

started by farmers to burn over a 50-acre broom-sedge field adjoining Wheeler Lake. The following day we returned to the area to see whether wildlife had suffered from the fire.

In addition to a destroyed rabbit's nest, which contained the charred remains of several young, and a number of unidentified nests of ground-nesting birds, we found approximately 100 feet from the edge of the water, a nest containing nine eggs of the Mallard Duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Although the eggs had been carefully covered with down before the bird left the nest, either to feed or to avoid the advancing flames, the entire clutch was destroyed. We noted the burned condition of the eggs as well as the deep layer of ash that covered the ground. Of still greater significance, however, were the tracks of the duck leading to the nest. Apparently the bird had returned to the nest despite the fact that all landmarks had been destroyed by the fire, inspected it, and abandoned further incubation of the eggs. Another set of tracks leaving the nest at an angle of about 45 degrees from those leading to it indicated that the bird had walked away some distance before taking wing. It is interesting to note that when leaving the nest she walked away from the water, rather than toward it. The tragic story of her last visit to the nest was clearly recorded in the soft, deep ashes covering the soil.—ROBERT H. SMITH and ALBERT H. TROWBRIDGE, *Wildlife and Fish Service, Washington, D. C.*

Daily movements of young Black Duck.—While in residence at the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, at Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, during the summer of 1939, a brood of Black Duck (*Anas rubripes tristis*) was under daily surveillance. The observations were made at Lincoln Pond, a small body of water approximately nine acres in area located at an altitude of 1650 feet in the Helderberg Mountains. The pond was bordered partly by a growth of shrubs (mostly *Alnus incana*). There was a considerable stand of large hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) at the north end. A shallow shelf of ooze bottom extended around three-fourths of the pond and supported a copious growth of emergent grasses and sedges which served as excellent shelter for ducks.

A brood of eleven young led by a female was first seen at dusk on June 27 moving from the north end of the pond to the grassy border on the west side 250 yards away. The ducklings were approximately four to five inches long at this time. Observations on succeeding days revealed that the female and young made this evening journey regularly for a period of six weeks. Throughout the day the young remained among the sheltering grasses at the north end of the pond having moved to this locality during the early morning hours. At night, at least from dusk until 2 a. m., they could always be found in a rather small area extending over fifty feet of shore line. They usually stayed close to shore under the alders. When disturbed they would ordinarily take to shore apparently guided and kept together by the female's call notes. Occasionally they would hurry away through the grass to the open water. They came to this spot as late in the season as August 16 when the young were capable of short flights although now only five ducklings were left. Two young were found dead at the night station but the cause of death was not apparent from a casual examination. Among the predators, rats, pickerel and bullfrogs were especially active at night and may have accounted for some of the other young. Up until August 31, the last day of my stay at the Preserve, this group of five young was often seen changing position in the evening after feeding at the north end of the pond during the

day. However, they no longer returned to the place where they formerly spent the night.—EDWARD C. RANEY, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

American Golden-eye a winter resident of Kansas.—During the period from December 1939, to February 1940, while pursuing an ecological study of Ft. Leavenworth and vicinity, I observed six American Golden-eyes, *Glaucionetta clangula americana*, feeding in a section of open water on the Missouri River.

Between December 20 and January 2 they fed twice daily over this region which was directly in the channel of the river. The ducks would arrive about 8 or 9 a. m. and remain until 11 or 11.30 a. m., when they would fly farther upstream where they spent considerable time on the bank, which was thickly overgrown with brush, but within a few yards of a 'water-hole' in the ice-bound river. They would be back at their feeding grounds between 3.00 and 3.30 p. m., where they remained until dusk before leaving for their night retreat farther up stream.

The Golden-eyes were in the typical winter plumage but evidently they were mated for they fed more or less in pairs. They were unmindful of quiet intruders and were studied through glasses at a distance of thirty or forty yards during every weekend throughout the cold weather of January and February. With the advance of warm weather the ice disappeared and the ducks were last seen February 25, 1940.

So far as is known this is the only instance of American Golden-eyes being observed as winter residents in Kansas. The Kansas University Museum of Birds and Mammals has records of these ducks being taken as late as December 15, 1934, and as early as March 2, 1886.—MALCOLM J. BRUMWELL, *Museum of Birds and Mammals, Lawrence, Kansas.*

Turkey Vulture in Rhode Island.—On August 3, 1940, while motoring from Cape Cod to Newport, my uncle, Mr. Henry M. Hall, and I identified a Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*, about a mile inside the Rhode Island boundary from Fall River. The range was fairly close. Forbush, in his 'Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States' (2: 89, 1927) says of it: "Occasional; five records are given by Howe and Sturtevant in the Birds of Rhode Island and there are others" to which he adds a Block Island bird seen in March 1920. Evidently the bird is not rare in that State.—HUGH BIRCKHEAD, *433 Monterey Ave., Pelham Manor, New York.*

Three thousand Golden Plovers in one flock, Delaware County, Indiana.—A forty-acre field teeming with Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*)! It was my good fortune to witness this unfamiliar and heartening pageant on the morning of April 21, 1940. Motoring, searching for migrants, I caught the glint of sunlight on restless golden-brown wings a quarter of a mile away. Driving closer, I gaped in astonishment at the host of birds scattered all over the plowed black soil. Recovering, I hastened home for my wife, so she could share the treat. When we returned, the plovers had concentrated along the banks of an overnight brook, which split the field some sixty rods from the road.

We admired the birds for several minutes. They were constantly changing position, so we had several opportunities to observe the characteristic concerted effort as they wheeled, banked and settled as one bird. One such movement involved almost the entire flock—a veritable cloud of birds. They chattered like chicks in a brooder, disturbed in the middle of the night. Other notes resembled those of the Killdeer.