

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

by itself on the water, apart from other Gulls and gave every indication of being a Black-back. It is probably the case that this large Gull frequents the South Carolina coast more generally than has been heretofore believed.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.—*R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

The Dovekie Incursion of 1932.—In November, 1932, there was a phenomenal wave of Dovekies (*Alle alle*) on the Atlantic coast, promptly reported and interestingly discussed in 'The Auk' for July, 1933.¹ In the course of time a couple of observations have come to my attention which seem to clarify the nature of this invasion in the latitude of New York City, and will make the record more complete.

On November 19, at Jones Beach, L. I., Mr. William F. Drescher observed Dovekies estimated at about 1,000 individuals flying east, most birds following the shore line closely. The flocks generally seemed to consist of 10 to 20 birds, and the largest was estimated at about 50. The main flight started at 10:30 A. M. and lasted until 2 P. M., and, aside from two stragglers before it started, all birds were seen flying in the one direction. He was in the field from 7 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. and when returning to Wantagh station 'noted a number of Dovekies flying about in a bewildered manner on western side of causeway.'

This observation taken in connection with one from farther east near Westhampton quoted in detail by Murphy and Vogt¹ enables us to reconstruct a seemingly pretty accurate picture of what happened along the Long Island shore, where it was blowing hard from the southeast with heavy rain. A great wave of birds had swept upon the land and was receding to the eastward toward the open sea and safety over coastal waters. From this multitude individuals, in a weakened condition, driven by the wind or confused by the rain, were coming down on the shore, and now and then one turning tail and flying inland, like a fleck of wind-blown spume.

Of even greater significance is an observation made at Lavallette, N. J., by Mr. Henry Stevens. He tells me that on the day of the storm there was a steady stream of Dovekies flying south along the beach for some four hours, and estimates that during this time not less than 100,000 individuals passed down the coast, a southward movement probably correlated with their appearance south of their normal range later in the year. The bight of sea between the Long Island and New Jersey shores was very likely crowded with Dovekies coming in from the east and ebbing out along both shores. I would estimate those blown inland or lost as certainly less than 10% of the number present.

To complete the record of this November, 1932, Dovekie flight for the vicinity of New York City I list data which have come to my attention in addition to those in Murphy and Vogt's table. *November 6* (report from 'Local Bird Club'—W. Sedwitz) and *November 8* (report from Miss Cynthia Church), Montauk, L. I., Dovekie not mentioned. About *November 10*, Moriches Inlet to Shinnecock Bay, L. I., a few stragglers driven ashore in a storm more severe than that of November 19 (Le Roy Wilcox). *November 19*, Bayside, L. I., 1 dropped in front yard (S. C. Yeaton); Hollis, L. I., 1 picked up at rear porch, lived 2 days (Mrs. P. S. Campbell); Montrose, N. Y., 1 picked up exhausted in back yard at 4 p. m., another reported found at 7:30 (H. Thurston); Clifton, N. J., 1 landed exhausted in front yard (Chas. Shuster); Rutherford, N. J., 5 observed, Hackensack meadows (Thayer Platts). *November 20*, Brookhaven, L. I., 1 seen in pond with Ducks, flew in, and out after 20 minutes ('Local Bird Club'—W. Sedwitz); Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., 1 killed (B. S. Young), another reported to me by J. Burggraf, picked up in road, is probably the one in the

¹ Murphy, R. C., and Vogt, W., 1933, *Auk*, L (3), pp. 325-349.