

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.

DuMont (Univ. of Iowa Studies, p. 15, 1934) placed this bird in his hypothetical list and wrote: "It was listed by J. A. Allen, and John Krider stated that he had found it during May in Northern Iowa. It has occurred in all the states surrounding Iowa and might be collected here." The only recent sight record known to the writer is by Bennett (Iowa State College Journ. Sci., 9: 609-616, 1934) who reported: "Dr. Paul L. Errington and the writer observed fourteen of these birds May 21 on the rocky shore of Lost Island Lake, Palo Alto County." None was recorded during intensive investigation of shorebird migration by Spawn (Iowa State College Journ. Sci., 9: 617-624, 1935) in Clay and Palo Alto Counties during the fall of 1934 or by Scott and Sooter (Iowa State College Journ. Sci., 11: 247-252, 1937) at Goose Lake, Hamilton County, during the fall of 1936.

On the basis of the specimen now contained in the Iowa State College collection it is recommended that the American Knot be removed from the hypothetical list and placed in the state list for Iowa.—THOMAS G. SCOTT, *Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.*

Red-backed Sandpiper at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.—On May 17, 1937, on a mudflat in Wildwood Park Lake in Harrisburg, at a distance of about a hundred feet, with binocular glasses, I saw a Red-backed Sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*) with some Spotted and Least Sandpipers. It was feeding in about an inch of water, dipping its entire head beneath the surface. Its curved bill and black belly could be seen easily. This is the first recorded finding of the species in this district.—HAROLD B. WOOD, M.D., *Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*

Migration of Godwits at Westport, Washington.—In the early afternoon of July 18, 1935, I was observing the migration of shorebirds near the mouth of a small creek that empties into the harbor on the east side of Westport, Washington. About a quarter of a mile away, stretching out into the bay for half a mile or more, was a long sand spit, now turned into an island by the fulling tide. I had already observed here large flocks of Least, Western and Red-backed Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers and several small flocks of Hudsonian Curlews, when a long dark shadow passed over me, and on glancing up I was astonished to see an irregular extended line of birds which I immediately recognized as Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*). The line was about two hundred yards long and I estimated the number of birds as between two and three hundred. Many alighted on the flooded flats but the majority made for the sand bar and came to rest among the Herring Gulls. Five birds alighted within thirty feet of me and immediately began probing in the soft mud with their long bills. I was still more astonished to see that these five were white-rumped, black-tailed Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemastica*) and that the two species were migrating together. Later in the day I found sixteen more of the latter species feeding near the old Westport dock. The day was bright and sunny with a cool northwest wind. On the three following days (19th to 21st of July) the same conditions prevailed. On the 19th, a long line of some four hundred birds flying abreast, came in at about high tide, and breaking into smaller groups, settled, some on the flooded flats and more on the sand bar. It was a most spectacular sight. Fifty or more birds, close together, would hover over the sand bar, then all at once, with their long legs dangling and their wings fluttering would pour on to the sand. On the 21st, the numbers of birds were estimated as between a thousand and fifteen hundred. They behaved as on the previous days, some settling to feed, but most of them alighting to rest on the sand bar. On the 22nd of July only two small flocks of some twenty-five and thirty-five birds, respectively, came in; and on the 23d not a