

elaborate, and the display just described was accompanied by walking rapidly in circles of five or six feet in diameter instead of waltzing. Later in the season the habit of suddenly darting a short distance was observed to take place when an amorous male sought a female's favor. This appeared to be play on her part for she dodged back and forth on one side of a small clump of bushes while the male repeated the performance on the opposite side.

It is a little difficult to understand the cause of these sudden runs and displays, but as they became most elaborate when the nesting season was at hand, it appears probable that they took place at the period of maximum ovarian development. If the character of the display agreed with the observed courting performances of the males, it would seem to indicate that the females inherited the male's instinct to display but not the male's purpose in so doing, namely, to win a mate. Perhaps all the ways of courting males have not been observed. The display was not directed towards or before any one bird, and usually only a single bird at a time displayed elaborately, though when this was taking place other females present became excited and the sudden to-and-fro runs usually became general. Display exhibitions were of short duration, lasting not over one or two minutes.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, *Peterboro, N. H.*

Florida Gallinule Breeding in the Connecticut Valley.—The Florida Gallinule is principally a fall migrant in the Valley from southern Massachusetts southward and the individuals are mostly young of the year. On May 12, 1929, however, a spring migrant was found dead on the river-bank near Holyoke and in 1930, breeding birds were first noted by C. W. Vibert at South Windsor, Conn. They seem to have increased in 1931 and 1932, and this year, a colony of three or four pairs was discovered at a pond in Belchertown, Mass., some eight or nine miles east of the river. This pond is also the only place where this year we have found the Sora and Pied-billed Grebe nesting. It is full of patches of dense, tall cat-tails separated by leads of deep water,—the Gallinule's favorite type of habitat.—S. A. ELIOT, JR., *Northampton* and A. C. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.*

American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*) in Camden County, N. J.—John A. Gillespie, Norman J. McDonald and the writer observed an American Golden Plover at Fish House, Camden County, N. J., August 29, 1932. The bird (an adult male) was under observation for half an hour, during which time the characteristic field marks were plainly made out. This is the first Camden County record for this species so far as I know.—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

Wilson's Plover Seen in Massachusetts.—On May 15, on the east-ern beach of the "neck" that runs out from Lynn to Nahant, a flock of Semipalmated Plovers was being observed by a rather large party of Essex County bird-men, with whom I was a guest. I noticed among the birds one that was different having a long black bill and more white on

the forehead than the rest. It was later seen again by Ludlow Griscom and S. G. Emilio and identified as Wilson's Plover. It kept by itself a little apart from the Ring-necks, and had noticeably paler upper-parts and a breast-band of the same color—betokening, I suppose, a female.

This is said to be the fourth record for Massachusetts, the second for Essex County.—S. A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Mass.*

Vitality of Plover Embryo.—The unusually high tide of June 16th 1932, partially swept away the eggs of a colony of Royal Terns, Least Terns and Black Skimmers on Deveaux's Bank, near Seabrook's Island, S. C. On the afternoon of the 17th many of the eggs were found washed up on the beach of Seabrook's Island. A few of each kind were collected, among them being one egg of the Wilson's Plover, and packed in cotton in a tin box. The next day they were carried by automobile to Charleston, a distance of about thirty-six miles and when they were blown, on the afternoon of the 20th, the egg of the Wilson's Plover, after being out of the nest for at least three days and probably longer, was found to contain a large embryo which was still alive. Two days later, on the 20th, they were taken to the Charleston Museum, where their identification was confirmed by Mr. E. Burnham Chamberlain.

Although the Plover egg was found among the sedge and debris of the high water mark, there is a possibility, though not a probability, of its having been by some means transported from the breeding area of the Plovers on Seabrook's Island, about a quarter of a mile from the spot where the egg was found.

The temperature for the dates mentioned ranged from 68 (minimum) to 89 (maximum).—WILLIAM W. HUMPHREYS, *15 Limehouse Street, Charleston, S. C.*

Northern New England Woodcock.—In the vicinity of Farmington, Franklin Co., Maine, a party of three or four sportsmen, headed by the late Richard C. Storey of Boston, hunted Woodcock for thirty years. Through the courtesy of Mrs. Storey I was able to study the records of these annual shooting parties. They extended through the best part of the October flight and averaged about fifteen days of shooting each autumn.

The records are a model for this kind of upland shooting. In nearly all cases each individual "cover" is mentioned by name and the number of birds started and shot in it are recorded every day. Thus it is easy to total the number of birds started and shot each year, and the length of time in days of each annual hunt.

There has been a great difference of opinion on the status of the Woodcock and as in all cases of the sort, loose statements based on casual observations have been given more credit than they deserve. A generation ago it was held by some competent naturalists that the Woodcock was a doomed species. Even now, when for at least twenty-five years we in New England have noted a rather steady advance in numbers, the story is