

Pisobia melanotos. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—To Mr. Stead also belongs the credit for establishing this as an irregular migrant to New Zealand in rather fewer numbers than its congener the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Pisobia aurita*). In his collection are four skins all taken by himself at Lake Ellesmere in February, 1910, "It was common that year." In the museum at Christchurch there are two others taken at Lake Ellesmere, March 6, 1927 and January 1, 1922. There are additional records for New Zealand and in the Museum at Melbourne there is a skin taken at Albany, West Australia, in 1910, the same year that the species was common in New Zealand. This is as far as I know the first record for Australia, the specimen is labeled *Erolia acuminata* but it is a typical Pectoral Sandpiper in winter plumage.

In winter plumage the Pectoral and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are very much alike, both have the fore-neck grayish and thickly streaked with blackish; in the Sharp-tail the markings tend to cordate and sagitate shapes and extend to the flanks and even to the center of the abdomen; in the Pectoral the dark markings are narrow shaft streaks only, the flanks are almost immaculate and the rest of the lower surface is entirely so.

The shaft of the first primary is wholly white in the Pectoral and white with a brownish base in the Sharp-tail.

The young in first plumage and adult in summer of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper are easily distinguished from the Pectoral by color alone, the former has hardly any markings on the foreneck which is deep buff.

As both species occur on the west coast of America these characters should be born in mind.

Lake Ellesmere where so many Limicoline records have been made is situated on the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand.

It does not appear to be especially adapted to shore birds, there are many better looking localities such as Kaipara on the North Island, which if worked as Mr. Stead has worked Lake Ellesmere would undoubtedly yield material that would throw more light on the extraordinary migrations of North American shorebirds to New Zealand.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia*.

Early Migration of the Great Black-backed Gull.—During recent years it appears that the Great Black-backed Gull has been increasing in numbers and has been extending its range. Perhaps because of this increase these birds may be seen on their wintering grounds earlier than usual. Like many other water birds, they become more nomadic at the close of the breeding season. According to the A. O. U. 'Check-list' the species normally winters only as far south as Delaware Bay, where it ordinarily arrives early in November.

It was somewhat surprising, therefore, to find an individual (an adult) on September 28, 1935, as far south as the vicinity of Ocean City in southern New Jersey in Cape May County. Dr. Witmer Stone informs me that he saw four adults on Gull Bar off Anglesea, N. J., a few miles farther south on the same day! These constituted his earliest record for Cape May County.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Biological Survey*.

Laughing Gull in the North Carolina Mountains.—On August 18 and 19, 1935, Mrs. Alexander Sprunt, Mrs. Murray and I saw an immature Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) at a rain pool on a golf course at Blowing Rock, Watauga County, N. C. The dusky head, dark breast, black primaries, white band at the back of the wing, and light tail with black subterminal band and narrow white tip served to identify it. Pearson and the Brimleys ('Birds of North Carolina') give no inland