

at Watrous. An old carcass of an Eared Grebe (*Podiceps caspicus*) and a recent Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) were found. Station personnel informed us that in the past they had occasionally noticed dead birds under the tower. Bird watchers ought to be alert to the possibilities of fatalities at this and other towers and structures, especially during the fall and spring migration. Information obtained in this way, in addition to providing distribution records and specimens, may assist in further understanding the basis for these mortalities and thus in finding ways to help reduce this annual loss of songbirds.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER IN FALL MIGRATION AT HORSESHOE LAKE

On September 17, 1961, I observed a flock of 17 American Golden Plover at Horseshoe Lake northwest of Yorkton. They were studied in detail while at rest and flushed twice to note flight markings. At rest they appeared generally brown above, three individuals having a distinct golden tinge to their upper parts. In flight, the lack of conspicuous markings was evident—there were no wing bars, rump and tail were evenly dark, and there were no black axillars as in the Black-bellied Plover.

Checking Stuart Houston's list of "The birds of the Yorkton district" (1949. *Can. Field-Nat.* 63: 215-241) and recent issues of the *Blue Jay*, I could find no record of this species in fall migration. However,

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Audubon Field Notes lists numerous observations for interior regions within the last few years, the nearest being in South Dakota in the autumn of 1958 and 1960. In the general summary of the 1958 autumn migration reference is made to the continually increasing number of observations which indicate that more individuals are deserting their traditional ocean migration routes in favour of partial or complete overland flights.—**William Anaka**, Spirit Lake.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is always difficult to assess how much migration patterns are actually changing, since a lack of good observers and good records may partly explain the apparent absence of a species. It is interesting to note, as a matter of comparison, that the American Golden Plover was once considered unknown in the Regina area in fall migration, although Margaret Belcher's *Birds of Regina* (1961) cites fall records for as early as 1913. We know of several observations of the Golden Plover again this fall in the Regina area—a group of 21 was seen October 8 by Frank Brazier and R. W. Nero, and a group of five, with one Black-bellied Plover, on October 21 by M. Belcher and L. Murray.

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he is willing to pay. Planning for lure crop planting must go ahead. If Crown land is not available in sufficient quantity to meet the need, suitable private land adjoining the present sanctuary must be acquired. The farming operations required to produce the lure crop could be carried out by local farmers after bids have been submitted on various contracts. These are some of the obstacles that will have to be overcome to alleviate the local crop depredation problem. Perhaps some solution to the problem may be forthcoming through the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act.

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counted ten birds but one got out in the next few minutes. Another got tangled in the net and drowned. I got mired in the mud trying to untangle one bird and fell over with a Sandhill Crane in my arms, saying "I love you, Honey, and some day you will be in a beautiful zoo, admired by thousands of children."

I got six Sandhills for the zoo and Dr. Miller banded the two remaining birds. This adventure was almost as exciting as the time I lassoed a live buffalo in Brandon Park and transferred it to Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park for Mr. Paynter, Director of Wildlife.