

The Alder Flycatcher in Upland Situations.—I was interested to note that Mr. Louis W. Campbell in his article on the Alder Flycatcher in the September WILSON BULLETIN, appears to consider the occurrence of these flycatchers on unwatered uplands markedly unusual. All observations I have made on this species in the State of Iowa have taken place in dry, upland pastures, especially where there were rank growths of hazel bushes, wild crab, and hawthorn. I have noted specific instances in northwest Iowa in Woodbury County, in the southwest in Taylor County, and in the southeast in Keokuk County. I have observed the species as common in New York, and have found them all in boggy situations where alders, buttonbush, and other marsh shrubs grow abundantly. It occurs to me that the presence of this species in such surroundings in summer as those described by Mr. Campbell may be fairly typical of its haunts farther west. Perhaps observers in Indiana and Illinois could give additional information on the question.—CHAS. J. SPIKER, *Branchport, N. Y.*

Further Notes on the Water Birds of Rockbridge County, Virginia.—The following notes are supplementary to an article, "Water Birds of a Virginia Mountain County", which appeared in the WILSON BULLETIN (Vol. XLVII, No. 1, March, 1935). I then listed fifty species and subspecies known to have occurred in Rockbridge County, Virginia, with two additional species in a footnote. Since then four other species have been added. We have recorded 169 land birds from the same area.

Red-throated Loon. *Gavia stellata*. This bird I then mentioned as hypothetical. Now a young man has given me a careful description of a bird captured just outside Lexington in late spring in 1924 or 1925 which could only have been a Red-throated Loon in breeding plumage.

European Teal. *Nettion crecca*. One was collected at Big Spring Pond on February 1, 1936, which had probably been there for over a month. The identification has been confirmed by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. (See the *Auk*, Vol. LIII, No. 2, April, 1936, p. 208). Curiously enough, I saw at the same pond on November 30, 1936, a male Green-winged Teal which had neither the white bar before the wing nor the white scapular stripe.

Black-bellied Plover. *Squatarola squatarola*. A highly-colored individual spent two days, May 25 and 26, 1935, at a large rain pool near Lexington.

Common Tern. *Sterna hirundo hirundo*. On September 6, 1935, a number of terns were flying over the North River at the East Lexington Bridge. I was told that before I arrived there were ten or fifteen of them. When I came in sight there were only four, and they were leaving. But I had the opportunity to study one of them in good light. The white inner webs of the outer tail feathers indicated that it was a Common Tern, although I realize that my identification was not beyond question.

Additional records of some of the birds already on the list may be worthy of note. On January 7, 1937, a Common Loon was shown to me that had been taken alive. It was later liberated. Prof. Ruskin S. Freer reports a Double-crested Cormorant in James River, at Snowden, just outside this county, on May 1, 1936. The American Egret was not uncommon in late summer in 1935 and 1936. I now have two other records, April and September, for the Black-crowned Night Heron. A male Gadwall, seen on James River, at Glasgow, gives a very late date for Virginia. A male Canvas-back was seen at Cameron's Pond on April

3, 1935. A female Old-squaw was captured on a street in Lexington on Christmas Day, 1933, by some boys. The Buffle-head was fairly common in 1935. I now have a December date for the Wood Duck, and a number of winter records for the Black Duck, Baldpate, Green-winged Teal, and Hooded Merganser; and additional fall dates for the Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, and Hooded Merganser. A flock of at least thirty Wood Ducks was seen on North River, September 28, 1936. I now have good reason to think that this duck is breeding in the county. Ducks were very common in the spring of 1935. On April 4 I saw 107 ducks, mostly scaups but including nine species, on the small expanse of Cameron's Pond. I have other January and February dates for the American Merganser, and another date, April 3, 1935, for the Red-breasted Merganser.

I would now rate the Semipalmated Plover as fairly common in May, with one fall record, September 14, 1936; and would rate the Least Sandpiper as common and the Semipalmated Sandpiper as fairly common in spring, with both as uncommon in fall. A late date for the Spotted Sandpiper is October 10, 1936. I have one fall date for the Greater Yellow-legs, October 14, 1935; and several for the Lesser Yellow-legs. The Ring-billed Gull was rather common in April, 1935, fourteen being seen on the 6th. Two Black Terns were seen with the Common Terns on September 6, 1935.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

The Speed of Flight of the Ruffed Grouse.—On May 24, 1936, while driving southeast from Mio, Michigan, toward South Branch, a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) flushed from the side of the gravel road and flew parallel with the right side of our car for a distance of about 250 feet. The bird took wing when we were about ten feet away, and in order to bring it alongside our line of vision we increased our speed from forty-five to fifty miles per hour. The grouse kept up this pace for a distance of 100 to 150 feet, after which it went into a glide, still keeping parallel to the road, which was straight at this point. It glided for about 100 feet and during this glide the speedometer registered approximately forty-seven miles per hour. The time of the observation was approximately 7:15 P. M. and the visibility was still good, although the sun was very near the western horizon. There was no wind. The observation was made from a 1935 Chevrolet and so far as is known the speedometer is accurate. The observers were J. S. Leonard and the writer.—DAVID S. SHETTER, *Institute for Fisheries Research, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

White-winged Scoter in Missouri.—On December 30, 1935, while quail hunting in the Ozark highlands near Current View on the Arkansas-Missouri line south of Doniphan, Ripley County, Missouri, I found a disabled White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*). Quoting from my journal: "In passing through an oak thicket near a farmhouse, a duck, apparently disabled, was seen flopping over the snow. I thought at first it must be some barnyard duck which had been chased out into the woods by dogs. On close approach it proved to be a scoter. The mark on the snow showed that it had alighted on the spot from which I had first flushed it, all tracks and wingmarks being those just made in its struggle to escape. Presumably the bird either had lead-poisoning or was exhausted while flying in the recent storm."