

widely, boisterously resenting my approach to its food. Even though the gull was still rather warm indicating recent death I hesitate to conclude that it had been actually killed by the Peregrine, for I have never seen any species of hawk even threaten an adult gull.

The same afternoon while returning past this spot I was astonished to see an American Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus sancti-johannis*) standing on the dead gull tearing off scraps of meat. I sat in my car for fully ten minutes watching this operation and then proceeded home. But the climax was not reached until the following day when I found a Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*) gleaning what it could from the nearly devoured carcass. Here were three species of hawks eating from the same piece of carrion. Anyone capable of analyzing the stomach contents of these birds assuredly would hesitate to say that the two latter species, if not the Peregrine, had destroyed this powerful gull. But then, the piece of carrion could just as well have been a dead pheasant or a dead chicken and the three hawks subsequently win the damnation of any sportsman witnessing the feast or reading of an authentic stomach-contents analysis by some scientist.—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *National Association of Audubon Societies, New York City.*

Purple Gallinule in Maryland.—On October 12, 1938, R. B. Smithers shot a gallinule on the Patuxent Marsh in lower Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The bird was sent in the flesh to the Natural History Society of Maryland. The specimen proved to be an immature female, and although we were not very familiar with gallinules in this plumage, characters of tarsi and nostrils indicated that it was a Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*). In January 1939, we were able to have this identification verified by Dr. Herbert Friedmann of the United States National Museum. The coloration tallies very closely with the description given for the juvenal plumage by Bent (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 135, p. 342). There is no indication of the dark purplish feathers which appear on the under parts in the post-juvenal molt. Thus, according to Bent's statements, the bird was probably less than two months old.

Although there are numerous records of the casual occurrence of this species north of the breeding range, it appears that no specimen has ever before been taken in Maryland. Kirkwood, in his list of Maryland birds (in Trans. Md. Acad. Sci., 1895, p. 281) speaks of one reported by Richmond to have been seen in Centre Market in Washington, D. C., from "down the Potomac somewhere." However, Cooke makes no mention of this species in her careful review of the 'Birds of the Washington, D. C., region' (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 42: 1-80). Bent (op. cit., p. 345), in a long list of casual occurrences, has no record from Maryland. Hence, it appears that this species can be added to the still inadequately inventoried avifauna of Maryland.—I. HAMPE, H. SEIBERT, H. KOLB, *The Natural History Society of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland.*

Spring flight of Golden Plover at Madison, Wisconsin.—On June 7, 1939, Mr. John Main and I found a flock of about forty Golden Plover (*Pluvialis d. dominica*) feeding in a field on an area known formerly as the 'Stoner Prairie.' A group of six birds that had separated from the main flock allowed me to approach within a distance of 75 feet. The large flock remained through the 14th; on the 15th, only six birds were left. Previously, neither of us had seen a flock in spring during the past twenty years.—A. W. SCHORGER, 168 N. Prospect Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.

Recent observations on the Eskimo Curlew in Argentina.—In view of the near extinction of the Eskimo Curlew (*Phaeopus borealis*) it is of interest to record

some observations detailed in a recent letter to me from Mr. Ernest Ronald Runnacles, of General Lavalle, in the eastern part of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The region is one which has long been well known to ornithologists from the early investigations of Mr. Ernest Gibson, so that modern studies here have a double importance.

Mr. Runnacles, who is thoroughly familiar with the birds of his region, writes me that on February 16, 1937, he saw two, or possibly three, Eskimo Curlews on a level plain near the town. The birds were quite wild and were observed for some time from an automobile. One had been seen in this same region about a month previous, and another was recorded there on February 19. On the 28th of the month the birds had disappeared. Finally, one individual was seen at this same place on January 17, 1939.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Western Sandpiper near Chicago.—A number of reports of the presence of the Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes maurii*) in the Chicago region, based on sight records, have been published during recent years. We have very few records based on specimens, however, and it seems advisable to report one which I collected several years ago. This specimen, a male, was taken at Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois, on July 29, 1928. It was identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser and bears the number 516 in my collection.—STEPHEN S. GREGORY, JR., *Winnetka, Illinois.*

Black Terns in New Brunswick.—While studying the nesting of waterfowl on June 14, 1937, near Sheffield, Sunbury County, New Brunswick, I saw six Black Terns (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) flying over a marshy area along a small creek. When near the same place on May 26, 1938, I observed three Black Terns which indicated, by their actions, that they might be nesting nearby. Lack of time prevented a search for a nest, but the marshy area was well adapted to their use. Again, on May 24, 1939, four Black Terns were observed flying over the same small marshy area. I know of no record of this species having nested in New Brunswick. Col. H. H. Ritchie, chief game warden of New Brunswick, and John Campbell, game warden, were with me when the terns were seen in both 1937 and 1938.—HAROLD S. PETERS, *U. S. Biological Survey, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Spring record of Dovekie in the Connecticut valley.—The strong blow on May 13, 1938, brought bad luck to a female Dovekie (*Alle alle*) a hundred miles or more inland from its native element. In the town of Granby, Massachusetts, Mrs. Henry Boyer reported sighting what she thought to be a chicken by the roadside as she rode with her husband westward toward Holyoke. Mr. Boyer stopped the car to investigate. The strange bird fluttered off down the road at his approach. After a chase of twenty-five feet or so, he succeeded in dropping his hat over the bird, which seemed to him exhausted rather than injured. He left his captive at a nearby farm where the bird expired two days later. At the Holyoke Museum of Natural History the specimen subsequently proved to be a female.

All previous records of the Dovekie in this section of the Connecticut Valley have occurred during the late fall or early winter. This is the first capture to be recorded in the spring of the year.—AARON C. BAGG, 72 *Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Massachusetts.*

Left-handedness in the Carolina Paroquet.—In connection with Friedmann and Davis's paper on "Left-handedness" in Parrots' in the 'Auk' for July, 1938, it may be worth while to call attention to Wilson's account of that behavior as it existed in *Conuropsis carolinensis*. (Though the individual particularly observed was taken alive at Big Bone Lick, Kentucky, and therefore may be presumed to have