

heron carried the lamprey to the edge of the pool where it was immersed. Then, taking the lamprey in its beak, the bird attempted to swallow the animal head first; but the cylindrical prey slipped easily from the mouth of the heron.

At 2:35 p.m., the heron began to work with the dead lamprey in the shallow water and tried to tear loose small pieces of its body. Once, while giving the lamprey a vigorous shake, the heron was momentarily cast off balance but quickly regained footing with a side-step. At 2:38 p.m., the bird again tried to swallow its prey entire, but let go after a bad start. Four minutes later the heron again tried to swallow the whole lamprey. The neck of the bird was distended when the lamprey moved down its throat as the bird tried vigorously to gulp down its victim, though without success.

After a short rest the heron shook the lamprey again in the water. Finally, at 2:47 p.m., the heron took the lamprey once more by the head; and, following a series of progressively violent, undulatory jerks of the head and body, the bird, as it was able to straighten its long neck in the process of swallowing, succeeded in engulfing, inch by inch, the whole lamprey. The bird presented a ludicrous sight as it stood between jerks of the head and body with the lamprey drooping from its beak. More amusing still was the appearance of the bird as it stood humped, heron fashion, near the shore of the pool and occasionally writhed and straightened its neck in trying to ease the bulging crop. When the heron saw me move from cover it quickly flew upstream out of sight beyond the dam.—ELDEN H. VESTAL, *California Division of Fish and Game, Stanford University, California, February 28, 1939.*

More Shore-birds from the Humboldt Bay Region.—Mountain Plover. *Eupoda montana*. Male taken on January 8, 1927, on the ocean side of Humboldt Bay. On December 6, 1938, a female was taken by Robert Talmadge near the same place.

American Golden Plover. *Pluvialis dominica dominica*. Male taken August 31, 1935, near the mouth of Clark's Slough, within Eureka city limits. The capture of this species makes 31 kinds of shore-birds I have taken in the near vicinity of Humboldt Bay.

Baird Sandpiper. *Pisobia bairdii*. August 15, 1926, seven birds seen, three specimens taken. August 22, three birds, one taken. September 18, eight birds, three taken. In 1927, I did not find a single Baird Sandpiper. On August 19, 1928, one was found and taken, as it was following a small flock of Sanderlings at the water's edge. In 1929, on August 11, four birds, one taken; September 1, five seen, two taken; and September 8, ten seen, four taken. In 1930, none; in 1931, September 3, three seen, one taken; in 1932, August 20, eleven seen, four taken; in 1933, August 21, two seen, one taken. On August 23, 1936, Miss Leno Moll found three Bairds, one sample taken. The above Baird Sandpipers were all found on the ocean side of Humboldt Bay.

Avocet. *Recurvirostra americana*. Male taken on August 17, 1935; a female taken August 18. They were found in a small pond of stagnant water within Eureka city limits.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, California, February 5, 1939.*

Notes from the Palo Alto Sports Club.—The Palo Alto Sports Club lies in Santa Clara County, California, between the Bay Shore Highway and the south end of San Francisco Bay. Here, some twenty years ago, two large pools were diked off by a now quiescent salt company. Water gates were put in to control water levels. The dikes were graded and thus make it possible to drive around the two pools, covering a distance of several miles, and to reach the South Bay Port Warehouse on the east. Obviously, it is a paradise for the observation of shore and marsh birds. The Club has graciously given keys and honorary membership, of course without hunting and fishing rights, to Dr. Willis H. Rich and the writer, with permission to bring in qualified students and visitors. As a result, during the last two years, this area has been checked, at times almost daily, by us and the following students interested in the Stanford Natural History Museum: Applegarth, Cope, Henry, King, Longhurst, Nichols and Sanders. The following citations from notebooks seem worthy of record because of their bearing upon seasonal and geographical distribution.

Northern Phalarope. *Lobipes lobatus*. First observed on April 22, 1937, when a lone bird was rescued by Sanders with no little labor and some danger from a deep viscous mud-bank. Subsequently, they were present in hundreds throughout May. They returned in equal numbers in late July and August. In 1938, the water level was lowered and only one Northern was noted, July 17, 1937 was a great phalarope year for this area; 1938 was almost a total blank. The same holds for Bonaparte Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) and Caspian Terns (*Sterna caspia*).

Wilson Phalarope. *Steganopus tricolor*. First observed on July 28, 1937. They remained in small groups consorting with the Northerns until late in August. Early birds were mostly in molt; of seven taken by the writer, five were females. The males were doubtless still largely detained elsewhere