

**The Golden Plover in south-central Florida.**—The Golden Plover, (*Pluvialis d. dominica*) is listed in Arthur H. Howell's 'Florida bird-life' (page 222) as "A very rare or accidental migrant." It would seem, therefore, that the following is of more than ordinary interest. Examination of Howell's account reveals that the last example was seen by Herbert L. Stoddard at Lake Jackson, north Florida, April 7, 1928, nineteen years ago. Limited facilities available to the writer at his present location at Okeechobee, make it impossible for further perusal of the literature, but at any rate, it is of interest to know that the Golden Plover has again appeared in the spring migration, this time, a considerable distance south of Stoddard's territory.

On the afternoon of March 26, 1947, about five miles west of Brighton, Highlands County, a bird was watched for as long as we wished, by Messrs. Richard H. Pough, John Bull and the writer, together with Mrs. Bull, Mrs. Sprunt, and Miss Constance Bancroft of Lakeville, Connecticut. Recent heavy rains had flooded the Kissimmee Prairie area, and drawn many shore-birds to shallow ponds. While we were watching a small flock of Pectoral Sandpipers (*Pisobia melanotos*) another shore-bird flew in, and had concentrated upon it a veritable battery of binoculars—7, 8, 9 and 16-power!! The bird was a Golden Plover. It was watched at a range of about fifty yards, and after complete study was attained, efforts were made to induce it to take wing, to no avail! Passing cars of motorists must have thought that the antics indulged in were the result of sheer lunacy!

Apparently, this species has been taken but three times in Florida—by Atkins in Punta Rassa, and Hoyt at Miakka, in 1889, 1900 and 1901, respectively (Howell). The individual here recorded was observed about 23 miles west of Okeechobee.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston, South Carolina.*

**Birds observed in April along the Colorado River from Hite to Lee's Ferry.**—Opportunity was recently afforded the writer of accompanying a party down Glen Canyon of the Colorado River. The trip started at Hite, Utah, on April 13, 1947, and terminated at Lee's Ferry, Arizona, on April 17. The distance was 162 miles. Members of the group in addition to the writer were Milton Rees and Alf Olson of Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Emil Johnson of San Diego, California. While the four of us navigated this quiet stretch of the river, Clifton Greenhalgh and John Bushman drove the car and trailer around to Lee's Ferry. Two boats, each powered with small motors, were used. Camps were made on the river banks at dusk and departures were made early the following morning. Little time consequently was available for observation, let alone collecting of land birds. On the river, the noise of the motors disturbed the water birds somewhat so that only two birds were collected, a Lesser Scaup Duck and a Franklin's Gull, both of which were prepared as study skins. Yet by the use of field glasses, identifications were made with certainty for every species listed in this paper.

The region traversed is so inaccessible to the ornithologist and so little known faunally that it seems worth while to record the data gathered, meagre though they are. Boat trips through Glen Canyon and along a companion route down the San Juan from Mexico Hat to its junction with the Colorado and thence to Lee's Ferry are increasing in number each year, and these notes may serve as an indication to people making these trips, and at the same time interested in birds, as to just what may be expected in the way of bird life enroute. Furthermore, a dam may be constructed in the future somewhere along the lower portion of Glen Canyon which would greatly alter the environmental situation there.

In April the water level of the Colorado is relatively low. A channel wends its way along marginal areas of the river bed or passes back and forth from side to side,

leaving large areas of shallow water and numerous exposed sand bars suitable for water birds to loaf. Indeed, most of those seen were resting until we approached and disturbed them. Near the mouths of tributary streams and commonly along the edges of the river were sand and gravel bars of varying extent clothed with willows and occasional cottonwoods. In the more open portions of the canyon there was benchland covered with sage, rabbit brush, squawbush, scrub oak or dense growths of annuals. Here several kinds of land birds were found. The ever-present cliffs and rocky canyon walls afforded yet another habitat.

While many of the water birds observed were doubtless in migration when disturbed, they did not as a rule head upstream but rather would retreat downstream ahead of us. After two or three such moves they would take a position on the far shore as we passed or would fly upstream.

Although the number of water birds that we saw along the river was not indicative of any wave of migration, nevertheless the Colorado and Green rivers along their 2000-mile length may serve as a route followed by many water birds in their migrations. Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 12: 51-294, 1914) has discussed the birds of the lower Colorado River. Numerous species have been noted on the river in the depths of Grand Canyon (Grater, Nat. Hist. Bull., Grand Canyon Nat. Hist. Ass'n, No. 8: 1-55, 1937). Woodbury (Bull. Univ. Utah, 35: 1-160, 1945) has recorded information for the lower portion of Glen Canyon. Twomey (Ann. Carnegie Mus., 28: 341-390, 1942) found a number of migrants along the Green River in the Uinta Basin of northeastern Utah. The observations of the writer fill in yet another stretch of the river system although overlapping in part the portion traversed by Woodbury.

