

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

but masked. From the presence of this subterminal band, I concluded that the bird was an immature in first winter plumage.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, Bldg. 45, U. S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.¹

Gull Notes from the New Hampshire and Maine Coasts.¹—Having seen the Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) in New Hampshire waters in July, 1932, its presence in July, 1933 is of interest. When we were at Kittery Point wharf, Maine, on July 20, Mr. J. P. Melzer and I had occasion to watch six Ring-billed Gulls in year-old plumage, in company with adults and first and second year Herring Gulls, feeding at low tide near the wharf. Again on the 21st we observed them there, some dozen birds, each in mottled plumage with the black subterminal band on the tail. On the 26th when returning from the Shoals to the Government wharf at Portsmouth, four Ring-bills were noted there, and at Duck Island, Isles of Shoals, on both the 20th and 25th, several Ring-bills joined the Herring Gulls in showing displeasure at our intrusion. These birds were in adult plumage but had a very narrow black subterminal band on the tail that in two instances was faded to a dirty brown.

The increase from three (and possibly seven) pairs of Black-backs (*Larus marinus*) breeding at Duck Island in 1928, to twelve and possibly more pairs in 1933, is gratifying. This larger Gull, I determined, is not nesting on Duck Island itself but prefers, instead, the smaller rocks clustered about the island—Shag, Mingo and Eastern Rocks. Unlike the young Herring Gulls which scatter more or less from the nest and each other, young Black-backs were found to linger in the vicinity of the nest while the broods kept in close company; true even of four fully-grown birds well able to fly.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

Additional 1932 New Hampshire Dovekie Records.—Since the publication "The Dovekie Influx of 1932," by Murphy and Vogt in the July, 1933 'Auk,' some unpublished records have come to my attention.

Mr. James P. Melzer tells me he received a Dovekie (*Alle alle*) for mounting which was picked up in November on a main street in Nashua, N. H. He also, long after the storm, picked up a badly decomposed bird washed up on Hampton Beach.

Mr. Luman Nelson tells me he was at the New Hampshire coast when the storm of November 9 struck and when the Dovekie flight began in the afternoon. Out of the many picked up along the Rye Beach section, the next morning he selected eight which he later preserved; their stomachs were empty. He says that literally hundreds came to grief along the New Hampshire coast.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

Large Sets of Ground Dove Eggs.—On April 29, 1925 I found a nest of the Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina passerina*) among briars, two feet above the ground. As I approached the Dove flew off

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