

the Tortugas, Smithsonian Report, 1917). Scott's observations were recorded (Auk, 7: 301).

It may be of further interest that on Long Key, the writer's son picked up on June 16 a pair of wings attached to an almost complete sternum and ribs. These were identified by the writer, and corroborated by Dr. Wetmore, as those of a purple gallinule.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina*.

**The southernmost nesting of the killdeer.**—On June 1, 1948, Glenn T. Chandler found a nest and four eggs of the killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*, at "Nigger Duck," three miles west of the mouth of the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, Glades County, Florida. On June 20, the writer went to the spot with Warden Chandler and saw the bird on the eggs. As far as can be ascertained, this is the southernmost point at which this species has been found breeding in this country. Old-timers in the Lake Okeechobee-Kissimmee Prairie region, who have spent their lives in the area, stated that they had never seen or heard of the "killdee" except in winter.

Donald Nicholson (MS) found killdeer eggs hatching at the mouth of the Kissimmee River on June 7, 1943. The most southerly record next to this is that by Howell (Florida Bird-Life, 1932: 221) at Lake Istokpoga, some 20 miles to the northward. The breeding range is now extended at least to Lake Okeechobee.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina*.

**Long-billed curlew breeding in Colorado.**—Peters (Check-list of Birds of World, 2: 263, 1934) reports that the long-billed curlew, *Numenius a. americanus* Bechstein, "now breeds only in southern Idaho, eastern Nevada and Utah; formerly bred east to Wisconsin and Illinois." It seems appropriate, therefore, to record our finding breeding birds and downy young just out of the nest along Two Buttes Creek, 14 miles north of Springfield, Baca County, Colorado, in early June, 1948. At this locality a dozen or so pairs were nesting on grassy flood plains along the creek. Downy young were handled and photographed by members of our group on June 10.

Birds in breeding condition were also collected three miles south of Campo, Colorado, on June 8. This is some 40 miles south of Two Buttes Creek. The birds were paired and behaved as if they were nesting.

In 1947, several curlews were observed on grassy flats three miles southeast of Texline, Dallam County, Texas, on June 2. A male collected there had large testes in breeding condition. It is quite likely that these birds were nesting in the vicinity.

These records indicate that some of the former breeding range, at least, is being reoccupied. Also, they suggest that the numbers of curlews are on the upgrade.

Measurements in millimeters of two males were: culmen, 137 and 162; wing, 265 and 265; of two females: culmen, 200 and 216; wing 285 and 293. Measurements of the females are well above the maximum for *N. a. parvus* and within the range of variation for *N. a. americanus*.—WILLIAM B. DAVIS, *Department of Wildlife Management, College Station, Texas*.

**Status of the upland plover in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.**—Lancaster County, perhaps more so than any other parts of Pennsylvania that are hilly and still quite generally wooded, today affords conditions well-suited to *Bartramia longicauda*. Originally of the midwest plains, the species probably came into this part of eastern North America only after this heavily timbered region had been cleared into broad farmlands, for the bird's adopted habitat must be sufficiently prairie-like.

Within Pennsylvania these conditions are best fulfilled in localized parts of the Piedmont Plateau, that highly agricultural, fairly low region southeast of the Kittatiny or Blue Mountain range, against the Mason and Dixon Line and the Delaware River. From a fair estimate, based on early agricultural developments of Lancaster County, though without authentic records, the upland plover probably came into this region about 1800. About one-third of the bird's annual cycle is spent on its breeding grounds; in Lancaster County this is from April 15 to the last week in August. November to March it is on its winter range, the vast pampas of Argentina into Uruguay. The last third is along its still not entirely known migration route—two months of the fall in passing south mainly through the West Indies and about two months of the early spring in returning north, chiefly through Texas and Oklahoma, to its breeding range in the northern parts of the United States and Canada. The round trip is more than 14,000 miles. Following my plan, which I started in 1921, to estimate the status of the upland plover in Lancaster County, I took my tenth census on August 6, 1947. Four areas were selected as typical breeding and feeding grounds of the upland plover in 1921, on the basis of my prior experiences as a hunter. These were covered, as usual, by a party of competent observers who counted the birds seen. These widely separated tracts, in central and northern Lancaster County, are as follows: A, two square miles in Penn-Warwick townships; B, two square miles in Manheim Township, including the Lancaster Municipal Airport; C, one square mile in Warwick Township; D, two square miles in Elizabeth-Clay townships. The complete census report, to date, is as follows:

