

breast, but the black malar stripes were at once in evidence and served to distinguish it quickly from the white-throats and white-crowns with which it was associated. The broad buffy-brown flank stripes were also noted as well as the large size of the bird, its light bill, the buffy line over its eyes and the buffy sides of its head. It also would fly up and perch when startled from the ground instead of scurrying away like the white-throats.

While making a Christmas bird census on December 22, 1930, I was lucky enough to discover a Franklin's Gull (*Larus franklini*) standing all alone at the lake. It was an immature bird in its first winter plumage, and the white forehead contrasting with the dark nuchal collar, which it wears at this period, made it easily separable from any other species of small gull. As the bird has remained at the same place up to the present writing (last of January, 1931) and I have had several opportunities for observing it, the identification is unquestionable. The eye ring, broad black subterminal tail band, pure white breast and black-tipped wings with their narrow white lower edges, combined with the striking head markings, made it an unusual looking little gull for this section.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

Some Types of Nests of the Black-necked Stilt in Florida.—While the Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) have bred in many localities in Florida in the past, it was not until last year (1930) that a suitable artificial breeding place, and one to their liking, was made for them by the real estate development companies.

This was near the head of Biscayne Bay, and adjoining the inland waterway canal where a large area was filled by suction dredging, or pumping up from the bottom of the canal. Muck, sand, marl, and shell areas showed on top of the fill when it had finally settled, to which was attracted for a breeding ground, not only the stilts but Least Terns, Wilson's Plovers, and Florida Nighthawks. Brackish water rises and falls in the lake or lagoon, the depth depending on the tide (1 in fig. 45), and here the birds find an abundance of food at all times.

While looking for nests over this area, tracks of raccoon, civet cat, and bobcat were seen, and incomplete sets of eggs left one week were missing the next, so I presume mortality will be high because of these animals.

One type of nest shows the slight depression, or wallow, lined and surrounded with small shells and bits of shell, and placed in a heavy patch of shell (2 in fig. 45). Another shows the nest out in the open, and made of small black twigs and grass stems (3 in fig. 45). The third type, shows the nest placed down in the crack of the dried marl area, the lining being both shell and dried stems (4 in fig. 45).

On Merritt's Island, I have found them nesting out in the short, newly grown green marsh area that followed a fire, also around brackish water ponds and at the edge of the shore grass. They also breed in the "Glades", around open sawgrass ponds, where water has receded, and on the shores of ponds found on many of the keys in Florida Bay, and in back of the Cape Sable region lakes.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Miami, Fla.*