

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

by their family cares. None noted in 1938, and, to judge from the past, they will probably not appear again for years.

American Avocet. *Recurvirostra americana*. Abundant in 1937 at both pools; 63 were counted on July 12. Young appeared in June in broods of one, two and three (sheer exactness is difficult because of their skulking and hiding in grass and weeds). One brood of four was definitely noted. On June 10, two young birds were observed swimming blithely a hundred feet or more from shore, causing more than usual trepidation to their excited parents. During the summer this breeding colony was a constant source of delight to many visitors. In fact the writer, for several weeks, functioned largely as a kind of exalted Avocet patron, to show them to their eager friends and as a self-deputed warden to protect them from those of evil intent. The lower water levels of 1938 apparently changed the scene. No young were noted, and in mid-July not more than seven could be counted along both pools.

Sanderling. *Crocethia alba*. On the south shore of the east pool, 23 were observed on September 11, 1937, and seven at the same place on September 25. The shores are muddy and the birds were not happy with the association (see Junea W. Kelly, "Geologic Factors in the Distribution of Birds," Condor, vol. 37, 1935, p. 11). They remained scattered, singly or in very small groups; no flocking and, of course, no platoon running with the waves. Their curious petulance toward the omnipresent Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*) was striking.

Lesser Yellow-legs. *Totanus flavipes*. On March 5, 1937, two were observed on the Dudfield Flat, on the west side of the Bay Shore. One was taken (no. 182, E. W. M., collection Stanford N. H. Mus.). This is unique, the writer believes, as a spring migrant for the San Francisco Bay region. In fact (so far as the writer knows) most of the California records are for late summer or fall birds.

Western Snowy Plover. *Charadrius nivosus nivosus*. Young fledgling birds were observed on the middle dike, on August 3, 1937. None noted in 1938. Semipalmated Plovers (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) also were much more numerous in 1937 than in 1938.

Spotted Sandpiper. *Actitis macularia*. Only one has been observed in the area, September 11, 1937 (no. 551, E. W. M. Coll.).

Baird Sandpiper. *Pisobia bairdii*. A solitary bird was taken on the south shore of the east pool on September 4, 1937 (no. 540, E. W. M. Coll.). Identification has been kindly confirmed by Mr. Chase Littlejohn, and by Robert T. Orr of the California Academy of Sciences. The Baird is so rare in this area that it was not even listed in the 1927 "Directory" to the bird-life of the Bay region by Grinnell and Wythe.

Western Pigeon Hawk. *Falco columbarius bendirei*. One was taken by Longhurst near the west pool, on November 7, 1937 (no. 623, E. W. M. Coll.). Mentioned only because this bird had very recently dined on two Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*), as proved by the feet found in the stomach. Another taken, also by Longhurst, at Pescadero, San Mateo County (no. 678, E. W. M. Coll.), on January 18, 1938, by the same token had a penchant for Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis* subsp.), save that in this instance the feet were not swallowed.

White-tailed Kite. *Elanus leucurus*. Only one noted as it hovered over a grain field, south of the lower Embarcadero, on June 2, 1937. Mentioned here only because in this identical area this lovely and lovable bird is recorded as common by several observers at the turn of the century.

*Desiderata*: We have about given up hopes of noting either of the Turnstones, the Wandering Tattler or the Surf-bird in the area; the associations are too violent, but we still yearn to record, in particular, the following: Golden Plover, Black Rail, Yellow Rail, Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Black-necked Stilt, and Black Tern. Club members have a plan to reopen an old artesian well and to equip it with a windmill and thus flood part of a small meadow to the south of the west pool; without doubt this would help solve some of the desiderata, and others as well, for later records. The larger practical program of mosquito control may, however, nullify the plan.—E. W. MARTIN, Palo Alto, California, February 23, 1939.

**Nesting Records of the Red-shafted Flicker from Charleston Mountain, Nevada.**—In his "Birds of the Charleston Mountains, Nevada" (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 24, 1936, p. 27), van Rossem makes the observation that the Red-shafted Flicker was not found nesting in the area and that "no nest holes were found, nor was a single flicker seen in July and August, 1932. . . . I have no explanation to offer as to why flickers apparently avoid the mountains of southern Nevada during the breeding season."

During July, 1938, I discovered two nests of this flicker in the aspen grove at the Kyle Canyon Campground at Charleston Mountain. Both homes were still occupied when I revisited the area in August, but apparently the young were gone at that time. Both pairs of flickers appeared to be *Colaptes cafer collaris*.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, Boulder City, Nevada, February 3, 1939.