	Tract	A	B	C	D	Total
1921 (Aug. 4)		12	3	3	3	21
1922 (Aug. 3)		8	9	1	4	22
1923 (Aug. 9)		23	35	1	15	74
1925 (Aug. 8)		1	3	0	1	5
1936 (Aug. 4)		5	22	4	11	42
1937 (Aug. 4)		11	28	1	17	57
1939 (Aug. 3)		14	75	0	5	94
1941 (Aug. 4)		94	65	0	2	161
1945 (Aug. 8)		5	28	12	2	47
1947 (Aug. 6)		23	82	1	2	108

The count of 1945 I do not consider normal. That season, hay-making and harvest were so delayed by nearly continuous wet weather that the first week in August found most of the grass and wheatfields still uncut and full of weeds. Feeding conditions being unfavorable, I believe many of the plover left the region earlier than usual. A notable feature of the census, in recent years, has been the increase of plover on tract B, the Lancaster Municipal Airport. On this broad, level land, where there is only grass, the bird has found conditions similar to those of the mid-west prairies. Between one and two dozen pairs breed there now. Still wary of man, rising and descending planes have become an unnoticed part of their lives.

Protection in the United States, with little doubt, has saved this picturesque dry-land sandpiper from the extinction suffered by its relative, the Eskimo curlew, *Numenius borealis*. For, protected in the United States since 1914 and no longer killed there to any extent, the upland plover is still a prized game bird over the greater part of its range after it leaves the United States. Richard H. Pough of the National Audubon Society, a few years ago, found great numbers of upland plover being shot in Barbados during the fall. Alexander Wetmore of the United States National Museum reported, after a visit to South America in 1926, that there were many market gunners in Argentina and Uruguay, that the game-laws there were

loose and not enforced, and that the upland plover was one of the favorite foods served in many restaurants. It had in fact replaced the Eskimo curlew as a table delicacy. A recent letter from Dr. Wetmore indicates that he knows of no change in these conditions.

Assuming that the census in Lancaster County properly represents conditions in its extensive breeding range, which I think it does, the general numerical status of the upland plover seems to be stabilized today. While there has been a notable increase since 1914, the rate of production in the northern zone now seems to be balanced by the rate of destruction in the southern zone. Possible increase is dependent upon improvement and enforcement of the game laws in countries along the migration route, and in Argentina and Uruguay. It can scarcely be hoped that the numbers will ever return to those of 1906. On July 16 of that year, according to my diary of field-sports, there were 250 to 300 plovers on tract D alone.

I was assisted in 1947 by Leo A. Luttringer, Jr., Frank T. Thurlow, Barton L. Sharp, Russell Markert, George H. Pennypacker, Charles H. Regennas, Jr., Donald Ruhl and John D. Kendig.—HERBERT H. BECK, *Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.*

**Flock of northern phalaropes at Daytona Beach, Florida.**—On the night of September 2, 1948, people attending a baseball game on City Island, in the Halifax River about one mile west of the Atlantic Ocean, saw a flock of 50 to 100 birds fly out of the darkness and dash into the brilliant lights which illuminate the field. This continued for several minutes, in the course of which some 20 birds fell to the ground. Observers were uncertain whether the same flock was circling about, to appear and re-appear, or whether several flocks came in quick succession. Two of the birds were picked up alive and brought to me the next day for identification; they were northern phalaropes, *Lobipes lobatus*. The boys who picked up these birds reported that about 20 more were lying on the ground. I visited the ball park the next afternoon and found eight mangled bodies. One of the captured birds died during the night; the other was released in the Halifax River. This would seem to be the first record for a flock of northern phalaropes in Florida, and the third record for the species in this state.—R. J. LONGSTREET, *Daytona Beach, Florida.*

**Glaucous gull in South Carolina.**—On November 22, 1947, on the Cooper River waterfront of Charleston, S. C., I saw a gull which from its white wings and large size, I took to be the glaucous, *Larus hyperboreus*. Two days later the bird was secured by Mr. E. B. Chamberlain and was found to be *hyperboreus*.

It is the first specimen to be taken in South Carolina. Measurements are as follows: wing, 462 mm.; tail, 186 mm.; exposed culmen, 56 mm. (the tip of the bill was shot off); height of bill, 20 mm.; and tarsus, 65 mm. Previously, the only instance of a "white-winged" gull being seen on the South Carolina coast was the report by W. W. Humphreys of a bird in November, 1943, near the same place. Efforts to secure it failed. In February, 1931, Ivan R. Tomkins secured a specimen of the glaucous gull at the Savannah River entrance, on the Georgia side.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, IV, *Davidson, N. C.*

**"Puddling"**—A method of feeding by herring gulls.—On October 23, 1947, herring gulls, *Larus argentatus*, were observed feeding in shallow tide pools on the sandy beach at Belliveau Cove, St. Mary Bay, Nova Scotia, in a fashion that was new to the writer. The birds stood in water one-fourth to three-fourths of an inch deep and worked their feet up and down with a pumping motion for about 30 seconds