

51. *SORA RAIL, *Porzana carolina*.

During the spring visit of 1917 there were innumerable suitable places for rails and their voices were heard a number of times, but we saw only a single bird on May 30. The Ward brothers are, quite excusably, uncertain in their identifications of the various species and plumages of the rails. They claim to have found nests of three species; and speak of a small black one which is likely the young of the Virginia. In 1918, Young reports Soras rather scarce in spring but becoming very common in August. On Aug. 2 he counted over fifty in one small wet marsh. After that they gradually reduced in number, and the last one seen was on Sept. 20.

52. YELLOW RAIL, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*.

Though this little rail should be common, it is such an accomplished skulker that we saw none. The Ward brothers tell of nests of very small rail eggs, and during my autumn stay in 1917, Frank Ward, while raking hay, uncovered and forced into flight some small rails with large amounts of white on the wing. He was unable to capture any at the time, and though I later watched haying operations in adjoining localities closely, no more were discovered. In the same vicinity while hiding in the grass near a small pond, I heard a repeated bird voice suggesting a rail close by, but was unable to flush the author. I have little doubt but that they were from Yellow Rails but am unable to substantiate my conclusions. Through the summer and autumn of 1918, Mr. Young watched haying operations closely but was unable to detect any Yellow Rails.

53. *AMERICAN COOT, *Fulica americana*.

Chapman, in his "Camp and Cruises", gives photographs of a Coot's nest taken in 1901. Not seen by us in 1917, but in 1918, Young observed small numbers to May 21 and flocks of 100 to 150 the last of September. Said by Seton and the Ward brothers to have been a very common breeder when the water was high and even up to three years ago, in favorable localities, a few still nested.

54. *NORTHERN PHALAROPE, *Lobipes lobatus*.

A few seen in 1917 among the groups of Wilson's Phalaropes between May 23 and 29, perhaps twelve in all. In the autumn three were seen on Sept. 22 and again on the 24. Specimens were taken during both seasons. Regarded by Ward brothers as rather scarce. In 1918, Young noted occasional flocks, beginning with 20 on May 29, culminating in 100 on June 1, and a few remaining until June 12. In autumn he observed small groups from Aug. 20 to the end of the month with a straggling flock on Sept. 21.

55. *WILSON'S PHALAROPE, *Steganopus tricolor*.

During the 1917 spring visit the commonest and

most generally distributed wader. Nearly every little slough had a pair or little group, usually females gracefully swimming about, and a nest of fresh eggs was collected on June 6. Young tells of a flight song he saw executed by a female in the presence of her (prospective?) mate. During it she distended her throat in the same manner as the Pectoral Sandpiper is reported to do. The Ward brothers state that they have seen this courtship flight a number of times. At another time a Phalarope was whirligiging in its characteristic manner in shallow water; upon examination the bottom below it was found to be scratched in semicircles as if with the feet. The Phalarope seem to be entirely surface feeding birds, never dipping down into the water for food. Evidently this graceful spinning is a method of stirring up the water and bringing small particles of food to the surface within reach of the delicate, rapier-like bill. The usual note of the species is a miniature quack, like that of a domestic duck but less loud. From this they are locally called "Grunters". None were seen during the return visit in the autumn of the year. Owing to the progressive drying of the marshes, Wilson's Phalarope was not quite as common in 1918, but Young records a few almost daily from May 7 to Aug. 20 when the species disappeared.

56. *WILSON'S SNIPE, *Gallinago delicata*.

Quite common in 1917 and, though no nests were found, evidently breeding. The sound of its aerial dive and love-making flight could be heard each evening, and occasionally throughout the day. A few were still present during the autumn visit in September. In 1918, Young found it rather less numerous from May to August, but very common in September, and to the time of his leaving on Oct. 2.

57. *DOWITCHER, *Macrorhamphus griseus*.

On May 18, 1917, one was dropped from a large flock as it passed the tent and another was taken on May 30. In 1918, Young saw small bunches on May 22, 25 and 28, and Aug. 9. Of six adult spring specimens but one can be particularly referred by bill size to *M. g. griseus* and two to *M. g. scolopaceus*, the remainder falling into the overlapping measurements of the two forms as given by Howe, (*Auk*, 1901, pp. 157-162). In coloration the birds seem to agree most closely from descriptions with *scolopaceus* but without direct comparison with birds of eastern origin I would hardly like to make a definite determination; on geographical grounds they should be referred to *M. g. scolopaceus*.

58. *STILT SANDPIPER, *Micropalma himantopus*.

In 1917, a flock of twelve were noted wading "knee deep" in the shallows of the Narrows on May