

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

10. Lapwing



Photograph by Joanne Trimble
Montauk, Suffolk Co., 7 Dec. 1966

The normal range of the Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) extends across northern Europe and Asia from Norway to eastern Siberia, south in winter to north Africa, north India, and west to Iceland. Occurrences in North America are extremely rare and are for the most part in eastern Canada, especially Newfoundland. From the Canadian border south to the island of Barbados there have been only eleven recorded occurrences. Two of these, the only records for New York State prior to 1966, are given in *Birds of the New York City Area* by John Bull (Harper and Row, New York, 1964:184). They are as follows: an individual collected after a snow storm at Merrick, Nassau Co., L.I., 27 January 1883 (C. Lott); a specimen taken at Mecox Bay, Suffolk Co., L.I., late fall, 1905 (*vide* Beebe). A third record of a specimen supposedly taken at Bridgehampton, fall of 1910 (Reiman, *Auk*, 56:332,

1939) is evidently an incorrect duplication of the 1905 record and should be deleted (oral communication from John Bull).

On Saturday, 3 December 1966, a Lapwing was discovered and identified by Laura Bottone and Vida Blauvelt along the Montauk Highway, about 1.5 miles east of the town of Montauk. The bird was standing on the grassy shoulder of the road and could be approached to within twenty feet. By 6 December, the bird had moved about 100 yards to a large pasture on the property of the Deep Hollow Dude Ranch where it fed actively, often in the company of Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). It became quite wary, and occasionally the hordes of birders who came to view the bird frightened it, causing it to take wing and fly to a nearby pebble beach on the oceanfront one-half mile away. The manager of the dude ranch, who knew the bird well, is certain that the Lapwing disappeared before the severe snow storm of 24 December. The last reliable observation was on 18 December. Certain plumage characteristics, notably the underdeveloped rufous under-tail coverts, seem to indicate that it was a first winter bird.

Correspondence with Aaron Bagg has revealed two other North American Lapwing records during the fall of 1966. One was shot on 25 October in the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, just off the southern coast of Newfoundland (*fide* L. Tuck). and another was seen on 26 December at Kindley Air Force Base in Bermuda (D. Wingate). A paper to be published in *The Living Bird* by Mr. Bagg will discuss the factors influencing the occurrence of the Lapwing in North America.

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Corrigendum and Addendum: The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (number 6 of this series; *Kingbird*, 16(3): 130-131, July 1966) listed as seen near Schenectady was actually seen at Tomhannock Reservoir, Rensselaer Co. (Meritt, *Kingbird*, 7(1): 14, May 1957). An additional upstate record of this species seen at Rigney's Bluff, along the Lake Ontario Shore, 18 May 1952 by B. Kemnitzer and R. McKinney (*Kingbird*, 2(2): 50, July 1952; Kemnitzer, *in litt.*) was inadvertently omitted.

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