

food species such as *Sceloporus*.—DEAN AMADON, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*, AND ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *118 Olive Road, Tucson, Arizona*.

Great-Plains races of Sharp-tailed Grouse.—When the writer made a study (Univ. Toronto Studies, biol. ser., no. 40, 1935) and revision (Occas. Papers Roy. Ontario Mus. Zool., no. 2, 1935) of the Sharp-tailed Grouse in 1935, it was not found possible to examine the type of *Pedioecetes phasianellus campestris* in the collection of the U. S. National Museum. Recently there was opportunity to do so and I am now convinced that I redescribed this form and renamed it *P. p. campisylvicola*. Ridgway (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 2: 93, 1885) had designated two birds, a male from northwestern Illinois and a female from Rosebud Creek, Montana, as types of *campestris*. Through the kindness of Dr. H. Friedmann, the latter specimen, or co-type from Montana, was secured for comparison. Neither this bird nor a topotypical Illinois specimen seemed to represent satisfactorily the browner birds occupying the grove belt in the northern Great Plains, eastward into the eastern forest. They were more ochraceous, the co-type particularly, in their general dorsal aspect. With regrets that Ridgway had not selected a type from Nebraska, the writer named the 'pinkish-cinnamon' to 'snuff-brown' birds *campisylvicola*. On seeing the type of *campestris*, he is convinced that it represents these 'browner' birds. Apparently Ridgway selected two birds, either to show what he thought was normal sex differentiation (Illinois male, Montana female) or to show some range of individual variation within the form. It seems evident to the writer, after seeing the type, that the co-type is referable to a form distinct from *campestris*. Thus, still with regrets that Ridgway did not select a Nebraska type, *campisylvicola* is relegated to the synonymy of *campestris*.

It would appear that the paler birds of the more southern Great-Plains region are unnamed. However, a recent examination of the series in the U. S. National Museum shows that individual variation of specimens from this region is sufficiently wide to include the Colorado variant named *P. p. jamesi* by Lincoln (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 30: 83-86, 1917). This form had been left in question in the writer's revision. It was pointed out in the study that large pale Sharp-tailed Grouse occur as far north as South Dakota; also it was noted in the revision that the southern Great-Plains specimens seen were the most variable in color, with the general effect dorsally varying from the 'gray' (of Lincoln) to ochre. Dr. H. C. Oberholser informs me that he has examined a large series of Colorado birds and that he regards the dark ventral markings, as mentioned by Lincoln, as reflecting *columbianus* influence, or intergradation with the Great-Basin form. Since the somewhat localized variants from Colorado do not seem to constitute a valid race, the name *jamesi* is available for the Sharp-tailed Grouse of the southern Great Plains.

The five forms of *Pedioecetes phasianellus* and their ranges are as follows, approximately as previously recorded:

P. p. columbianus—The Great Basin, from northern British Columbia to northern New Mexico.

P. p. kennicottii—In the far Northwest, Alaska, Yukon and the Mackenzie region, North West Territories.

P. p. phasianellus—The Hudson and James Bay watersheds of northeastern Manitoba, northern Ontario and Quebec.

P. p. campestris—From the foothills of the mountains in Montana, central Alberta and Saskatchewan, eastward to the upper peninsula of Michigan; formerly south to northwestern Illinois.

P. p. jamesi.—The southern Great Plains, from southern Montana and South Dakota, south to Colorado.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto*.

Migration of the Red Phalarope off Massachusetts.—This pelagic shorebird, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, is so little known off the eastern United States that any contribution to its life history is of interest. For ten years I have been studying it as opportunity permitted off Cape Cod, and wish to put certain facts on record. (1) It is much more pelagic than the Northern Phalarope, and the total number of individuals using the western Atlantic as a migration route would appear to be very substantially less. (2) Its season of migration is *much earlier* in spring and *much later* in fall. The first birds appear off Massachusetts April 2–12, still in winter plumage, and there are at least four such records in recent years, whereas the earliest date for the Northern Phalarope in eighty years is May 1. On April 19, 1938, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Tousey, J. P. Bishop and I spent the afternoon at Monomoy Point. Pouring rain and a southeast gale had prevailed all the preceding day and night. The feature of the afternoon was the discovery of a mass migration of the Red Phalarope. At least one thousand birds were moving northward along the tide-rip north of the Stone Horse Reef Lightship. The birds were in small flocks of from twenty-five to fifty, constantly rising, flying northward, circling about and pitching down in dense clusters to feed. They were watched for half an hour through powerful telescopes, and were mostly in transitional plumage. I have been unable to find any definite record of so large a number of Red Phalaropes off the New England coast in spring. On the other hand there are several records of ten times that many Northern Phalaropes, the main flight of which is chiefly May 15–25.

In the autumn the contrast is even more striking. The Northern Phalarope arrives regularly off Chatham early in August, the earliest date July 24, 1938 (Griscom and several others). The peak of the flight is from late August to mid-September; the latest date for the State is October 13. Only twice have I seen one or two Red Phalaropes in late August and once in mid-October. There is no record in the literature of any mass migration of this species in fall, but the *great majority* of fall records in recent years are *in early November*. With the Northern Phalarope, however, there is a well-known concentration area in the Bay of Fundy between Eastport and Grand Manan. Here up to a quarter of a million birds gather in early August, and it is consequently not surprising that flocks of a thousand or more are occasionally noted off the Massachusetts coast. These facts lead to the inference that the main fall flight of the Red Phalarope is far offshore, sometime between late September and late October, just the period when easterly gales are extremely rare, as compared with the preceding month and November.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

Parasitic Jaeger on Cayuga Lake, New York.—About a year ago, my friend Mr. S. Morris Pell reported seeing and examining a mounted immature jaeger said to have been captured at the north end of Cayuga Lake. Accompanying me to the city of Seneca Falls last June, Mr. Pell succeeded in locating the man who had mounted the specimen, Mr. George A. Brown. Mr. Brown informed us that the jaeger had been shot on October 15, 1937, along the west shore of the Lake, not far from the village of Canoga, in Seneca County. Eventually, in a garage in Seneca Falls, we found the bird itself. Since it had not been attacked by mice or moths, we were able to relax it and make it into a presentable skin without much difficulty. The specimen (Louis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Collection no. 3248) is clearly identifiable