

The under wing-coverts on both sides, remiges (except as noted above), tail, head, and remainder of body are normally female in appearance. The bird was sexed as a female and is of female size. The plumage is exceedingly worn for the season, and I do not find any trace of molt.

Although at least eighteen instances of gynandromorphism are on record for cage birds and domestic fowls, I am not aware of more than one published occurrence among wild birds.¹ There are, however, several cases of false hermaphroditism in wild birds, of the type in which complete male plumage is combined with female sex organs.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

Albino Ring-Neck Pheasant.—On November 17, 1934, an albino, adult male, Ring-neck Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*) was shot in Logan County, Ohio, by Mr. Victor Snyder, of Jefferson, Ohio. He possesses the mounted specimen.

The eye color was pinkish. The feathers were white throughout. The bill and feet were light. The bird was equal in size to other Pheasants. The featherless tract upon each cheek was light red.—JOHN M. VASICEK, 10605 Lamontier Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

The Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) near Boston, Massachusetts, with Remarks on its Recognition in Winter Plumage.—On the afternoon of August 23, 1932, Mr. John H. Conkey, secretary of the Nuttall Club, and I proceeded to Squantum, where there were some flats and certain pools, which at high tide, were full of shore-birds. We found a marvellous gathering of no less than seventeen species. One great flock contained nearly all the larger species, and over an hour was devoted to the careful scrutiny of this flock. Finally one bird, a stranger, was picked out among the adjacent Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs and Willets. The body was just a tick shorter than that of the Greater Yellow-legs, the bill and legs noticeably shorter; in these respects, however, distinctly larger than the Lesser Yellow-legs. The general color was a sandy or pale brownish gray above, and appeared absolutely uniform at a distance, very different from the dark grey speckled with white of the Yellow-legs. In the uniform unmarked appearance, it resembled adjacent Willets, but the *sandy* shade was quite different from the stone or ash grey shade of the latter. At closer range it was apparent that the bird was not quite uniform above; the feathers of the back, scapulars and tertials were faintly but obviously margined with paler. The underparts were practically uniform white, with no markings on flanks and sides. Very striking were the *olive green* legs and the bill, *yellow for the basal half and black terminally*. At the time I supposed I was looking at a Ruff, and an examination of specimens later in the evening at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy confirmed this opinion.

The observation was not reported at the time, as I was not previously acquainted with the Ruff in life, and as my field experience increases, I attach less and less importance to sight records of accidental visitants, including my own. I now, however, venture to report the bird on the following grounds (1) no less than 11 specimens have already been collected in New England, so that the occasional occurrence of the species is amply validated (2) I have just returned from a week-end on the coast of Norfolk, England, where Mr. B. W. Tucker of the University Museum at Oxford and I were, among other things, looking for early shore-birds. One of these was a female Ruff in winter plumage, and the moment I laid eyes on the bird, it was obvious that it was the exact duplicate of the bird I saw very much better and closer at Squantum. It remains only to add that other winter plumages of the Ruff have

¹C. H. Townsend, Bull. Nuttall Orn. Club, VII, no. 3, July, 1882, p. 181.

an additional and easily noticeable character in life, namely that the underparts are more or less buffy or even fawn color.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy*.

The Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) in Barbados.—On October 12, 1934, a single shore-bird alighted on a pond on the west coast of Barbados and was promptly shot. As I was not acquainted with it I sent the wings, legs, etc. to Dr. Witmer Stone of the Academy of Natural Sciences for identification. He reports it to be a Ruff in winter plumage. While there are one or two previous records of the species for the Island the occurrence of this Old World bird so far from home is interesting.—FRED P. PETERKIN, *Kendall St. John, Barbados, B. W. I.*

Avocet recorded for North Carolina.—A single Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) was observed on December 15, 1934, at Pea Island, Manteo, North Carolina. It alighted among a flock of Mallard decoys and fed in between them. The Mallards attacked the Avocet every time it came too close to one of them, but it took little notice of these assaults. After about ten minutes, it got up and flew a little way to a flock of Goose decoys; it fed in the shallow water near them for five or ten minutes until it was collected. The bird was very fat, although the bay was frozen over and it was feeding in ice holes. It is an adult female just completing its molt, with a few worn feathers in the scapular region. The specimen is now in the Leonard C. Sanford Collection under the number 16.382.

This is apparently the first definite record of this species in North Carolina. Pearson and Brimley (*Birds of North Carolina*, page 122) say: "A flock seen by Coues near Fort Macon, September 12, 1869, is our only record for North Carolina." In South Carolina the species has apparently been found only recently since Bachman's time (*Wayne's Birds of South Carolina*, page 43; *Auk*, 1930, page 577, and *Auk*, 1931, page 280). For Virginia see *Auk* 1925, page 580.—ERNST MAYR, *American Museum of Natural History, New York*.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus graellsii*) in Bronx County, New York City.—On December 9, 1934, while visiting a very favorable locality for Gulls, at the mouth of Westchester Creek in the east Bronx, we noticed a strange Gull resting on a mud-flat with several hundred Herring Gulls. It was in this area during the previous winter that white-winged Gulls occurred regularly in numbers.

At first glance, the bird appeared to be a Black-backed Gull but on closer observation, we realized that it was slightly smaller than the average Herring Gull, the back was a very deep slate gray, not black as in *L. marinus* and the legs and feet were a decided yellow color. The bird was fully adult as was evidenced by the color of the bill, a straw yellow with a conspicuous vermilion red mark about the terminal half of the lower mandible. When the Gulls took flight, our bird followed them to the nearby ash dump to feed upon the garbage and refuse. Incidentally, the Greater Black-backed Gull has never been observed on the dump; it apparently does not feed upon garbage as the do Herring, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls.

We found, after a thorough examination of skins and literature at the American Museum that there are two species of Gulls which fit the description of our bird. The Lesser Black Gull of Europe (*Larus fuscus graellsii*) and the southern yellow-footed form of the Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis livens*). There is apparently no field mark by which these two birds can be distinguished.

However, as the Southern Yellow-footed Gull inhabits the Gulf of California, we feel that the time of year during which we saw our bird would exclude the possibility of this form. Furthermore, we are given to understand that land—in this case an