

A Set of Twelve Eggs of the Woodcock, *Philohela minor*.—In common with other members of the family, a set of eggs of the Woodcock almost always numbers four. Sets of five are rare and sets of three are not common, although found once in a while. The following occurrence is, therefore, of unusual interest.

On April 30, 1938, Paul Bryan of the Tennessee Valley Authority found a nest of this bird at the Wheeler Reservoir, near Decatur, Alabama, that contained 12 eggs. When the report was received with other distribution and migration data, I naturally assumed that an error had been made and wrote Mr. Bryan to that effect. He replied that "The nest of twelve Woodcock eggs is correct. I saw the bird on the nest, flushed her off and counted the eggs. There could be a possibility of several [birds] laying in the same nest although I have never heard of it. I made a complete check of the nest and contents. The eggs were all Woodcock eggs and there were twelve in the nest."

As Mr. Bryan states, this set could have been the product of three females laying in the same nest, but even if this explanation is accepted, the record is most exceptional.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

Greater Yellow-legs, *Totanus melanoleucus*, Swimming.—On October 18, 13 Greater Yellow-legs were seen feeding along the edge of a small fresh-water pond on the edge of the salt marsh near Cape May Court House, New Jersey. My companion and I advanced cautiously, and the birds, becoming uneasy, waded out into the pond. Instead of taking flight, as we expected, they continued wading until they floated and then gathered into a close group and continued swimming gently towards the center of the pond. They swam easily, with the fore-part low and the stern high, and kept up a musical gabbling as they progressed. After they had gone about 50 yards and had reached the center of the pond they suddenly sprang into flight and made off, calling the usual tri-syllabic note.

Earlier in the day we had watched a single bird swim across a ten-foot channel in the marsh while chasing small fish, and I have a note of an exactly similar occurrence last year on October 12.

Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 142: 328, 1927) quotes J. T. Nichols' reference to this not infrequent swimming of the Greater Yellow-legs. It is to be expected that shore-birds can swim; what is surprising is that they do it so seldom.—J. D'ARCY NORTHWOOD, 270 North Fullerton Avenue, Monicclair, N. J.

Wilson's Phalarope, *Steganopus tricolor*, a New Record for the West Indies.—On September 25, 1949, an example of Wilson's Phalarope, was collected by Mr. François Hayot at Petit-Bourg, Martinique, French West Indies. Identification of the specimen has been confirmed at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, to the collection of which it has been added.

This constitutes a new record for the West Indies, a somewhat remarkable fact because Wilson's Phalarope is a regular migrant to South America and was originally described from Paraguay. The species, unlike the two other phalaropes, is primarily a bird of inland waters rather than of the ocean, and pelagic records in either the Atlantic or the Pacific are extremely rare.

The Martinique specimen is a young bird, wholly comparable in plumage and measurements with others of the same season of the year. Its youthful character was confirmed by examination of the gonads. Its stomach was full of insects in a state of digestion that made identification impossible. The terrain in which it was collected was a bare, flat stretch of land separated from the sea by a mangrove swamp and showing only a few tufts of sedge among pools of rainwater.