

tance apart near Gordon in the Channel area. On February 13, 1958, I saw the largest concentration yet observed, on the southern shore of Pittwater, when the open paddocks seemed alive with Martins. More than 30 were counted on one short fence section, and I estimated more than 150 in about 200 acres of open country. These and the Epping birds were most probably the pre-migrating concentrations of the species. A few small flocks were noted between Orford and Swansea on February 14, but no counts were taken.

It appears that the main distribution of the species in Tasmania is in the Midlands and East Coast regions, where the open country offers a favourable habitat. Flocks are forming by mid-January, and migration northward is under way by late February.

Comparison of Marsh-Sandpiper and Wood-Sandpiper.—

A female specimen in the flesh of each of the Marsh-Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) and the Wood-Sandpiper (*T. glareola*) being available for the purpose, the opportunity was taken to examine their comparative morphology with the object of correlating the physical characters, habits, and habitat preferences of each species. The total length, tail, and span of individual wings of the two species was much alike. However, the Wood-Sandpiper had a greater head and body length (142 mm.) than the Marsh-Sandpiper (138 mm.). Furthermore, although the former had shorter legs (tarsus 41 mm.) than the latter (tarsus 51 mm.), its feet were larger and stronger. Middle toe with claw in Wood-Sandpiper, 36 mm.; in Marsh-Sandpiper, 32 mm.

The projection of the feet beyond the tip of the tail in the Wood-Sandpiper was 36 mm.; in the Marsh-Sandpiper, 55 mm. Whilst, in the latter, a considerable portion of the tarsus, as well as the feet, projects beyond the tail-tip, only the feet project in the Wood-Sandpiper.

The bill of the Wood-Sandpiper is shorter and altogether stouter than in the Marsh-Sandpiper, though in its middle distance the latter's bill is only 1.5 mm. thinner. The Marsh-Sandpiper's bill is more slender and pointed towards the tip.

Observations on the feeding habits of Marsh-Sandpipers reveal that the species often feeds in water well above the knees, a depth that would be inconvenient for the Wood-Sandpiper. This is possible for the former because of the length of its legs and bill. The shorter, stouter bill of the Wood-Sandpiper, and its shorter legs and stout feet, are probably an adaptation to feeding in water of relatively-shallow depth.—ERHARD F. BOEHM, Sutherlands, S.A., 3/3/60.