

hundred birds. In both cases the 4000 Blue Geese were flocks at rest in a shallow slough or mud flat. Among these were Snow Geese, estimated at 100 in each case. These birds were simply standing at ease. There was more or less commotion in places from time to time, and in the second large resting group, geese were constantly arriving in small flocks from the direction of the first large flock; when we first came upon the second flock it contained at least 2000, possibly 3000, geese, and hence was in addition to the first large flock of 4000. No Canada Geese or White-fronted Geese were seen among these resting flocks, nor did we see any Canada Geese flying with the Blue Geese; but the Snow Geese and Blue Geese were always intermingled, the latter far outnumbering the former.

On the way home, toward evening, we saw a great flock coming from the direction of the slough, and saw them alight in a stubble corn field, where they began to feed, apparently on stray kernels of corn. Flocks continued to come in and alight, making a column of geese numbering, perhaps, 1500. The column proceeded through the field, at times approaching within a hundred yards of the highway, where twenty-five or thirty automobiles were parked to enable the occupants to view the unusual sight. These birds are not included in the figures, because we assumed that they came from the flocks already counted.

I have never before seen or heard of such numbers of Blue Geese migrating through this part of the country. It is probably the result of adequate protection in the winter quarters in the south together with spring protection. Their far north breeding ground renders them practically immune during that season. I have not heard of any corresponding increase in the number of Canada Geese.—T. C. STEPHENS, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

Actions of a Young Wilson's Plover.—On June 26, 1927, I visited a colony of Least Terns which were nesting on a sand-bar close to the shore on the Indian River, right in the city of Titusville, Brevard County, Florida. While looking for types of Least Tern eggs new to me, I caught sight of a fleeting, small object near to the edge of the water, and, suspecting it to be a young Least Tern, I went to the spot where it was last seen. Here, crouched upon the ground among shells and debris, was a young Wilson's Plover about five days old. It lay with its head and neck lying on the ground, and as I stooped to pick it up it dashed away with remarkable speed. I gave chase, and when close upon it it dodged between my legs. This was repeated a number of times before I was able to catch the nimble little fellow. When captured it cried loudly, and struggled to escape. As I was chasing the young the parents flew toward the spot with sharp cries, and alighted within a few feet of me, uttering their plaintive cries while they dragged their wings along the ground, with the feathers of their backs raised.

It was such a splendid opportunity to secure good poses at close range that I decided to go for my camera in the car a few hundred feet away, so I put the young plover under a shell of a Horse-shoe or King Crab, placing wet sand around the edges to keep it from escaping. Returning shortly, I found the young lying quietly beneath the shell. It commenced to cry out as I held it, thus attracting the parents once more, but this time they did not offer anything near the previous chances to take good pictures, so I gave it up and endeavored to get one of the young. But every time I got a focus it would dive off, and right after it I went. Finally, it made its escape to the water, running out as

far as it could and then swimming five or six feet until it reached a submerged log. It lay within a few inches of the log, with its neck and head resting flat upon the surface, in the shadow. A more effective concealment could not have been found. I crept up easily to take a picture, but, sensing its detection, it swam off in a wide circle, then made rapid strokes for shore. While I was maneuvering with the Graflex it gained the shore and when I looked around it was nowhere in sight. I never saw it again.

The young of the Least Terns that were old enough to leave the nests were found hiding under the small green weeds, on the sand-bar, which afforded them shade and concealment.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Fla.*

Some New Bird Records for North Dakota.—Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*).—On April 25, 1928, a pair of Trumpeter Swans were seen on Slades Lake, a few miles southeast of Dawson, North Dakota, by Lee Pettibone. These swans were in company with a flock of 125 Whistling Swans, but kept off to themselves. Their large size, in comparison with the Whistling Swan, was very noticeable. The difference in their call notes was also observed. Mr. Pettibone is an old and well known bird student, and his observations can be relied upon. Trumpeter Swans are now so scarce that any note of them is of sufficient importance to record.

Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*).—The North Dakota Historical Society now has a mounted specimen of an immature Little Blue Heron, which was taken near Sims, North Dakota, about forty miles west of Bismarck, in the fall of 1914. The bird was taken by Mr. August Timmerman of Mandan, North Dakota, and was thought to be a White Egret. I do not believe that there is a published record of this species for the state.

White Gryfalcon (*Falco islandus*).—While visiting the taxidermist shop of J. D. Allen of Mandan, North Dakota, I was attracted by a large white hawk. Upon closer examination the bird proved to be a White Gyrfalcon. Mr. Allen stated that the bird had been sent and later sold to him by Zepphon M. Smith of Buffalo, North Dakota. By correspondence with Mr. Smith, I found that the bird had been taken at his farm six miles northeast of Buffalo, on or about the first of December, 1922. Noticing his Belgium pigeons very much excited over something, he went outside to investigate. He found the gryfalcon making repeated dashes to catch them. It was not at all shy and he had no difficulty in shooting it. Unfortunately the sex of the bird was not noted, but judging from its size and coloration it is probably a young female. The mounted specimen is now preserved in the collection of the North Dakota State Historical Society. As far as I am aware this is the first record for the state.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*).—On May 28, 1928, while on a visit to the Bad Lands about eighteen miles south of Marmarth, North Dakota, I was attracted by a small sparrow singing from the sage brush. It was a new song to me, so after some difficulty, due to the approaching darkness, I was able to secure a specimen. Upon examination it proved to be a Brewer's Sparrow. On the following day I saw and heard several of these birds a few miles west of Marmarth. As far as I am aware this species is not given in any of the state lists.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Laniivireo solitarius solitarius*).—On May 24, 1927, the writer secured a fine male specimen of the Blue-headed Vireo at Bismarck, North