Listed beyond in systematic order are the species of birds seen along Glen Canyon or in small tributary canyons. Topographic sheets A to K of the U. S. Geological Survey, of the plan and profile of the Colorado River, Lee's Ferry, Arizona, to mouth of Green River, Utah, were used to ascertain exact localities where the birds were observed. Mile intervals upstream from Lee's Ferry are indicated on these maps and have been used to designate the points of bird observations, supplemented by the location of tributary canyons.

**GREAT BLUE HERON, *Ardea herodias*.**—This species was the water bird most frequently encountered en route. Doubtless some of the individuals were migrants, yet herons of this kind probably nest in the cottonwoods along the river. The first individual was seen at Mile 158 (four miles below Hite) on April 13 near the mouth of Fourmile Creek. A pair was found that same day at Mile 148½, near the mouth of Ticaboo Canyon. On April 14, three were seen at Moki Bar, 127½ miles. They circled around us showing reluctance to leave the site. A lone individual was seen at Mile 95. It flew downstream and perched on a rock high up on the opposite bank until we passed, whereupon it flew back upstream to the place where first seen. On April 16, at the mouth of Aztec Creek, 68½ miles, a lone heron was observed, and another at Mile 56 near the mouth of Rock Creek. Near the mouth of Last Chance Creek, 49½ miles, four were seen this same day. One of these caught a fish about eight inches long, seemingly a catfish, and flew with it crosswise in its bill to an exposed rock where it landed and waited for us to pass. On our last day, April 17, single Great Blue Herons were seen at Mile 21, Mile 6 and Mile 3.

**SNOWY EGRET, *Leucophoyx thula*.**—A lone individual was standing on a mud bar at Mile 60 on April 16. Eight were seen at Mile 11 on April 17. They flew downstream, landed, flew again and landed, and finally, the third time they were disturbed, crossed to the opposite shore where they remained as we passed.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*.—Two were seen on April 16, at the Crossing of the Fathers, near the mouth of Kane Creek, Mile 40½, and on April 17 another pair at Mile 17 near the mouth of Wahweap Creek.

WHITE-FACED GLOSSY IBIS, *Plegadis guarauna*.—Three were seen at 122 miles, April 14, standing on a sandbar.

CANADA GOOSE, *Brania canadensis*.—At the mouth of Ticaboo Creek, 148 miles, a single individual passed us on April 13, flying upstream. The following day, at 111 miles, a single example flew over us, also headed downstream, but circled and continued upstream.

PINTAIL, *Anas acuta*.—A pair was observed in flight going upstream near the mouth of Ticaboo Canyon, 148½ miles, on April 13. Two pairs were seen on April 14 at 122 miles loafing in consort with Shovellers, a Baldpate and a Green-winged Teal. Six Pintails flew past us headed upstream, April 14, near Hole-in-Rock Creek, Mile 84.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL, *Anas crecca*.—A single male was among a flock of ducks consisting of Pintails, Shovellers and a Baldpate on a bar at Mile 122, April 14.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL, *Anas discors*.—Near Klondike Bar, Mile 65, a pair was seen April 16.

CINNAMON TEAL, *Anas cyanoptera*.—A pair was seen near the mouth of Wahweap Creek, Mile 17, on April 17.

SHOVELLER, *Spatula clypeata*.—At Moki Bar, 127 miles, there were three pairs on April 14. A few miles downstream, at 122, two more pairs were resting with Pintails, a Baldpate and a Green-winged Teal.

GADWALL, *Chaulelasmus streperus*.—A pair was noted near Hole-in-Rock Creek, Mile 84, on April 14. Five were resting on a mudbank at the mouth of the San Juan River, Mile 78 the same day. The last two seen were near the mouth of Wahweap Creek, Mile 17 on April 17.

BALDPATE, *Mareca americana*.—Only one was seen, at Mile 122, in a flock of Pintails, Shovellers and a Green-winged Teal, April 14.

CANVAS-BACK, *Aythya valisineria*.—At Moki Bar, 127½ miles a pair was seen and a half mile downstream a female was resting with three pairs of Shovellers on April 14. On April 16, at Mile 59½, near the mouth of Last Chance Creek, there were three females.

