

White Pelican in Colorado.— It is a satisfaction to believe that this species (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) has really not deserted Colorado in its migrations and wanderings. The writer is informed by his old time hunting friend, Mr. W. B. Sheppard, of Fort Collins, Colo., that he saw seven individuals of this pelican on May 17, 1912, on a small lake near Niwot, Colo. While Mr. Sheppard is not even an amateur ornithologist, he is familiar with this species, having seen and studied it many times in the Yellowstone region, and the writer feels that this is a credible record, even if it be one made by sight identification.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

Hudsonian Godwit. A correction.— In 'The Auk' for April, 1913, the date of the godwits taken at the Magdalen Islands was given as February 18, 1911. This should have been September 18, and in view of their rarity it is perhaps worth while to make the correction.—W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ontario.*

Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) at Lynn, Mass.— On April 29-, 30 a bird of this species was seen about a small overflowed bog on a farm known as the Fay estate, near the Salem line. The bird was very tame, and gave us fine opportunities for study; at times it was watched at a range of 200 ft. with a four power field glass. Points noted were the even slaty blue of the body above and below; the fine maroon tint on the head and neck; neck long and much less in diameter than that of the Green Heron; legs long, slender, and dark in color; bill blue next the head, black at point.

On April 30, it was also observed by Mr. Charles Norton.—ARTHUR P. STUBBS, *Lynn, Mass.*

The Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) in Nebraska.— On October 16, 1912, four of these splendid birds were shot out of a flock of five at Wood Lake, Cherry county, Nebraska, by Mr. Henry T. Clarke, Jr., of Lincoln and a man named Quick who accompanied him. All four of the birds were mounted by Mr. August Eiche, of Lincoln. Three of the cranes were adults, two males and a female, while the fourth was a young female in the beautiful brown plumage. The latter specimen is in the collection of Mr. Eiche, while the others belong respectively to Messrs. Harry H. Harley, William H. Dorgan and Ex-Gamewarden H. N. Miller, all of Lincoln. A few days later, according to Mr. Miller, two more of these cranes were shot by hunters at Grand Island, Nebraska. According to their statements, these hunters mistook the birds for "brant" (*i. e.* Snow Geese). The two Grand Island birds were also mounted. I am indebted to Mr. Eiche for the above data.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebraska.*

Stilt Sandpipers (*Micropalama himantopus*) at Ithaca, N. Y.— Following the cold rainy days of the first of August (1912) and coincident with the first flocks of migrating warblers, there occurred through central New York State a considerable migration of Shore Birds. Although a few

had been noted about two weeks previously, this was the first large migration of the fall. In mixed flocks along the head of Cayuga Lake, the following species were abundant: Semipalmated, Least and Pectoral Sandpipers, Sanderling, Lesser Yellow-legs and Killdeer Plover. In addition, Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers, feeding singly, were scattered all along the shore and likewise one Ring-necked Plover. Three days later, I found the same species in greater numbers, and associated with them, a flock of six Knots and one of seven Stilt Sandpipers. The number of Knots did not change, but the flock of Stilt Sandpipers shortly increased to eleven, although all were seldom seen at once. Two White-rumped Sandpipers, two Black-bellied Plovers, a Turnstone, a Greater Yellow-legs, and a Dowitcher soon added themselves to the assemblage. The majority of these birds were adults and still in nuptial plumage. They remained the greater part of a week, when most of them moved on, leaving only a small number of those species which had earlier been the most numerous.

The presence of such a variety of Shore Birds, including the Stilt Sandpipers, induced me to make somewhat extended observations. Accordingly a blind was constructed along the lake shore and many hours were spent in watching their movements. Inasmuch as the Stilt Sandpipers are so generally overlooked on the migration or confused with the Yellow-legs, a few comparative observations on their habits may be of interest.

Although they might have been actually more numerous, the largest number seen together at one time was eleven. Usually they were in groups of from two to six and mingled with the Yellow-legs. The adults of the two species were easily distinguished as many of the Stilt Sandpipers still retained more or less of the breeding plumage with buffy and rufous markings about the head, and heavy bars on the sides and flanks. The immature and molting birds of the two species, however, were much more easily confused for the Yellow-legs lacked the checker-board markings of the adult and approached very closely, in the back pattern, the mottling of the Stilt Sandpipers. The bars on the sides of the young Stilt Sandpipers being very faint, the two birds were therefore outwardly much alike. The color of the legs distinguished them, when these were visible, but when they waded in water an inch or more in depth, even this proved an uncertain criterion as the upper shanks of many of the Yellow-legs were dark. Again in flight, the birds were very similar, although the white rumps and tails of the Stilt Sandpipers seemed less conspicuous than those of the Yellow-legs. The difference in size when the two birds stood side by side was very appreciable but, at other times, was merely confusing.

In their habits, however, the two species were quite different. The Yellow-legs were always rangy birds and covered a great deal of ground while feeding. Even when resting they were conspicuous by the nervous jerking of the head and neck. In flight they usually formed fairly compact flocks but scattered upon alighting. The Stilt Sandpipers on the other hand, were quiet birds and went about their search for food very systematically, gleaning everything in their way. They frequently fed in a

space a few yards square for over an hour at a time. When at rest, they showed none of the nervous traits of the Yellow-legs, being much more sedate, neither jerking the head nor tilting the tail. In flight they were quite similar to the Yellow-legs, but as soon as alighted, they bunched and frequently the whole flock fed with their bodies nearly touching.

Like the Yellow-legs, the Stilt Sandpipers were seldom seen upon the exposed mud but preferred wading where the water was from one to three inches in depth, so that the entire head and neck frequently disappeared beneath the surface of the water while feeding. The notes of the two birds though similar in form, were wholly unlike in quality, that of the Stilt Sandpiper being mellower and lower in pitch.—ARTHUR A. ALLEN, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

Unusual plumages of the Ocellated Turkey (*Agriocharis ocellata*).—

Of many females of this turkey that have come under my observation, during three years residence in the southern and central parts of Campeche, Mexico, the plumages of three specimens demand special description. In all three of these birds, the first four of the inner secondaries have their exposed portions of an iridescent green, a subterminal bronzy bar, and the tips of grayish white. The inner secondaries have their exposed parts of a "pepper and salt" pattern, which is lightest on the extreme outer margins and the tips. Unexposed parts of these feathers—that is, the outer halves—are of a dull black, while their main stems are black. Inner halves of all the secondaries dull black at bases, passing to a soiled white on the margins with an inclination toward mottling at the ends.

Primaries clear, sooty black, being blotched with grayish white near bases, especially on the outer vanes.

The remainder of the plumage in these three birds is normal, while the above described departure therefrom, with respect to the wings, is so striking and so conspicuous that it commands the attention of the observer at once and under all conditions.

One of these abnormally plumaged individuals came into my possession alive, but was, unfortunately, killed and eaten by a large hawk a short time afterwards; the remaining two were shot and preserved. Of these, one was shot out of a flock numbering some fifteen or twenty birds on the 25th of September, 1912, it having immediately attracted my attention from the fact that its wing plumage was so different from that of the rest of the flock, all of which wore the normal plumage.

This specimen typifies the rare and unusual coloration described above, it having about completed the assumption of the second plumage, only the outer rectrices of the first plumage not having, as yet, been molted.

My remaining bird was collected on the 9th of November, of the same year, it being associated at the time with another female and two males, all of these last being normally plumaged individuals.

In the wing of this specimen, the first eight primaries of either side present a mottling of grayish white toward their tips. No explanation