

quantity of fur. The presumption is that all were of the same species, as nothing was said that indicated any difference in size or kind.

In many years of collecting specimens in North Carolina, I do not think I ever saw more than two of this species at one time; certainly never more than three. Hence, the recording of this very unusual congregation.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

**A Duck Hawk Attacks Four People.**—Having always read that Duck Hawks (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) will never actually attack a man, I received quite a surprise when on June 12, 1935, I visited the famous Duck Hawk cliffs of Monument Mt. in Great Barrington, Mass. with a party of about fifteen. The nest was discovered in a location much easier to reach than usual and so six or seven of us climbed down to look at the four downy young. One of the adults was flying about making a great commotion. "Go right down to the nest," I said to one of the photographers in the party, "the bird won't bother you." As soon as he stood on the shelf on which the young were located the adult Hawk made a dive for him and brushed his hair with its powerful wings. Turning in the air, she swooped for him again. He ducked behind a small tree but not quite quick enough, for she hit his camera and dented it. A third time she scratched his hand with her talons. The photographer, by ducking at the right moment, managed to keep from being knocked off the cliff, a straight drop of at least 150 feet, and secured several photographs of the young Hawks.

Several days later, at a more favorable time for taking pictures, the photographer, Orville Wilkinson, returned with a friend. He took sixteen pictures, but not without paying for them. The Duck Hawk struck him on the neck and the scratch later became infected. She followed him a hundred yards or more from the nest and dove at him repeatedly.

Miss Mary Robbins, of the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, and Perry Gilbert, of Dartmouth, spent three hours on Monument Mt. during the same week. Gilbert wore a white shirt and the Hawk made a try for him at every opportunity. She inflicted a two inch deep cut in his head and nicked him two other times. Miss Robbins received a minor scratch and a small boy, who was standing on the summit some distance from the nest, was hit from behind and knocked on his face.

The attacks were carried on by the same bird. The other adult remained at a distance and did not seem interested. Local people have visited the Hawks in other years but, as far as I know, have never actually been struck.—G. BARTLETT HENDRICKS, *The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.*

**Black Rail at Cape May Point, N. J.**—On October 5, 1934, while observing the Hawk migration at Cape May Point, I examined a tennis court to see if any migrant birds had by chance struck the wire backstop. I found only one dead bird which from its condition had been killed a day or two previously. It was a Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*) the second specimen so far as I can ascertain to be taken at Cape May. It could not be preserved but a wing was sent to Dr. Witmer Stone to confirm the identification.—ROBERT P. ALLEN, *National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York, N. Y.*

**Feeding of the American Woodcock (*Philahela minor*).**—A Woodcock in the National Zoological Park presented to me an opportunity to observe the actual manner of its feeding. The specimen was caged in a new type glass-front cage, the floor of which was covered with three inches of earth, giving the bird a natural probing area. The glass front of the cage made it possible for me to witness its feeding from a distance of about two feet. The flexibility of the upper mandible is

well known, but of interest was the manner in which the worms, which I had buried in the earth were grasped in the tips of the mandibles and rapidly conveyed to the oral cavity, apparently by suction, created by the bird. This "sucking" of the food to the mouth occurred whenever the bird discovered a worm.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *Nat. Zoo Park, Washington, D. C.*

**Upland Plovers (*Bartramia longicauda*) Increasing in Adams County, Illinois.**—Upon my return to Adams County from the University of Illinois in 1910, I recorded no specimens of the Upland Plover in Adams or neighboring counties. It was not until 1918 that an occasional bird was reported from the nearby counties in Missouri. Since that time the increase has been very encouraging, both in Missouri and in Illinois. This spring (1935) at Newark, Missouri, I found four pairs of nesting birds in a single field and there were additional birds flying about the fallow portions of other farms in that vicinity.

Earlier this spring I saw birds at Galesburg, Illinois, and Mr. Harold Holland of that town reports four birds living in the deserted clover field in the old fair grounds. I similarly recorded two birds at Hamilton, Illinois, several pairs at Paloma, Illinois, two pairs at Camp Point, Illinois, a pair at Coatsburg, Illinois, and one at Fowler, Illinois. A friend reports three pairs nesting on his farm at Augusta, Illinois, while I discovered two pair located between Quincy and Liberty, ten miles east. Recently a nest of eggs was brought in by a farmer who lives within five miles of Quincy.

About the 10th of June another farmer called from six miles south of town telling me that he had flushed an Upland Plover from a field of old grass which he was plowing. Twice as he circled the field, the bird left its nest showing marked distress. The third time around, he watched closely. Finally he stopped his horses and found the team standing directly over a complete nest of four eggs.

He left a small patch of grass standing about the nest for protection. The Plover became so accustomed to his presence that it would remain on the nest when he plowed within eight or ten feet of it.

A week later I wished to take pictures of the bird and nest, but my plans were thwarted by a coon. Its tracks clearly indicated who the culprit was, and the broken shells were proof that it had enjoyed a full sized meal.

Such a report, showing the increase of this fine upland bird, will be of interest to conservationists, in general.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois.*

**A Correction.**—Attention is called to an error in the writer's Western Willet record printed in 'The Auk,' for January, 1934. The locality cited was South Haven, Berrien Co., Mich.; it should have been South Haven, *Van Buren Co., Mich.*—C. T. BLACK, *Chicago, Ill.*

**The Black-backed Gull on the South Carolina Coast.**—Though a vigilant look-out has been maintained for years by observers in this section for the occurrence of *Larus marinus*, it has been reported but once and that in St. Helena Sound on November 24, 1932, by H. L. Harlee (*Auk*, 1933, 217). On May 12, 1935, Mr. Lester L. Walsh, who was with the writer on the Cape Romain Federal Bird Refuge, identified an immature specimen of this species on Bull's Island. Mr. Walsh is thoroughly familiar with the species in all stages of plumage and his identification of this bird leads the writer to believe that it has probably been overlooked in the past due to the superficial resemblance to the immature Herring Gull (*L. argentatus smithsonianus*). He is convinced that a bird seen on April 18, 1935, on the Cape Romain Refuge by Mr. Guy Emerson, E. B. Chamberlain and himself, was of this species. The head was much whiter than that of the Herring Gull, the bird sat off