

Mockingbirds in Western Iowa.—Two Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) were observed at Luton, Iowa, about five miles east of Brown's Lake in Woodbury County on August 5, 1937. They first attracted my attention by their song, which I mistook for that of a Catbird. When the buzzing song of a Grasshopper Sparrow issued from the same spot I decided to investigate. The birds were found perched in full view in the top of a box elder tree. The second bird was not singing nearly as much as the first. My brother and I followed the first bird for about half an hour during which time it imitated the Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bob-white, and Blue Jay, as well as the Grasshopper Sparrow which is quite common in the pasture adjoining the feed lot trees where these birds were seen. I uncovered three nests of the Grasshopper Sparrow while mowing the pasture the week of June 21-26. One Mockingbird was seen again in the afternoon and while it sang many notes which we could not identify with those of any other bird, it did no imitations that we had not heard that morning. The next day they could not be found.—WILFRED D. CRABB, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

Unusual Shore Birds in Jefferson County, West Virginia.—The Federal Fish Hatchery at Leetown, West Virginia, has some forty acres of breeding ponds. During late August these ponds are drained, leaving an expanse of mud quite suitable for shore birds. Migrants that are unusual, or rarely seen in the surrounding country, are often quite common on the mud flats at the hatchery. A rather heavy and varied migration of shore birds was noted here this fall. Three species seem worthy of note:

Red-backed Sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*). One was seen October 14, 1937, feeding in company with Pectoral Sandpipers (*Pisobia melanotos*). From October 15 to 17, two individuals were seen. The only other record for this species in the state is a bird found dead at Weston, Lewis County, in November, 1914, which was identified by E. A. Brooks.

Eastern Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*). Two individuals stayed at the hatchery from October 14 to 17, 1937. They were observed each day, and often were feeding with the red-backs. So far as I know the only other records are: P. C. Bibbe saw several at Lake Terra Alta, Preston County, on May 5, 1926; and Maurice Brooks saw large flocks in Barbour County on September 5, 1935.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). I collected a male of this species at Leetown on September 4, 1937. It was feeding in company with Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*). The specimen is now in the museum of West Virginia University. Other records for the state are: A. S. Morgan collected one along the Great Kanawha River in August, 1930; the group at Oglebay Park in Wheeling reports having seen an individual in the Northern Panhandle on May 4, 1935.—J. LLOYD POLAND, *Martinsburg, W. Va.*

The White-rumped Sandpiper in Illinois.—Because the White-rumped Sandpiper (*Pisobia fuscicollis*) is regarded as a rare migrant throughout most of Illinois, the writers consider it worth while to summarize the following unpublished records of this species in Illinois, peculiarly significant in that all were noted in 1936.

Frank Bellrose, of Ottawa, observed some twenty-five individuals on the mud flats of Sawyer Slough along the Illinois River several miles below Lacon on June 6, 1936; these were intermingled with a large flock of Semipalmated and least Sandpipers.

Richard Allyn, of Waverly, reported seeing two individuals of this species on the mud flats of Lake Springfield at Springfield on August 29, 1936.

For the Chicago region, season-report records of the Chicago Ornithological Society list three records for 1936 (none for 1937), which are as follows: Waukegan, May 17 (Pitelka); Lincoln Park, August 15 (Clark and Black), and October 10 (Clark and Dreuth).

Through the kind permission of Albert J. Franzen, of the Field Museum, Chicago, the writers include the record of a specimen, a female White-rumped Sandpiper, which he obtained on August 30, 1936, at Lake Calumet, Cook County, Illinois.—FRANK A. PITELKA and FRANK C. BELLROSE, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois*.

Coot Swallowed by Fish.—It is an accepted fact that fish are at times consumed by ravenous birds—much to the annoyance of the fishermen. That birds are at times the prey of fish is a novelty of which we know little. An example of the latter case occurred at Lake Apopka, Florida, on November 18, 1937, when Messrs. Charles Helin and Irving Short were fishing for big-mouthed bass. Mr.

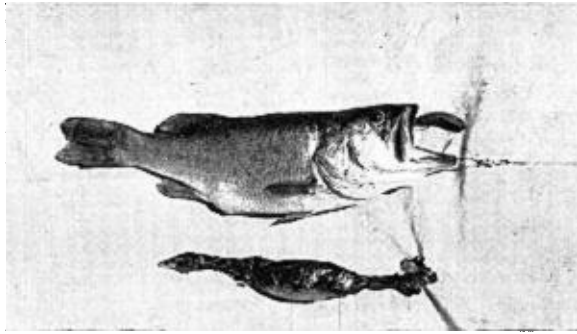


FIG. 15

Short was doubly surprised when he hooked a twenty-four inch bass with the legs of a freshly swallowed full-grown Coot still protruding from its mouth. In reporting this unusual incident, Mr. Helin wrote that the bass weighed eight pounds with the Coot and six and three-fourths pounds without it. The Coot was seventeen inches long (from beak to out-stretched legs) and weighed one and one-fourth pounds. (See photo). It was probably captured head first while diving for food.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey*.

Song Sparrow Records from the Grand Canyon in Northern Arizona.—

With reference to Mr. Monson's note on the Song Sparrow in Arizona, (WILSON BULLETIN, 1937, p. 295) I wish to call attention to the fact that in my "Check-list of Birds of Grand Canyon National Park", published in July, 1937, by the Grand Canyon Natural History Association, it is stated that Song Sparrows have been seen on the North Rim, South Rim, and in the Canyon Bottom, as well as in Toroweap Valley in Grand Canyon National Monument. A specimen of the Mountain Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia fallax*) was collected by A. E. Borell at Neal Springs on the North Rim on September 16, 1934 (Grand Canyon Collec-