

Refuge, Back Bay, Virginia, by Mrs. C. A. Barefield, Mrs. Colgate Darden, Jr., H. A. Bailey, Manager of the Refuge, and myself. It was feeding at the edge of the water in the cove opposite Cedar Island. The flats at this place were covered with water to the depth of one or two inches. The phalarope attracted our attention by its exquisitely dainty head and neck and its dazzlingly white breast and under parts. The legs appeared conspicuously yellow, the bill fine and apparently at least as long as the width of the head. As the phalarope fed we saw it whirl completely around in a circle, very fast; also it dabbed from side to side. At no time did we see it swimming in the water. Because of the noticeably clear yellow of the legs we did not think it could be confused with anything except the Lesser Yellow-legs, and we had an excellent opportunity to compare it with a group of ten Lesser Yellow-legs and one Greater Yellow-legs, which were feeding not many yards away. We also flushed it to make certain that there was not a noticeable wing-stripe. Later the phalarope joined a group of twelve Pectoral Sandpipers, four White-rumped Sandpipers, and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Mrs. Darden took moving pictures of it, and Dr. J. J. Murray showed a portion of her film to Mr. Ludlow Griscom who confirmed our identification of it as a Wilson's Phalarope. Dr. Murray states that this is an addition to the Virginia bird list, that it is a rare visitor at Cape May, New Jersey, and that there are only a half-dozen North Carolina records.—MRS. A. C. REED, Norfolk, Virginia.

Flamingo on the Texas coast.—There have been many reports of Flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus ruber* Linnaeus) on the coast of Texas, but since these birds might be confused by the layman with the Roseate Spoonbill and since spoonbills are commonly observed on the Texas coast, it has been concluded by ornithologists that there was little proof that a Flamingo had ever been seen in Texas in the natural state. If there are any published records, they are unknown to the writer.

On July 27, 1943, Mr. Fred C. Stark of the San Antonio Zoological Park, Mr. F. F. Dietz of San Antonio, and the writer left Rockport, Texas, on a Game, Fish and Oyster Commission launch. I am indebted to Captain M. B. Mullinax and Mr. Ben A. Earp, who piloted the boat, and other officials of the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission for the privilege of making this trip. The purpose of the trip was to collect young birds for the San Antonio Zoological Park.

While we were cruising along near Carroll Island of the Second Chain of Islands in lower San Antonio Bay, I saw a Flamingo standing in the water near the island. The observation was made through binoculars (Zeiss 8 x 40). I immediately asked Captain Mullinax to stop the boat. Mr. Stark verified the identification and Mr. Earp, who has been a taxidermist for many years and who is acquainted with bird life, also concurred in the identification, as did Mr. Dietz, who is a student of birds. Captain Mullinax was the last to view the bird with the glasses. The men then left the boat and I waded toward the bird, which had not moved from its original position near the marker of the National Audubon Preserve. I was able to approach within 75 feet of the Flamingo before it moved. Then it took several steps, rose, and circled slowly about 50 feet over my head, showing the dark wing markings, with long neck fully extended and legs trailing behind. The bird flew southeastward out of sight towards Matagorda Island. The time spent in observation of the Flamingo was over half an hour. There were hundreds of Roseate Spoonbills standing near which we could make comparison, and there was no possibility of mistaking this red bird with the delicate pink spoonbills.

On the same date a hurricane hit the Texas Coast at Galveston but there was no

stormy condition in the Aransas Bay region. It is possible that the Flamingo flew in ahead of the hurricane. There is also the possibility that the bird had been in this region for several weeks. Mr. Gordon Gunter, of the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, told me afterwards that some three or four weeks previously Mr. George A. Ratisseau had reported seeing, at a great distance and not very clearly, what he thought was possibly a Flamingo among a group of Roseate Spoonbills, near his Jolly Roger Camp on Copano Bay.

The Flamingo may have been a stray from the Bahama region or it might have come from Yucatan. The latter supposition seems to be the most plausible one.—
CONGER N. HAGAR (MRS. JACK HAGAR), *Rockport, Texas*.

Notes on certain birds of the lower Florida Keys.—During the writer's assignment at Key West, Florida, for the Fish and Wildlife Service from February 1939 until October 1942, notes were made on the avifauna of the Lower Florida Keys, which include those keys lying from about the Bahia Honda bridge southwesterly to the Marquesas, including the Great White Heron and Key West National Wildlife Refuges.

Although much time and study was devoted to the Great White, Ward's, and Wurdemann's herons, about 160 species and subspecies of birds were recorded. As comparatively little information has been published on the area, the following species have been selected as of special interest. Terrestrial bird life was disappointing until it was realized that the area is maritime, consisting of hundreds of keys scattered along the Gulf and Atlantic Ocean with many miles of water.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*).—Although we found no nests on the Marquesas Keys, which lie about twenty miles off Key West and comprise the westerly extremity of the Key West Refuge, we did see birds there as follows: February 20, 1940, one adult bird flying directly over our skiff late in the afternoon. On July 16 of the same year, one bird alighted on the marl flat and commenced feeding, and later in the day Joe Warren, my patrolman, and I saw four birds off Little Creek near Eastern Harbor of the Marquesas, one of which may have been the bird recorded earlier. On April 18, 1941, Joe Warren counted six birds at the Marquesas, and on June 18 of the same year, I saw one in flight there.

On July 25, 1942, one bird, apparently an adult, was seen feeding about a pond in Key West. On August 13, 14, 15, 25, and 29, 1942, one bird, probably the same individual, was seen feeding about the ponds of Key West, generally in the evening around 8 P. M. It was at times quite tame, allowing a close approach.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).—Wintering regularly, as far as I could determine from natives, this western hawk has been recorded by the writer in Key West, on Stock Island, Sugarloaf and Noname Keys. Those seen appeared to be of the light phase or possibly intergrades. They were tame, appeared sluggish, and were easily approached. Birds, perched on poles along the highway, would fly from pole to pole in front of an approaching car or pedestrian.

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*).—I have only a few records of this rare bird in the area. Two birds were seen soaring near Porpoise Key on March 16, 1939, both in the white phase. One bird in the dark phase was seen soaring near Key Largo, off the mainland, on January 1, 1940. At one time it dived toward the earth for a short distance. A bird in the dark phase was seen at Boca Grande Key, in the Key West Refuge, on October 17, 1940.

Mangrove Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris insularum*).—Apparently a permanent resident although seldom seen during the winter months. An abundant nester about