

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.

With the aid of my 8-power binocular, I counted one thousand (first by twos and last by twenties) and estimated that there were twice as many more. Most of them were in winter dress. Every tenth one wore the mottled feathers of the prenuptial molt; one in every hundred or so had attained adult breeding plumage. Later in the day (5.00 p. m.) we came across two scattered flocks of 150-200 each, three miles from the concentration ground, but the main body was still there.

A farmer living nearby told me that he had seen the plovers for about ten days. They left the field (which should yield a bumper corn crop next autumn) on the night of April 23, but I saw a flock of seventy-five the next noon, one mile from headquarters. These departed that night.

While I have recorded the Golden Plover nearly every spring in Indiana during the past ten years, I had never before seen more than one hundred and fifty in one flock. I hope the increase is general and permanent.—HAROLD A. ZIMMERMAN, *Muncie, Indiana*.

**Broken-wing performance by the Eastern Willet.**—Vogt (Proc. Linn. Soc. New York, no. 49: 21, 1938) reports that he has not observed a 'broken-wing' display by the Eastern Willet (*Catoptrophorus s. semipalmatus*) in New Jersey, and also quotes an account of mine (Nature Mag., 31: 14-16, 1938) to the same effect. When my account was written, I naturally believed it correct, but now find it necessary to report that this behavior *has* been observed occasionally in our local (Georgia and South Carolina) birds.

One account was found in some old notes of mine, made long before the display had more than the old-fashioned significance to me. Two other instances have been seen in the last year or so. The performance has been noticed only in birds flushed from eggs, and not in parents guarding the young after hatching. Many other species seem more prone to display when with young than before hatching, in my judgment.

The term 'broken-wing' does not fit the performance of this species very well, for the bird postures by spreading wings and tail, crouching and moving off with a very slight beating of the wings. There is little appearance of being crippled, but it obviously is the equivalent of the 'cripple' performance in other species.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge DeWitt Clinton, Savannah, Georgia*.

**Curlew Sandpiper in New England.**—On August 4, 1940, I found an adult Curlew Sandpiper (*Erolia testacea*) in practically full breeding plumage on the shore of the pond at Monomoy Point, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The bird, after being watched for some time, most of it in close company with a Wilson's Phalarope, was collected and it is now mounted in the New England Museum of Natural History. This is the first record of this European species for fifty-one years in New England. In recent years a Curlew Sandpiper has been seen in several spring and several fall migrations on Long Island, New York. There is the interesting possibility that most if not all of these records will boil down to one individual.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

**Skua off Nova Scotia.**—Supplementing the recent note by David L. Garrison on the 'Northern Skua in Massachusetts' (Auk, 57: 567, 1940), it may be worth recording that on August 5, 1940, I saw a Skua, presumably *Catharacta skua*, five miles southeast of Cape Sable, Nova Scotia.—J. C. GREENWAY, JR., *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts*.