

did not pass our locality until March 10th. During the afternoon of that day no less than ten very large flocks were seen within a short interval of time. Last year (1891) I noted the species on March 11th: in 1890, on March 17th; and in 1889, on March 8th. According to this, the average date of their first passage is about March 11th.

GREEN HERON (*Ardea virescens*). This is an uncommon species in our avifauna. Mr. W. A. Purcell, taxidermist of Halifax, obtained a specimen from Lawrencetown about April 20th, 1890, and shortly before the 15th of November, 1891, Mr. Arthur P. Silver was equally fortunate.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*). On July 4th, 1889, Mr. Harry E. Austen, of Dartmouth, obtained a specimen of this rare wader, in full breeding plumage, at Cole Harbour, Halifax County.

VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus virginianus*). Rare in Nova Scotia. Mr. Purcell "set up" one which had been shot in the Province in November, 1890.

RED PHALAROPE (*Crymophilus fulicarius*). On June 10th, 1891, Mr. H. E. Austen obtained one of these uncommon summer visitors from a couple of fishermen who, early in the morning of that day, had rowed up to the bird and captured it with their hands.* As it was alive, Mr. Austen took it home and kept it about a week. An account of the capture appeared in the *Ornithologist and Oologist*, Boston (vol. xvi, p. 111.), a periodical which frequently contains notes relating to our birds. While uncommon in this vicinity, I understand it is more abundant in the Bay of Fundy and at Cape Sable.

KILLDEER (*Egialiteis vocifera*). This plover is usually very rare in Nova Scotia, but in the fall of 1888 a flight of large size was driven northward by a severe storm and for a while the birds were numerous along our shore. Dr. Arthur P. Chadbourne, who made a special study of the movements of this flock, and contributed his views to *The Auk* for July, 1889, con-

* According to Mr. Austen, the fishermen called it a "Gale Bird," but as in Chamberlain's recent revision of Nuttall's Ornithology I find "Whale Bird" given as one of the vernaculars of this species, I am led to think that the similarity of sounds may have caused Mr. Austen to mistake the name by which his informers knew it.