

The 1893 Migration of *Charadrius dominicus* and *Numenius borealis* in Massachusetts.—Nantucket, August 20, 1893. Lowering sky and southeast wind. While driving over the western portion of the island, I saw in the distance eighteen birds which I thought were a flock of American Golden Plovers. I had been advised that such a flock had been seen in that neighborhood on the 18th inst. The wind was light southeast with severe rain in the night from nine o'clock P. M. until two A. M.

August 21. I was out very early; raining hard; wind increasing and backing to northwest at four A. M., reaching a velocity of fifty to sixty miles an hour, the storm being very severe. I remained out until noon, seeing only two Golden Plovers and one Eskimo Curlew, and I shot one of each. These were the first birds shot here this season. This storm extended by actual reports two hundred miles south of Nantucket. It cleared at 10.30 P. M. in the evening with wind nearly west.

August 22. Wind light southwest to west; no birds.

August 23. Wind southeast, threatening; no birds.

August 24. Up at four o'clock A. M. Rain commenced about five o'clock, and lasted until nine o'clock A. M., raining very hard at intervals; velocity of wind about 50 miles an hour. It then cleared, wind remaining east and east by south, still blowing very hard. No birds.

August 26. Clear, good breeze, southwest and west; think it has been foggy at sea. I was out four hours driving over the plover ground but only saw one Golden Plover. I have heard from the islands of Tucker-nuck and Muskeget and no birds have been seen.

August 27. Foggy around the islands; light warm southeast wind during the early portion of the day; later south to south by west and very foggy; almost calm; no birds.

August 28. Thick weather all last night; no change of wind. Drove over the ground; no birds; warm.

August 28 and 29. Pleasant weather; full moon at night; wind west. Went all over the ground again but no birds.

August 30 and 31. Clear and pleasant; no birds.

September 1. A number of flocks of Plovers were reported to have been heard passing over the island last night; *none* stopped. The only Plover here are a flock of thirty-five located in a certain preserved field, and a small flock of twelve; nine of these were shot on Sept. 9. I drove over the western ground on the 9th and 10th of September but did not see any birds.

September 11 and 12. Pleasant weather; drove over the ground but no birds.

September 13. While driving over the western ground saw nine Golden Plovers from the above preserved field; weather calm, wind light south by west and southwest.

From the 13th to the 16th I drove out daily, but saw no birds. On the 16th I saw a flock of four Golden Plovers and shot two of them. They

had the appearance of being new arrivals. Wind strong south by west. In the afternoon a severe squall with rain lasted three hours, then cleared with wind west.

September 17. I drove over the eastern portion of the island but did not see any birds.

September 18. Clear weather, strong west winds; drove over the western part of the island; saw no birds.

September 19. Rainy day, wind south by west and southwest; drove out but saw no birds. At six and a half o'clock P. M. it cleared with wind west.

September 20. Hazy; a smoky southwester. I was all over the western ground, but failed to discover any birds. From this date until October 4, I drove more or less over the best ground, and saw other sportsmen daily, but no birds were noted except on September 24, when a flock of six *young* American Golden Plover were seen towards the west. These were the *first* and *only young* birds noted this season. I made inquiry of two Edgartown (Martha's Vineyard) sportsmen regarding the birds in their locality and was told that only about a dozen scattering Plover and four or five Eskimo Curlew had been taken. They told me that on the 22d of August some Plovers were seen passing high up over the town (Edgartown) but none stopped.

Summary.—The great scarcity of these birds this season is shown when I state that only fourteen Golden Plover and one Eskimo Curlew have been shot on Nantucket, and only a dozen of the former and four or five of the latter at Edgartown, a record unexampled, I think, for twenty years. In considering the reasons for this scarcity of birds the present season, I must account for it theoretically as due in part to the continued fair weather and favorable migrating conditions which prevailed *prior* to the 20th of August, as also to the long *threatening* weather which seemed to precede for several days all the storms which prevailed during the migrating period this season. The birds probably adapted their migratory movements to such conditions. I have remarked of late years that it is to the *sudden local* storms which occur while they are on passage along this coast that their presence nowadays is due, such conditions forcing them to seek shelter temporarily from the inclement weather. —GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

The California Vulture in the San Gabriel Range, California.—In the San Gabriel Range, Sept. 25, 1893, I saw and shot at a California Vulture. When I first saw the Vulture it was about 350 feet away, across a gulch, perched on a fir stub about 40 feet from the ground. Mr. F. Hawley of Los Angeles was with me. The bird had heard us talking, and heard us shoot, but did not fly. I walked up to within 15 or 20 yards before it decided to leave. I then fired. At the report it pitched off the perch and down into a narrow, crooked cañon below, the large white triangular area under the wings showing plainly as the wings were spread. We searched