

PURPLE SANDPIPER, *Arquatella maritima*.—One was taken on Appledore Island, Maine, on August 15, 1935, and another on Londoner's Island, New Hampshire, on July 14, 1936. There are three previous Maine summer records, but there have been none since 1907. There are, I believe, no previous New Hampshire summer records.

EASTERN LARK SPARROW, *Chondestes grammacus grammacus*.—A pair appeared on Appledore Island, Maine, on August 20, 1936, and one, a female, was taken. There have been several previous sight records and a banding record, but this is the first record based on a collected specimen.—PHILIP L. WRIGHT, *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin*.

Notes from Vermont.—GANNET, *Moris bassana*.—W. P. Smith's recent list of Vermont Birds (Bull. 41, Department of Agriculture, Montpelier, Vt.) discreetly omits any reference to the Gannet, although an unquestionable specimen of this form has for years been used as mantel piece in one of the rooms of the State Office Building. No data of any kind were preserved with the specimen. However, a letter of inquiry to H. P. Sheldon, Commissioner of Fish and Game during the period when the bird was said to have been taken, now confirms the belief that the Gannet was taken in Vermont. Despite the fact that the actual place and date of capture,—known to be somewhere in the Connecticut River valley in 1920 or 1921,—are still rather vague, it nevertheless seems justifiable to add this rare and accidental straggler to the State list. It is an immature bird in first-winter plumage.

AMERICAN EGRET, *Casmerodius albus egretta*.—Although the occurrence of this species in the State has apparently never been substantiated by an actual specimen, its presence on Lake Champlain during recent summers has been reported by so many competent observers that there seems little reason to doubt its occurrence. As many as eight of these large white egrets have been seen at one time, though the more usual observation has been from two to five. Reports of them have come to the Conservation Department from two State wardens, two members of the Biological Survey, lakeside residents and summer visitors. Those recorded by members of the Survey were at Mississquoi Bay, at the northern or Canadian end of the lake; the others were at West Haven and vicinity at the southern extremity. Most of the reports relate to late-summer observations, the post-breeding season which so frequently witnesses the northward exodus of many Ardeidae from more southern breeding grounds; but one observation of four adults in June at least hints at the possibility of their breeding somewhere on the Lake.

GOLDEN EAGLE, *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*.—Though extra-limital records of this erratic eagle are no longer a matter of great surprise, it is always of interest to report its occurrence. A specimen of this western form came to grief by electrocution at Bennington, Vermont, December 15, 1936, when a trapped victim made away with a trap whose dangling chain snared the eagle among high-tension wires. John Tracy Adams, the linesman who finally retrieved the dead bird from the wires, has the noble specimen mounted without any data at his home in Bennington. The owner of the trap has not been identified. It seems advisable to record these data before they are entirely lost. The eagle's tarsi were fully feathered down to the toes.

Bennington seems to have been a Waterloo for Golden Eagles, as four previous examples of this species are said to have been taken there. One was captured two years ago when it failed to make a safe retreat with a Domestic Goose into which it had buried its talons. Before the eagle could rise or disengage its claws, the farmer pounced on it. For some time the bird was retained and cared for at the State Game Farm, but was finally liberated.

BLACK GYRFALCON, *Falco rusticolus obsoletus*.—A specimen of this rare and interesting hawk was taken at the State Game Farm in Milton, Vermont, January 30, 1937, and is now a study skin in the modest collection of the Fish and Game Service at Montpelier. It proved to be a female with a moderately developed ovary. Except for several down feathers of some passerine bird, the stomach was empty. The present rather unsatisfactory knowledge of the taxonomic status of the gyrfalcons makes the subspecific determination of this form a little uncertain, but it seems best to consider it as the gray phase of the Black or Labrador Gyrfalcon. There do not appear to be any other records of this form or allied races in the State. Paucity of records for other States likewise indicates that the gyrfalcons only rarely visit the United States.—GEORGE J. WALLACE, *Biologist, Vermont Fish and Game Service, Montpelier, Vt.*

Summer records from Ocean County, New Jersey.—The following observations were made by the writer in Ocean County, New Jersey, during the summer of 1936.

COMMON LOON, *Gavia immer immer*.—An individual of this species in young or winter plumage, was observed on Barnegat Bay, just south of Mantoloking on August 11, 1936, and another in flightless condition was seen by Charles H. Rogers and the writer on Barnegat Bay, just north of Barnegat Inlet, on August 15, 1936.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*.—A flock of thirty of these birds, most of them with light underparts, was seen from July 2 into September, just south of Mantoloking. The birds were observed on and around the fish ponds in the ocean, as well as on Barnegat Bay, and roosted on a small mud islet in the bay.

MYRTLE WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata*.—A Myrtle Warbler in brown plumage was seen at Lake Metedeconk, west of Point Pleasant, on July 23, 1936.—ROBERT W. STORER, *South Orange, New Jersey.*

Uncommon winter birds in coastal North Carolina.—During the last week of January, from the 24th to the 31st, the writers were engaged in field work in coastal North Carolina, from Currituck to Cape Hatteras. A number of migrant birds were encountered whose presence there seems sufficiently unusual to warrant a brief report.

Pea and Bodie Islands have long been known to be the wintering grounds of a small flock of Greater Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*). At least, during the past five years, their numbers have increased from approximately a thousand to fully four times that number during the present season. From counts made, it appears that from 15% to 20% of their present number are birds of immature plumage. For the past three years a small number of Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) have been seen in company with the Snow Geese. Ten of the latter species were observed at Bodie Island as two small units of the larger aggregation. It was interesting to note that while the Blue Geese associated with the Snow Geese, they habitually remained as small units of the larger flock.

On the impounded freshwater pond near Bodie Island Light House, on January 25, we were surprised to find one male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) in company with a flock of some thirty-five Baldpates. The bird was observed at about 100 yards through a good pair of field-glasses and stood in marked contrast to its American relatives. While records of this European wanderer in North Carolina are of interest, Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley ('Birds of North Carolina,' No. Carolina Geol. and Economic Surv., 4: 63-64, 1919) mention two specimens that were