

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

single godwit appeared. The migration was over for the time, although early in September a few small flocks were again seen.

In 1936 and 1937, I watched the spring and autumn migrations of the godwits with great interest. The Hudsonian Godwits arrived fairly early,—the earliest birds were seen on April 6,—while the last left about the 24th, when they were nearly in full plumage. The first Marbled Godwits appeared about April 10, and were seen until about the end of that month. In the autumnal migrations of these two years only a few scattered flocks were noted in early September.—ADAM BALMER, *Westport, Washington*.

**Avocet in South Carolina.**—Records of only about eight individuals of the Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) from South Carolina have appeared in print since the time of Audubon, and it may therefore be of interest to record an additional sight record of a bird seen during the field trip on November 19, 1937, at the extreme northeastern end of Bull Island, Charleston County, South Carolina, following the annual meeting of the A. O. U. in Charleston. The bird was seen by a party of five observers and was first noticed by Dr. Clarence Cottam, who was able to call it near us. It walked slowly past at a distance of about fifty feet, giving everyone ample opportunity to observe the characteristic bill and winter plumage pattern, which cannot easily be confused with those of any other bird. Both Dr. Cottam and the writer are familiar with Avocets in the West, and are certain of the identity of the bird.—CLARENCE F. SMITH, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**A Skua in the Caribbean Sea.**—In view of the little known concerning the occurrence of skuas in tropical waters (see Murphy, Robert Cushman, 'Oceanic Birds of South America,' pp. 138, 1007-1008, 1936), it is of interest to report one of these birds seen on November 26, 1937, from the steamer 'Caracas,' formerly of the Red D Line, and now of the Grace Line, as the ship was approaching Puerto Rico from the south. The bird appeared in early afternoon, and was around the vessel until dusk, several times passing within thirty yards of me as I rested in the sun on the top deck. I had many excellent views of it. At nine o'clock that evening the ship was within sight of the light on the southwestern point of Puerto Rico. As it was not practicable to collect the bird its racial identity is not known.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Glaucous Gull in Illinois.**—There are but two previous records of the Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) having been taken in Illinois, and it is regarded as a rare winter visitant in the Chicago region. Consequently, the writer while observing ducks on the Illinois River, April 11, 1936, near Ottawa, Illinois, was very much surprised to see a nearly pure-white individual fly ten feet overhead. The gull continued its slow flight up the river until out of sight. On returning two days later, it was observed resting on a small sand bar with a number of Herring Gulls. Upon procuring a boat and a shotgun the gull was pursued and finally collected. The bird, a male, proved upon dissection to be badly diseased: many trematodes were found in the small intestine, and the peritoneum was covered with a greenish mold, probably of the genus *Aspergillus*. Such a diseased condition might account for its occurrence so late in the season far from its normal range. It was made into a museum specimen by Dr. A. C. Twomey and will be deposited in the Chicago Academy of Sciences.—FRANK BELLROSE, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois*.

**Glaucous-winged Gull in Oklahoma.**—Looking through the collection of mounted birds at the Northwestern State Teachers' College at Alva, Oklahoma,