

September 19 brought the first Duck Hawk and on the 28th a Florida Gallinule appeared at the head of the lake, remaining nearby until October 1.

A northeaster on September 30 brought a Ring-billed Gull, three Red-backed Sandpipers and a Golden Plover, and two more days of rain launched the largest flight of the season, when on October 3, 30 Pied-billed Grebes, three Black Ducks, two Pintails, one Blue-winged Teal, 25 Baldpates, four Shovellers, a Redhead and a Ruddy Duck, a Bonaparte's Gull, a Ring-billed Gull, a Common Tern, a Least Bittern, 60 Semipalmated Sandpipers, three Least Sandpipers, 50 Red-backed Sandpipers, 30 White-rumped Sandpipers, five Greater Yellow-legs, six Black-bellied Plovers, five Semipalmated Plovers were among the more notable species present. In a sense parasitic on these were a Duck Hawk and a Pigeon Hawk. The latter was seen in the act of plucking a "peep" out of one of the flocks.

October 12 brought a pair of Golden Plovers to the same mud-lump that had been visited by that of October 1, and the 23rd found three in the same spot. By the latter date the Sandpipers had largely disappeared, a couple of Snipe and Pectoral Sandpipers and one Lesser Yellow-legs alone remaining in the marshes at the head of the reservoir.

October 27 brought the next prize in the form of a flock of 10 Gadwalls. To record this rare bird, entirely new to the county list, twice in one year was indeed more than one could reasonably hope for, yet two of this flock remained until November 3, and one was seen on the 28th. On all occasions they were seen under favorable conditions with Zeiss 8x glasses, both at rest and in flight.

A steady rain on the night preceding November 3 brought another wind-fall of water birds, a Loon, three Horned Grebes, nine Red-breasted Mergansers, six Green-winged Teal, four Canvasbacks, 50 Old Squaws, 10 Ruddies, four Redheads and four White-winged Scoters being on the dam that morning with a goodly number of Black Ducks, some Baldpates and the previously mentioned Gadwalls.

A belated Red-backed Sandpiper was also seen.

Another rain on November 15 brought two Ring-necked Ducks, three Lesser Scaups, and one Goldeneye, and the 17th brought the first Buffleheads.

Such species as the Black Duck, Pintail, Baldpate, Bufflehead, Scaup and Green-winged Teal remained until the first cold wave on November 30 when the dam froze over; a Bonaparte's Gull hovering over a small unfrozen pool on that day being the last of the birds to desert the dam.—  
EARL L. POOLE, *Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pa.*

**Notes on Speed of Flight of Certain Water Birds.**—From Ponce de Leon Inlet (formerly Mosquito Inlet), on the east coast of Florida, there extends to the north and to the south what is generally considered to be the finest beach in the world. Here the world's record for speed in an automobile was made by the late Major H. O. D. Segrave, when he drove his "Golden Arrow" over a measured mile at 231 miles per hour. This long

stretch of ocean beach provides an unusual opportunity to time the speed of bird flight. Driving a car equipped with a Waltham speedometer, I have on some occasions paced a bird, or a flock of birds, up to a distance of eight miles. To estimate the absolute speed of these birds, correction would of course have to be made for both wind direction and wind velocity. The data given below, however, will indicate certain limits of speed for the species listed. Where more than one observation has been made, the highest speed recorded is given. In no case, where wind is recorded as "ahead," was the estimated velocity in excess of 10 miles per hour.

	Number of birds	Speed in M. P. H.	Wind Direction
Black Skimmer . . . . .	2	18 <sup>1</sup>	Ahead
Gannet . . . . .	4	25	Ahead
Cormorant . . . . .	4	20	Ahead
Brown Pelican . . . . .	4	26 <sup>2</sup>	Abeam
Knot . . . . .	Flock	38	Abeam
Semipalmated Sandpiper . . . . .	Flock	32	Abeam
Sanderling . . . . .	1	41 <sup>3</sup>	Behind
Willet . . . . .	1	27	Ahead
Hudsonian Curlew . . . . .	2	34 <sup>4</sup>	Abeam
Semipalmated Plover . . . . .	Flock	32	Behind
Black-bellied Plover . . . . .	1	24	Abeam
Ruddy Turnstone . . . . .	4	27	Ahead

—R. J. LONGSTREET, *Daytona Beach, Fla.*

**Increasing the Power of Field Glasses.**—Greater power in the magnification of field glasses is a frequent desirability by persons looking for birds. Many a bird remains unidentified because its distance is too great for the individual field glasses. When two persons are working together, each with different field glasses, they often give up in despair without determining the distant bird, when a little co-operative work would solve the mystery. The definite solution of the problem in a practical way is the use of two pairs of field glasses applied in tandem series. Two pairs of glasses should each be focused on the distant object and then used in tandem. The eye-piece of one field glass is held to the larger objective lens of the other and the object sought is viewed through both glasses. If the object is not then in focus a slight adjustment of the far field glass may correct the focus, or it may be necessary to adjust both pieces. A precaution to be observed is that necessary care be taken not to scratch the large lens by the eye-piece of the distal field glasses. It may be protected by a ring of soft blotting paper, cloth or felt.

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<sup>1</sup> Paced for 3 miles. This was a feeding flight.  
<sup>2</sup> Paced for 8 miles.  
<sup>3</sup> Helping wind estimated at 10 m. p. h.  
<sup>4</sup> Paced for 7 miles.