

Gooseberry Neck, Westport, Mass. The drake was still in breeding plumage. As Forbush's last date for Massachusetts is April 12, this pair seems worth recording.—ROLAND C. CLEMENT, 152 Tremont St., Fall River, Mass.

**Breeding of the Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) in Massachusetts.**—On June 16, 1936, the writer encountered a female Hooded Merganser and two approximately half-grown young on the flooded area of the Nashua River between Groton and Pepperell. This extensive area, caused by the damming of the river at East Pepperell, has many coves which the Mergansers frequent, stretching back from the main river, and there are many dead trees and stumps sticking out of the water. The birds allowed close approach, but were somewhat agitated, the young continually diving and the mother trying to distract one's attention by flying short distances and uttering its harsh, almost Crow-like cry. A canoe, an 8x binocular, and a 20x monocular glass were used to advantage. The birds were seen again on the 19th and 24th and each time were harder to observe.

This record is of interest because this Merganser has not hitherto been known to breed in southern New England. It is a rare summer resident in northern New England.—TUDOR RICHARDS, Groton, Mass.

**Wilson's Plover Taken Near Toledo, Ohio.**—On June 17, 1936, I collected an adult male Wilson's plover (*Pagolla wilsonia wilsonia*) from the shore of Lake Erie in Jerusalem Twp., Lucas County, Ohio. This bird was in good plumage, apparently in good physical condition, and very fat. The only irregularity noted was in the size of the gonads which measured: right, 5.7 × 3.9 mm., left 9 × 4.5 mm.

The Wilson's Plover was on a large sandbar associating with a small group of Spotted Sandpipers, Killdeers, and four Piping Plover which nested nearby. It was interesting to note that while the Piping Plover permitted the Spotted Sandpipers and Killdeers to approach their nest, they would drive away the Wilson's Plover when he approached.

This specimen is the first for the state of Ohio and one of the very few ever taken in the interior of the United States. The skin is No. 6980 in the collection of the Ohio State Museum.—LOUIS W. CAMPBELL, Toledo, Ohio.

**Second Record of Golden Plover in Alabama.**—On March 22, 1936, A. C. Martin, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, and I saw two American Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*) on a sandy bar of Little Lagoon at Gulf Shores, in southern Baldwin County, Alabama. The birds were observed with binoculars and allowed us to approach as close as 50 feet before flying. This appears to be the second record for Alabama, the first having been obtained on March 26, 1933, and recorded by Mrs. Helen M. Edwards (Auk, vol. 50, p. 359).—HAROLD S. PETERS, U. S. Biological Survey, Auburn, Alabama.

**European Turnstone, A Correction.**—In the Auk, XXXV, 439, the late Arthur T. Wayne recorded as *Arenaria interpres* (Linn.) a Turnstone taken on Dewees Island, S. C. on May 31, 1918. Being unable to distinguish this specimen from several of *A. i. morinella* I recently sent the skin to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for determination. Dr. Wetmore considers the bird *morinella*. Accordingly, *A. i. interpres* has been removed from the state list.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.

**Wilson's Snipe (*Capella delicata*) Breeding in Dutchess County, New York.**—Records of the nesting of Wilson's Snipe in the northeastern United States are surprisingly few.

Sutton (Wilson Bulletin, Vol. 35, 1923) gives an excellent account of five nests discovered in Crawford County, in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Stoner (Roosevelt Wild Life Annals, Vol. 2, Nos. 3 and 4, 1932: Ornithology of the Oneida Lake Region) states that Wilson's Snipe "occurs fairly commonly in suitable situations in the Oneida Lake territory through the summer \* \* \* on June 22, 1928 in an open grassy marsh at Shaw Point I saw several individuals in the course of a half hour's walk. Mr. Edward Nicholson told me that on May 28 he found a nest containing four eggs, in a grassy marsh near Toad Harbor."

Eaton (Birds of New York, 1910) writes as follows: "I have found it breeding in Springville, Canandaigua outlet in Ontario County, and Bergen swamp; Mr. C. F. Stone has taken its eggs at Meridian, and reports of its nesting in Chautauqua, Genesee, Orleans, Oswego and St. Lawrence counties have come to my attention."

Merriam (A Review of the Birds of Connecticut 1877) writes: "Mr. W. W. Coe and Mr. J. H. Sage inform me that they took a nest containing three fresh eggs of this species at Portland, Conn., May 13, 1874. It was not previously known to breed as far south as Connecticut. The nearest approach to it is a set of eggs in the Smithsonian labelled Oneida Co., N. Y."

In a diligent search through many local lists and journals these are the only records that I can discover: otherwise Wilson's Snipe is mentioned only as a migrant, in our northeastern area.

