power glasses at a distance of thirty feet and noticed particularly their sharp-pointed, all black bills. All three birds were in winter plumage.

This is the only record of any sort for this species in the Berkshires.

On August 30, Samuel A. Eliot, Jr., of Northampton, saw one Northern Phalarope at the Sewer Beds and on the same day identified a Baird's Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdi*) in a flock of some twenty-five Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. He was able to get within twenty feet and study it with glasses in bright sunlight. The bird was distinctly larger than the others. Mr. Eliot saw it fly several times and noticed that its outer tail-feathers were brownish gray and that its upper middle tail-coverts were fuscous.

I saw this bird on the 31st and noted the same field marks as did Mr. Eliot. I thought that the scaled appearance of the back and the buffy wash on the head, neck and breast were especially conspicuous.

On September 17, S. Morris Pell saw three Baird's Sandpipers in the same place and on the following day Stanley Clarke and I saw one.

These appear to be the only records for western New England north of the Connecticut coast.—G. BARTLETT HENDRICKS, *The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.*

Northern Phalarope Collected near Columbus, Ohio.—On August 28, 1933, the writer collected a female Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) at O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, north of Columbus, Ohio. The bird was engaged in its peculiar whirligig movements while feeding in shallow water among a flock of about 200 shore-birds. The skin is now in the Ohio State Museum. Except for a male of the species collected by H. S. Peters on September 13, 1924, at Bay Point on Lake Erie, this is the first known collection of the Northern Phalarope in Ohio since 1874 by Dr. Jasper. It is a very rare species in the inland portions of Ohio.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Department of Botany, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*

A Melanistic Laughing Gull at Pensacola, Florida.—On October 1, 1932, a beautiful, melanistic specimen of the Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) was seen over Pensacola Bay—a dark bird with a pale head that brought to mind pictures of the Noddy Tern. Fortunately, the presence of food attracted this and a number of normally colored Laughing Gulls very near to the bridge on which I was standing and I was able to look them over for some minutes with 6x glasses at distances sometimes as short as fifteen feet. Comparisons of size, shape and actions were readily made, and showed conclusively that the dark bird was truly a Laughing Gull. The forehead and top of the head were almost white, shading rapidly and evenly through gray to dark fuscous on the nape and throat. The only other light markings anywhere on the bird were the white tips on the secondaries, as in normal specimens. The rest of the plumage was almost solid fuscous, so dark that the subterminal black band on the tail was all