

only by this fact, but also by the more than erect usually attitude that it took while in the water. I therefore assume that the object of the immersions had something to do with the arrangement of its plumage. Another consideration is that if there had been any prey in its talons, its line of flight, i. e., to the nest, would have been, normally, quite a different one.—L. McCORMICK-GOODHART, *Washington, D. C.*

Ospreys Bathing.—On August 22, 1927, I saw two Ospreys, birds of the year, flying over a fresh water lake at Cape May Point, N. J., and repeatedly diving down head foremost, then turning and entering the water at a low angle, submerging the head and shoulders and often remaining on the surface with wings outspread for a half minute or more at a time. The birds would then flap heavily out and shaking themselves in the air would plunge in again. Each bird dove fifteen or twenty times sometimes in quick succession and made no attempt to catch anything, if indeed there was anything there to catch, for I had not seen them fishing there at any time during the summer. They were evidently bathing, possibly to rid themselves of vermin acquired in the nest.

In connection with the preceding note it seems desirable to put this observation on record.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Mock Courtship Display by Female Ring-necked Pheasants.—At Peterboro, New Hampshire, during the winter of 1931-32, Mrs. Whittle and I had daily opportunities to observe a group of Ring-necked Pheasants consisting of two males and six females, which came several times a day to our garden some fifty feet from the house, where a continuous food supply was maintained.

Throughout March and early April the behaviour of the two males changed little, excepting that their habit of distending their feathers and shaking them increased, a habit less often practised by the females.

It was not until mid-April that the males were seen to manifest any courtship interest in the females, but prior to this, during the first week in April, the behaviour of the females themselves was distinctly of a kind which in male pheasants would be called courtship display, though Townsend's account of the male's display (*Bent, Life Histories of the Galliformes and Columbiformes*), makes no mention of any display indulged in by females. This display usually took place with no males in sight and if a male were present, he appeared oblivious to the performances.

The earliest exhibition observed consisted of sudden runs for eight or ten feet from a place where the females were in a group, and an immediate return to the same place. A day or two later a female was observed with wings partially spread, her body feathers fluffed out and the tail fanned and bent forward beyond the vertical, turning around or waltzing in a circle of a diameter about equal to her length. Following this a sudden short run took place. The last performance seen of this sort was equally

elaborate, and the display just described was accompanied by walking rapidly in circles of five or six feet in diameter instead of waltzing. Later in the season the habit of suddenly darting a short distance was observed to take place when an amorous male sought a female's favor. This appeared to be play on her part for she dodged back and forth on one side of a small clump of bushes while the male repeated the performance on the opposite side.

It is a little difficult to understand the cause of these sudden runs and displays, but as they became most elaborate when the nesting season was at hand, it appears probable that they took place at the period of maximum ovarian development. If the character of the display agreed with the observed courting performances of the males, it would seem to indicate that the females inherited the male's instinct to display but not the male's purpose in so doing, namely, to win a mate. Perhaps all the ways of courting males have not been observed. The display was not directed towards or before any one bird, and usually only a single bird at a time displayed elaborately, though when this was taking place other females present became excited and the sudden to-and-fro runs usually became general. Display exhibitions were of short duration, lasting not over one or two minutes.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, *Peterboro, N. H.*

Florida Gallinule Breeding in the Connecticut Valley.—The Florida Gallinule is principally a fall migrant in the Valley from southern Massachusetts southward and the individuals are mostly young of the year. On May 12, 1929, however, a spring migrant was found dead on the river-bank near Holyoke and in 1930, breeding birds were first noted by C. W. Vibert at South Windsor, Conn. They seem to have increased in 1931 and 1932, and this year, a colony of three or four pairs was discovered at a pond in Belchertown, Mass., some eight or nine miles east of the river. This pond is also the only place where this year we have found the Sora and Pied-billed Grebe nesting. It is full of patches of dense, tall cat-tails separated by leads of deep water,—the Gallinule's favorite type of habitat.—S. A. ELIOT, JR., *Northampton* and A. C. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.*

American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*) in Camden County, N. J.—John A. Gillespie, Norman J. McDonald and the writer observed an American Golden Plover at Fish House, Camden County, N. J., August 29, 1932. The bird (an adult male) was under observation for half an hour, during which time the characteristic field marks were plainly made out. This is the first Camden County record for this species so far as I know.—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

Wilson's Plover Seen in Massachusetts.—On May 15, on the east-ern beach of the "neck" that runs out from Lynn to Nahant, a flock of Semipalmated Plovers was being observed by a rather large party of Essex County bird-men, with whom I was a guest. I noticed among the birds one that was different having a long black bill and more white on