

F. Miller, who has taken notes on his observations of birds in this locality for the past thirty-five years, he finds that the average date of fall departure is October 9 and that of spring arrival April 21.

During the past winter, I have found four birds of this species remaining with us at the Richmond Marshes, a tract within the city and situated along the Delaware River. The weather had not been too mild, and there were a number of freezes. However, the safety of these birds throughout the ice and snow was probably due to an influx of warm water through a culvert pipe, which kept open about one hundred square yards of water and cat-tails. I visited this locality on December 22, 1938, while working on a Christmas census report for the Philadelphia area. The marshes were frozen solid except for the small patch kept open by the warm water. At first, there seemed to be not a single sign of life; but, after remaining still for about five minutes, I was rewarded by a clucking sound. Right off, I believed I had a Coot; which appears to be the more hardy of the two cousins; but, a second later, a jerky head started out from behind a cat-tail clump and a gallinule burst out into the open. I clapped my hands to start the bird in order to see if it had been injured and robbed of its powers of flight. It seemed to be strong as it pattered across the water where it arose and flew to a dense cat-tail thicket. I remained quiet and saw one more individual come out from hiding. On January 5, 1939, I returned to the marsh, and this time saw four birds which took wing and flew to the middle when I flushed them. A record of crippled birds wintering would be the result of a forced issue upon them; but their stay must have been voluntary for all of them seemed possessed of their full powers of flight.

Heretofore, the only winter records of Mr. Miller for Philadelphia County had been one bird captured at Richmond, February 13, 1913; two birds seen at Richmond, November 9, 1927; and one bird at Richmond, November 7, 1932.—EDWARD J. REIMANN, 2285 E. Kennedy St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Lapwing at Bridgehampton, Long Island.—While pursuing a rough survey of the winter bird life of Long Island, New York, Messrs. Robert J. Newman and Millard Lindauer of the Miller Ornithological Club of Philadelphia discovered a mounted specimen of the Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) in the home of Dr. Eagleston, of Bridgehampton. His father while hunting in that vicinity had observed that it appeared to be of an unusual kind and shot it. The present Dr. Eagleston states that this occurred sometime during the fall of the year 1910. He asserted that his father at the first shot only wounded it, but finally caught it. The 'German Plover,' as he called it, was mounted, and to this day, remains in the Eagleston household, in the possession of his son, the present Dr. Eagleston of Bridgehampton.

So far, there are only two published records of the occurrence of this species on Long Island: two birds in December, 1883 (Dutcher, Auk, 3: 438, 1888); and a single bird in the autumn of 1905 (C. W. Beebe, Auk, 6: 221, 1906).—EDWARD J. REIMANN, 2285 E. Kennedy St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Long-billed Curlew in Massachusetts.—On June 14, 1938, Mr. J. P. Bishop, of South Chatham, found one of these great curlew on the "Red River" salt marsh at Chatham. At 7.30 p.m. it showed every sign of bedding down for the night, so he very kindly telephoned me in Cambridge. Knowing him to be most reliable and careful, his account was the first one I had ever received from an observer without previous experience of the species in life, that made me certain his bird was in fact a Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*). I accordingly left Cambridge at day-break, and reached Mr. Bishop's house some three hours later. The curlew was

located almost at once from a bluff overlooking the marsh. At a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile, only the pale head and great bill showed above the marsh grass, but this was ample for instant elimination of the Hudsonian Curlew, though not, of course, for a European Curlew.

Many misleading remarks about the identification of this curlew in life have been published in scientific manuals by ornithologists, whose lack of field experience or competence in the field are patent. They chiefly tend to stress the greater size and greater length of bill, but add the very proper proviso that a small Long-billed Curlew is no longer-billed than a large Hudsonian. Inexperienced bird observers consequently think they see an occasional Long-billed Curlew, because they are "sure" that the bird they saw was very much larger and longer-billed than the Hudsonian Curlew. In a region where the latter is a historic memory only, they naturally fail to produce a satisfactory record, chiefly because they did not know or note the characters that enable the experienced to recognize either species at practically the limit of vision in good light.

In the first place the Long-billed Curlew is in fact the largest of North American shorebirds. Entirely waiving the variable bill length, the body of a Long-billed Curlew is *almost twice as big* as that of a Hudsonian. To the experienced so great a difference is readily perceptible. Color characters are, however, even more definite. The Hudsonian is a dark-looking bird, a dingy grayish brown, with an even darker-appearing head, due to the five dusky stripes; in flight the under surface of the wing is buffy or grayish, obviously barred with dusky, and does not afford a color contrast with the rest of the under parts. In the Long-billed Curlew, on the other hand, the general color is light cinnamon, the *unstriped head appearing lighter* than the back. The general color effect is very pale and totally different from that of a Hudsonian; indeed, in good light it is perfectly apparent at a quarter of a mile. The under surface of the wing is a deep, bright cinnamon, in *very striking contrast* with the rest of the under parts; the barring, when present at all, is so sparse and narrow as to be practically invisible at long shotgun range.

To return to the bird at South Chatham, it was collected after an hour's stalk and proved to be a female with undeveloped ovaries, that had failed to complete the spring molt. This probably accounts for the abnormal and unprecedented date of occurrence. The specimen is now mounted in the New England Museum of Natural History. I repeat once more that this record was Mr. Bishop's discovery and here express my indebtedness to him for letting me share it. It gives me the pleasant opportunity of introducing Mr. Bishop to readers of 'The Auk'. Fortunately for New England ornithology, we now have an active student resident on the tip of Cape Cod, one of the most interesting stations for observation in the northeastern States.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

A Curlew new to North America.—Among the specimens received from Charles D. Brower, representative of The Colorado Museum of Natural History, this past fall, was an old-world curlew, *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*. The specimen, an adult male (C. M. N. H. no. 19454), was taken at Barrow, Alaska, June 10, 1938. It was submitted to James L. Peters, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, for final subspecific determination and he writes as follows: "The curlew is, beyond the slightest doubt, referable to *Numenius phaeopus variegatus* (Scopoli), the breeding form of northeastern Siberia. So far as I know, it is a new North American record. It is the form referred to on page 112 of the A. O. U. Check-list, 4th ed., under *Phaeopus phaeopus phaeopus*, where it says 'a closely allied race occurs in eastern