

stretch of ocean beach provides an unusual opportunity to time the speed of bird flight. Driving a car equipped with a Waltham speedometer, I have on some occasions paced a bird, or a flock of birds, up to a distance of eight miles. To estimate the absolute speed of these birds, correction would of course have to be made for both wind direction and wind velocity. The data given below, however, will indicate certain limits of speed for the species listed. Where more than one observation has been made, the highest speed recorded is given. In no case, where wind is recorded as "ahead," was the estimated velocity in excess of 10 miles per hour.

	Number of birds	Speed in M. P. H.	Wind Direction
Black Skimmer . . . . .	2	18 <sup>1</sup>	Ahead
Gannet . . . . .	4	25	Ahead
Cormorant . . . . .	4	20	Ahead
Brown Pelican . . . . .	4	26 <sup>2</sup>	Abeam
Knot . . . . .	Flock	38	Abeam
Semipalmated Sandpiper . . . . .	Flock	32	Abeam
Sanderling . . . . .	1	41 <sup>3</sup>	Behind
Willet . . . . .	1	27	Ahead
Hudsonian Curlew . . . . .	2	34 <sup>4</sup>	Abeam
Semipalmated Plover . . . . .	Flock	32	Behind
Black-bellied Plover . . . . .	1	24	Abeam
Ruddy Turnstone . . . . .	4	27	Ahead

—R. J. LONGSTREET, *Daytona Beach, Fla.*

**Increasing the Power of Field Glasses.**—Greater power in the magnification of field glasses is a frequent desirability by persons looking for birds. Many a bird remains unidentified because its distance is too great for the individual field glasses. When two persons are working together, each with different field glasses, they often give up in despair without determining the distant bird, when a little co-operative work would solve the mystery. The definite solution of the problem in a practical way is the use of two pairs of field glasses applied in tandem series. Two pairs of glasses should each be focused on the distant object and then used in tandem. The eye-piece of one field glass is held to the larger objective lens of the other and the object sought is viewed through both glasses. If the object is not then in focus a slight adjustment of the far field glass may correct the focus, or it may be necessary to adjust both pieces. A precaution to be observed is that necessary care be taken not to scratch the large lens by the eye-piece of the distal field glasses. It may be protected by a ring of soft blotting paper, cloth or felt.

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<sup>1</sup> Paced for 3 miles. This was a feeding flight.  
<sup>2</sup> Paced for 8 miles.  
<sup>3</sup> Helping wind estimated at 10 m. p. h.  
<sup>4</sup> Paced for 7 miles.

The tandem or double use of field glasses increases the magnification of the object seen. The degree of enlargement of the object seen by the two sets of glasses is equal to the product of the magnification of the separate glasses. Field glasses of x8 coupled with another of x5 will give a magnification of 40. An opera glass which magnifies 3 diameters may be held to field glasses with a power of 5 and yield a total magnification of 15. A field glass may also be added in a similar manner to a marine glass. The use of the double set may prevent bioptical vision as the two fields may not coalesce as they do with a single binocular. Naturally, this union decreases the field and also the illumination, but will be of great help in the identification of distant birds.—HAROLD B. WOOD, M.D., *Harrisburg, Pa.*