

general confusion concerning the status of the gyrfalcons, the skin was sent to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for possible identification. Drs. Wetmore and Friedmann determined the bird to be *Falco rusticolus obsoletus*.—O. J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*.

Greater Prairie Chicken in western Pennsylvania?—In the last edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list' the Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido americanus*) is stated to have formerly reached western Pennsylvania. The only basis for this ascription, as I am advised by Mr. F. C. Lincoln, is the record cited by Wilson ('American Ornithology,' 3: p. 117, 1811), that refers to a nest found "between the Pilot Knobs and Bairdstown." It has been assumed that "Bairdstown" in this case referred to the place still known by that name just west of Blairsville, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. In his account of the "Snow Owl," however, Wilson distinctly specifies "Bairdstown, in Kentucky," and a careful reading of his text on the "Pinnated Grouse" is perfectly consistent with this understanding. I submit, therefore, that there is no valid reason for accrediting the Greater Prairie Chicken to western Pennsylvania. It is highly improbable that it has ever occurred there at any time, for the primitive areas of open country were comparatively small and completely isolated from the prairie region farther west. The range of the Heath Hen must have been completely cut off from its western relative by this forest barrier of the Appalachian divide. Newspaper reports to the contrary notwithstanding, there appears to be no acceptable evidence for the occurrence of the Heath Hen anywhere in the western half of Pennsylvania.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*.

Purple Gallinule in central Illinois.—On April 30, 1937, a Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) flew through an open window in the main library of the University of Illinois at Urbana. It was captured and brought to the Illinois Natural History Survey, where entomologists inspected it for Mallophaga. Placed in the writer's hands it was taken to Dr. S. C. Kendeigh, banded, and released. This is, so far as known, the seventh record for the State of Illinois and the first for Champaign County.—FRANK BELLROSE AND LYNN HUTCHENS, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois*.

Hudsonian Curlew, White-faced Glossy Ibis and Black-bellied Plover in Oklahoma.—On May 18 and 19, 1937, considerable numbers of transient Hudsonian Curlews (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*) fed and rested along the Beaver River, and at a broad, shallow lake close by, three miles south of Gate, Beaver County, Oklahoma. On May 18, we counted a flock of twenty-one birds. From this flock two specimens, a female (Semple) and male (Sutton) were collected. Early in the morning on May 19, the same flock (nineteen birds) was seen again. But at nine o'clock a larger flock appeared high in air; the two flocks joined and we counted between fifty and sixty birds. Our two specimens are apparently the first for the State, since Mrs. Nice does not list the Hudsonian Curlew in her admirable 'Birds of Oklahoma' (Publ. Univ. of Oklahoma Biol. Surv., vol. 3, no. 1, 1931).

In the same region (at the lake, not along the river) we took also two male White-faced Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis guaravana*), the first an exceptionally handsome and fat individual (gonads measuring 23 by 11 mm.) on May 18 (Semple); the second, a slightly less colorful bird, also fat and with much enlarged gonads, on May 25 (Sutton). This species Mrs. Nice (loc. cit., p. 58) calls 'accidental,' listing a single specimen taken 'about 1897' near Dover, Kingfisher County.

On May 18 and 19, again in the same general region, but along the river and not

at the lake, we saw a flock of about thirty Black-bellied Plovers (*Squatarola squatarola*). The birds were exceedingly wary, and we did not collect a specimen. Early on the morning of the 19th the flock arose, circled once, and disappeared to the northward. Mrs. Nice (loc. cit., p. 88) calls the Black-bellied Plover a 'rare transient,' mentioning but one record for the State—a single bird seen near Gate, Beaver County, August 18, 1925.—JOHN B. SEMPLE, *Sewickley, Pennsylvania*; GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*.

Greater Yellow-legs swimming.—On November 15, 1937, while the guest of Mr. Joseph G. Rosengarten, Jr., at the Supawna Club, Salem, Salem County, New Jersey, for the purpose of some duck shooting in the marsh controlled by the Club, I made the following observation. In the middle of the day at high tide, I observed a Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) through the blind, not more than eight to ten feet away from me. The bird, to my amazement, entered the water, swam out among the duck decoys, a distance of perhaps twenty to thirty feet, and then leisurely swam back to shore and flew away. A little later in the day, two Greater Yellow-legs were observed on the far side of the creek about forty to fifty yards from my blind. Both birds entered the water, swam across the creek, a distance of about twenty yards, came out on the far side and resumed their search for food. I understand that A. C. Bent has quoted J. T. Nichols to the effect that while he never saw the Lesser Yellow-legs swim, he had not infrequently seen the Greater Yellow-legs do so. There seem, however, to be but few observations of this action.—CHARLES M. B. CADWALADER, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*.

American Knot in Iowa.—The observations which make this record possible were made at Goose Lake, Hamilton County, Iowa. Goose Lake, a typical Wisconsin Drift marsh, is located one-half mile east of Jewell, Iowa. It is about eighty acres in area, largely grown up to marsh vegetation. Three hundred yards of shore line along the east margin of the marsh are kept open by the activity of cattle and domestic waterfowl. In addition, it is probable that shade from nearby trees contributes toward elimination of the usual sedge and cat-tail growth along a portion of its length. This open shore line forms an attractive feeding ground for many migrant shorebirds.

On September 6, 1937, the writer observed an American Knot, *Calidris canutus rufus* (Wilson), at the water's edge on this open beach. In a listless manner the bird was alternately feeding and looking about. It apparently preferred to keep its own company to that of eight Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*), twelve Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*), three Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*), and one Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), that were feeding at another point along the shore. The Knot was seen again on September 8. This time, 'breast-deep,' it was attempting to accompany seven Lesser Yellow-legs in feeding. The Knot was noticeably more conspicuous by frequent bathing which seemed to be encouraged by its efforts to feed with the longer-legged birds. On September 10, the bird was collected by Dr. R. L. Roudabush of the Department of Zoology and Entomology at Iowa State College. The specimen proved to be a male. A museum skin was prepared and deposited in the Iowa State College collection. The measurements in inches are as follows: length, 9.56; wing, 6.50; wings extended, 20.00; tail, 2.31; tarsus, 1.50; and culmen, 1.38. Dr. Logan J. Bennett, Associate Biologist for the U. S. Biological Survey, and Dr. Geo. O. Hendrickson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Zoology and Entomology at Iowa State College, agree with the writer in recognizing the specimen as the American Knot.