

discovered the hawk was eating the head of the carcass. Later, after vigorous effort, it succeeded in dragging its find from the water. The manifest difficulty of the task made it seem unlikely that it could have captured and killed even a sick or injured duck. Similarly, the length of time, after the breast was plucked, required to open the body cavity indicated something less than the power of beak usually attributed to birds of prey of the size of this species. It is known, of course, that the Marsh Hawk's food consists chiefly of small, soft-bodied animals. As much would be deduced from the observation here recorded and the conclusion is reached that the finding of remains of wildfowl or poultry among the stomach contents of hawks is doubtful proof of their danger to these forms.—EDWARD R. FORD, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois.*

Sage Hen eats grasshoppers.—During the past summer (1940) I noticed Sage Hens, *Centrocercus urophasianus*, feeding along the roadway in central Montana, sometimes at a distance from their usual feeding environment of sagebrush. I have often wondered if they were feeding on grasshoppers, but not having a collecting permit I was unable to obtain any birds for a food-habit determination.

On August 6, while at Yellow Water Reservoir south of Winnett, Montana, in the company of Philip Van Cleave and Allen Erickson, I found the remains of a Sage Hen. The body, including all of the bones, had been eaten or carried away. The feathers, however, provided adequate identification and luckily, the modified gizzard was intact. A pile of 19 grasshoppers from the gullet indicated what the bird had been eating. The gizzard was analyzed to determine to what extent this bird had been feeding on 'hoppers. It was found that the entire contents consisted of grasshoppers. Some, of course, were in a very much broken and mashed condition; however, the jumping legs served to indicate the number of 'hoppers consumed. There were 150 jumping legs, indicating the consumption of at least 75 'hoppers. These, plus the 19 that were found in the gullet, made a total of 94 grasshoppers destroyed by the Sage Hen just previous to its death. This is but a small part of the number of grasshoppers the bird might consume during the entire day, and indicated that the Sage Hen does, under some conditions, feed exclusively upon grasshoppers.—Louis M. Moos, *Biologist, Soil Conservation Service, Billings, Montana.*

Golden Plover in central Indiana.—Following heavy rainfall in April 1940, many fields in the adjacent flat countryside became temporarily flooded, and numerous shallow lakes were formed. It had stopped raining April 21 and become bright and clear. That afternoon we were driving along an unfrequented country road beside a last year's cornfield which was partly inundated, when we saw a flash of wings about a hundred yards distant from us on the opposite side of the water.

We stopped our car, and training our binoculars in the direction where we had seen the birds flying, were surprised to see a considerable number of Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) feeding along the edge of the water, and in the field near the water. The whistled call note was unmistakable, as were the golden-brown back, white streak above the eye and along the sides of the breast, and black throat and breast. The male birds were more strikingly marked than the females, and a number of the males performed energetically. Whistling, with wings slightly lifted, and head lowered, a male would run toward a female, stop when almost touching her, then run off again and come back and repeat the performance. Several times males had brief fights. Two of them became so embroiled that they carried their quarrel from land to water. They were going at one another