

Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). Two were seen April 15 beside a rain pool on U. S. Highway 77, eight miles north of Perry.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*). A large tern, most likely this species, was watched as it dived for fish while flying over Lake Spavinaw, September 20.

Common Tern (*Sterna h. hirundo*). Six were seen on April 29 at Crystal Lake, Woodward.

Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*). Recorded by Mrs. Nice as "summer resident in the Wichita Mountains (Comanche County) and Cimarron County." Several were seen and heard on June 18 and August 28 in the Quartz Mountains, Greer and Kiowa Counties and no doubt the species nests in that locality.—JAMES STEVENSON, *Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Sex Ratio of English Sparrows.—After hearing Dr. L. J. Cole at the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club at St. Louis speak on the sex ratio of English Sparrow nestlings, my own records from 1932 to 1935 were reviewed, with the following results:

Month	Male	Female	Undetermined
January	13	0	0
February	6	6	0
March	7	19	0
April	7	25	0
May	3	35	22
June	1	1	33
September	14	24	0
October	26	37	0
November	12	14	0
December	37	20	0
Total.....	126	181	55

These figures include both young and old birds caught in traps used for banding purposes. Eighty-five of the birds were dissected for sex determination and other studies. The ratio of birds caught in different seasons shows a tendency similar to that of the Cardinal. More males enter traps during winter months and more females during nesting seasons.—CORR SHOOP, *Steelville, Mo.*

The Field Characters of the Black-bellied and Golden Plovers.—Mr. Bayard H. Christy, an able and informative writer, made an inexplicable slip in his "Beach Combers" in the December, 1935, issue of the WILSON BULLETIN that will surely cause confusion in the minds of some of his readers. On page 268 he stated, while discussing field marks of the Black-bellied and the Golden Plovers, that the "only sure field mark is the hind toe—its presence or its absence"—and this after having noted the "broadly white and outspread wings and tail" of the Black-bellied Plover then under observation. According to the best descriptions available, the light stripe in the open wing and the white or whitish tail are amply sufficient to distinguish the Black-bellied from the Golden Plover in straightaway flight. In a side view in flight of a bird in immature or winter plumage, the black axillars (showing a black spot under the wing close up against the body) form a conspicuous field mark of the Black-bellied that is absent in the Golden. So much for actual markings. But anyone really familiar with the Black-bellied Plover in any plumage need never fear that he will overlook a Golden Plover. The Golden is a totally different bird—slimmer, more shapely, with a smaller head, and decidedly brownish in its "gray" plumage.

I had seen thousands of Black-bellied Plovers before I ever saw a Golden Plover, and I always had the beginner's fear that Golden Plovers might be passing me unnoticed. But my first Golden Plover stood out as something distinctly different, and I knew from the first glimpse that I was looking at no Black-bellied Plover. Of course, I checked my identification by flushing the bird and noting the dark tail and wings and the lack of black axillars, but that was merely a precautionary measure. Later experience with the Golden Plover has strengthened my first impression, that it resembles the Black-bellied Plover only in size and in family characteristics and that it is as distinctly different from it in the field as the Least Sandpiper is from the Semipalmated Sandpiper.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, *U. S. Naval Station, Pensacola, Fla.*

Field Marks of the Blue-winged Teal.—Nearly all artists who paint wildlife depict the Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) differently than I have observed it. Because the difference is so marked, I should like to present the bird as I have seen it. This study was made on twenty-three lakes and sloughs in southern Minnesota, beginning June 24, and ending October 30, 1935. Blue-winged Teals stayed unusually late in southern Minnesota in 1935. Five of these sloughs were visited every week and the balance every second week throughout this period. All observations were made with a pair of 6x25 Victory Stereo Bausch & Lomb binoculars. A total of ten specimens was collected, and hundreds of birds studied carefully at close range.

When the Blue-winged Teal swims, rests on land, or walks, no trace is visible of the blue which covers the middle and lesser wing coverts. This blue is conspicuous in flight at all seasons but is never shown when the bird is at rest. This coloration is completely concealed by the long scapulars under which the bend of the wing is carefully tucked. Neither is the speculum visible. Occasionally, as a bird folds its wings after alighting or preening, a stray blue feather will show for a moment, but invariably the bird will readjust its wings and the blue is at once completely concealed. Near St. James on the morning of October 22, 1935, I watched ten Blue-winged Teals from a distance of thirty feet. The afternoon of the same day at Lake Crystal I watched fourteen Blue-winged Teals from about forty feet for half an hour. One of these came up on the bank within fifteen feet of me, where it sunned and preened itself for ten minutes. I checked this point very carefully.

At this time of year both the male and female appear as small, slightly mottled, brownish colored birds, the back, ends of the primaries, and upper tail coverts being a little darker. The back of the head, neck, and shoulders are also somewhat darker, shading off to a grayish color forward. The neck and head are more slender than that of the Green-winged Teal and the bill larger. On the water the Blue-winged Teal seems to sit flatter and hold its head farther forward than the Green-winged Teal.

In the spring the female has a faint white patch at the base of the bill and a white spot on the side of the tail at its base. The breast and belly shade off to a lightish gray. The male in the spring has a conspicuous white crescent in front of the eye with the points extending to the back. The head at this time is a slate color and the white spot at the base of the tail is quite conspicuous. The back of the male is somewhat darker than that of the female, and the breast shades off to a reddish brown.