On May 2, 1936, my son, Daniel W. Evans, while trout fishing flushed a Wilson's Snipe on the margin of a wet, boggy marsh along a branch of the Ten Mile River, which flows into the Housatonic.

This location is very close to 41°, 45' north latitude and 73°, 35' west longitude.

The bird sprung and flew swiftly and silently away for two hundred yards and lit far off in the marsh. Almost at his feet was the nest, deeply cupped, on the top of a small flat tussock of sedge about six inches square, and surrounded by thick black mud, here and there covered by a few inches of water.

The nest was a trim, well fashioned, though thin walled, structure of dry sedge and slender weed stalks. The eggs were four and closely packed, with their axes inclined about sixty degrees downward and inward; so that the larger ends only were clearly visible, the pointed apices fitting neatly together at the bottom of the nest.

In color these eggs were remarkably dark, almost a chocolate brown in ground color and heavily splotted with a still darker brown giving very little contrast.

While the nest was being photographed the bird flew swiftly past in a wide circuit and disappeared.

Two hours later, she was again upon the nest and again sprung wildly off and away with the same swift undeviating flight as before. The nest was carefully approached at this visit, in an attempt to photograph the brooding bird; but, although knowing the exact position of the nest, the eye could not discern the bird, closely pressed among the sprouting stalks of sedge (which were about five inches high) at six feet away. Another careful step forward and off she sprung.

On May 9, I was taken to the spot, which had been marked by two ranging stakes set up in the mud; one seven feet from the nest and another in alignment twenty feet back.

We reached the place at noon, with a brilliant sun and blue sky giving most radiant light. Creeping up stealthily, sighting along the stakes, we tried our utmost to see the bird; there was the small tussock six feet away; there was the small mat of green and russet sedge surrounded by black quaking mud in which we sank; there was the identical spot where the nest must be—but we could not see a thing except that little

flat tussock like thousands of others around. My son said, "Well probably some snapping turtle has eaten up the eggs; it is too bad." One more step forward and up the bird sprung, swift and silent as a thought; right at our very feet. Off she flew straight away, about six feet from the ground, with admirable acceleration and direct course for two hundred and fifty yards and sank to rest in the middle of the marsh. That was all. We did not touch the eggs nor disturb the surroundings. We were unable to visit the nest again.

The terrain was interesting; an ordinary, small, rich marsh of about ten acres; the nest being on the very edge of the marsh within fifty yards of the river and one hundred and fifty from a railroad track. The little river coursed through a sparse forest growth of maple, oak and ash, the nest being almost in the shadow of these trees, and not out in the wide depth of the marsh, as one might have supposed.

On the farther side of the marsh were rolling upland hills where cattle grazed and Grass Finches sang and lovely houstonias matched the blue sky. Overhead, three Turkey Buzzards were soaring.

There are hundreds of just such marshy tracts throughout this section of country and one wonders whether more of these Wilson's Snipe may not breed therein. Next spring we plan to visit the region in the evening and listen for the "winnowing" of these birds.

Another query: when we read Frank Forester's accounts of spring shooting a hundred years ago, we ask whether he did not many a time, unaware, shoot a bird startled from its nest.

Wilson's Snipe has nested, in the United States, as far south as latitude 34° north, in California.

The English Snipe (*Capella gallinago gallinago*) is said to breed in northwest Africa, which would also be about 34° north.—EVAN EVANS, M.D., *New York City*.

**Status of *Bartramia longicauda* in Lancaster Co., Pa.**—In 'The Auk' for 1925, I presented a note on this subject to which the present is supplementary. The rolling farmlands of central Lancaster County were probably the best breeding and feeding ranges of this bird in eastern North America and in my boyhood days, in the eighteen nineties, I often saw several hundred in a square mile of country. In 1914 it was taken from the game list and since then few if any have been shot in the county. Seeing that without local shooting the numbers of the Plover were decreasing, I began to take a census during the first week in August, the middle of the former hunting season, from 1921 to 1925. I counted the birds on four well separated tracts, on any one of which there would have been at least fifty Plover as late as 1900.

Alexander Wetmore has stated (Our Migrant Shorebirds in Southern South America, 1927) that this species has replaced the Eskimo Curlew as a table delicacy in the Buenos Ayres restaurants and that it is so eagerly sought by gunners in the Argentine that the possibility of preserving it in settled regions is doubtful. Since 1927, settlements on the Argentine pampas have greatly increased.

Assisted by Clifford Marburger, W. E. Brown and W. E. Zimmerman, as rangers, I resumed the census over the same tracts as before and the 1936 count is surprisingly satisfactory and seems to show that so far as Lancaster County is concerned the Plover is in no immediate danger of extinction.