

Unusual Behaviour of Wilson's Snipe.—

Wilson's snipe, *Capella gallinago*, disturbed on Moose Island, near Moosonee, Ont., during the second week of June, 1949, did not usually utter the well-known 'scaipe' note and dart off in zigzag flight. Instead they would fly about the observer, usually at ranges of ten to thirty yards, giving a slightly nasal 'yak' generally repeated three to eight times at intervals of half a second, then pausing for some seconds and repeating the performance. This behaviour would continue for several minutes with one or two birds taking part. A group of six birds, apparently migrants, disturbed near Ottawa on April 30, all gave a similar display for more than fifteen minutes with usually two to four doing so simultaneously, while the others would sometimes fly off to perform the winnowing courtship flight briefly and return to fly about the observer again. This behaviour continued until I left. Bent¹ quotes E. W. Nelson as describing a similar performance by birds on their breeding grounds in Alaska; but I have seen no other record of it.—D. B. O. SAVILE, Division of Botany and Plant Pathology, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

¹ Life Histories of North American Shore Birds. Part 1, 1927.

The Roosting Behaviour of a Snow Goose at Montreal. —

One of the most interesting observations made on the Christmas bird-census at Montreal on December 19, 1948 was that of a Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus*) observed by J. Anglin, J. Pollock, D. Ryan and the writer. The goose was probably a young bird, judging by its greyish-brown plumage, with an injured right leg which hung down during flight. Its size was very small, scarcely larger than that of some herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*) with which it settled on the water.

The bird was first seen on Goat Island in the St. Lawrence arising from the lawn of a summer cottage facing approximately northwest towards the river. Later upon our return past the cottage the bird was seen standing on the lawn. A closer inspection of the lawn revealed a peculiar pattern of the bird's excrement. The droppings were arranged in a broad semi-circle whose open side faced the river while the base of the

semi-circle was at the rear of the lawn. There were about one hundred separate piles of excrement indicating that this roost had been used for at least several days. The shape of the roost suggests that the bird probably faced towards the river at all times moving along the arc of the semi-circle in relation to the movement of the sun and the extent of visibility on the river. — D. M. SCOTT, Dept. of Zoology, McGill University, Montreal, Que.

The Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*) in Southwestern New Brunswick. —

Moore¹ states that the semipalmated sandpiper is rare in New Brunswick. This remark may apply to the interior of New Brunswick but its validity coastwise is contradicted by my experience in the vicinity of St. Andrews, N.B. where this species is the most abundant shorebird during the fall migration. At low tide the extensive mudflats are the feeding grounds for hundreds of semipalmated sandpipers in August and September. Upon one occasion in August, 1948, I found a night roost of this species containing not less than two thousand birds. Its abundance in this region has already been recorded by Pettingill² who considered the species as an "abundant transient". This sandpiper is rare in the spring; I have only seen a few individuals at this season and it is possible that Moore's knowledge of this bird was restricted to the spring migration.

1. Moore, W. H., 1928. "A list of New Brunswick birds", 24 pp., Fredericton Science Club.

2. Pettingill, Jr. O. S., 1939. "The Bird life of the Grand Manan Archipelago". Proc. Nova Scotian Inst. Sci., Vol. XIX pt. 4 pp. 293-372.

— D. M. SCOTT, Dept. of Zoology, McGill University, Montreal, Que.

Kodachrome slides of Canadian birds.—Of interest to naturalists, teachers, and others who lecture on birds is a new series of 2 x 2 Kodachrome slides now obtainable from the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto 5, Ontario. Approximately 150 species of Canadian birds are represented, the price being \$1.00 per slide.—W. E. G.



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