

area of perhaps two square yards, she walked into taller grass, whereupon the male anted in the same casual manner and for about the same number of times. The birds flew off and I examined the ground, finding many small hills of *Lasius niger* and several individuals of the genus *Formica*.

Ivor (1943) reports the Cowbird as not anting. In answer to inquiries, he writes me that this has been true of an adult female three seasons in succession and of a young male and female tested when 32, 35, and 41-43 days of age; however, the male anted once with specimens of *Tapinoma* sp.? when 46 days old. The failure of his adult bird to ant in the aviary, and the mild manner in which the two individuals I watched performed in the wild, would seem to show that the tendency to ant is weak in *Molothrus ater*. The inconspicuous way in which anting was carried out in this instance makes me wonder whether this behavior may not be more common than is generally supposed; I would not have recognized it had I not previously seen it executed in extreme form by hand-raised birds.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Fall migration of the Golden Plover at Fort William, Ontario.—The Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*) is a regular, but uncommon, autumn migrant at Whitefish Lake, 50 miles southwest of Fort William, where individual birds are occasionally seen during late September and October. Such observations are not unusual, but we were surprised to see 25 of these birds feeding in low, wet fields in Paipoonge Township, eight miles west of Fort William, on October 10, 1941. Only an occasional plover was seen at Whitefish Lake during the fall of 1942, but in 1943, it appeared in large numbers west of the lake-head city. Twelve were noted on September 23 in the same region where they appeared in 1941. On the morning of September 26, a flock flew over the outskirts of the city and that afternoon Golden Plovers were feeding in low fields, cleared of hay and grain, along both sides of the Trans-Canada Highway for about six miles, not only within the city limits but also in the municipalities of Neebing and Paipoonge.

It was difficult to determine how far their invasion extended back from the highway but we conservatively estimated their number at 1000. They were equally common on September 30 but their number had decreased by October 3, when we collected an adult female, now in the Ontario Museum of Zoology, No. 68756. They gradually decreased until October 26, the last date on which they were noted, when only 12 were present. During October they had been such a conspicuous feature that several inquiries came in as to the identity of the "ploverlike birds" so abundant in the region.

The present concept of the autumn migration of the American Golden Plover has been well summarized by Roberts ('Birds of Minnesota,' 2nd ed.: 466-470, 1936). He says: "The main fall migration is first eastwards to Labrador and Newfoundland, thence south to South America, across the ocean . . . a few, formerly many, passed south in the fall, through the Mississippi Valley." In recent years, Roberts reports a slight increase in their numbers during fall migration; adult birds, singly or in small parties, precede later flocks of juveniles. The birds noted at Fort William were undoubtedly following the interior route and probably originated north of Hudson's Bay.—A. E. ALLIN, *Fort William, Ontario.*

Wettable water birds.—That cormorants and anhingas have many peculiarities in common is evident from accounts of their characteristics and relationships. One point that seems to have received little public notice is that, although highly aquatic in habits, these birds have plumage that is not very water-resistant but which in the course of their under-water activities becomes thoroughly wet. This wetting fre-