LESSER SCAUP DUCK, *Aythya affinis*.—At the mouth of Fourmile Creek, 158 miles, two females were seen and one collected on April 13. Two additional females were seen a few hours later at the mouth of Ticaboo Canyon, 148 miles.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE, *Bucephala clangula*.—Wherever ducks of this species occurred they were in small flocks, and hence were more numerous than other ducks. All were seen on April 16. At the Crossing of the Fathers, near the mouth of Kane Creek, 40½ miles, twelve were seen. They headed downstream. At Mile 36, twelve were seen, probably the same flock. This time they flew upstream. At Mile 31, a flock of 16 was seen which took off upstream.

PRAIRIE FALCON, *Falco mexicanus*.—A lone individual was seen soaring across the face of a cliff just below Moki Bar, Mile 127, on the morning of April 14. The same day a pair was seen toward evening at Mile 88 near the mouth of the Escalante River. One landed on a ledge high on the vertical cliff. On April 15, en route to Rainbow Bridge, a pair was seen near the junction of Bridge and Aztec canyons. This locality was about one airline mile east of the point where Aztec Canyon enters the Colorado River at 68½ miles. One or both members of the pair repeatedly landed on an exposed promontory, suggesting an eyrie.

PIGEON HAWK, *Falco columbarius*.—A lone bird was in flight upstream along the river near the mouth of Warm Spring Creek, 136 miles, April 13.

RING-BILLED GULL, *Larus delawarensis*.—On April 16, three were seen at Mile 49 near the mouth of Last Chance Creek. They headed downstream, and about an hour and a half later three were seen, possibly the same three, at 40½ miles near the Crossing of the Fathers, at the mouth of Kane Creek. Upstream, a quarter of a mile from Lee's Ferry, a lone crippled gull was seen on the far side of the river on April 17.

FRANKLIN'S GULL, *Larus pipixcan*.—Near the mouth of Ticaboo Canyon, 148 miles, two were seen on April 13, and one, a male, was collected.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus platycercus*.—One male was seen sipping from the blossom of the scarlet bugler at the mouth of Aztec Canyon, 68½ miles, April 15.

SAY'S PHOEBE, *Sayornis saya*.—One was noted at the Chaffin Ranch near the mouth of Trachyte Canyon just below Hite, on April 13. Near the mouth of Ticaboo Canyon, 148 miles, one was observed to fly across the river from the west to the east bank this same day.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW, *Tachycineta thalassina*.—Only two birds of this relatively common species were seen, both skimming over the clear water of Aztec Creek, near its mouth at Mile 68½ on April 15.

AMERICAN RAVEN, *Corvus corax*.—One was seen in flight along the narrow canyon gorge at Mile 31 on April 16.

CALIFORNIA JAY, *Aphelocoma coerulescens*.—One was seen and heard in the dense streamside growth of willows and cottonwoods at Hite on the morning of April 13.

HOUSE WREN, *Troglodytes aëdon*.—One was seen in the willow thicket along the stream at the mouth of Smith Fork, 132 miles, April 14.

CANYON WREN, *Catherpes mexicanus*.—One was seen and heard at Hidden Passage Canyon, Mile 76, the morning of April 15. At the mouth of Aztec Canyon, 68½ miles, one was heard April 15 and 16. Another was heard at Lee's Ferry, April 17.

ROCK WREN, *Salpinctes obsoletus*.—Seen at Lee's Ferry, April 17.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, *Regulus calendula*.—A migrant was found at Lee's Ferry, April 17.

LUCY'S WARBLER, *Vermivora luciae*.—One was seen at Lee's Ferry, April 17.

YELLOW WARBLER, *Dendroica petechia*.—An early migrant was seen at the mouth of Smith Fork, 132 miles, April 14.

AUDUBON'S WARBLER, *Dendroica auduboni*.—One was seen at Lee's Ferry, April 17.

RED-WING, *Agelaius phoeniceus*.—A small flock of eight flew over the willows near our camp at mouth of Smith Fork, 132 miles, on the morning of April 14. Two were en route along the sandbars two days later at the mouth of Aztec Creek, 68½ miles.

HOUSE FINCH, *Carpodacus mexicanus*.—These finches were abundant at the mouth of Smith Fork, 132 miles, April 14. They were common at the mouth of Aztec Canyon, 68½ miles, April 15, and again at Lee's Ferry April 17.

PALE GOLDFINCH, *Spinus tristis*.—A flock of 45 or more was frequenting the open country at the mouth of Smith Fork, April 14.

SPURRED TOWHEE, *Pipilo maculatus*.—One was seen in a scrub oak thicket at the mouth of Smith Fork, 132 miles, April 14.

OREGON JUNCO, *Junco oreganus*.—A few of these winter visitants or migrants were found April 13, at Hite, 162 miles.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*.—A few of these transients were seen at Hite, April 13, and again at Lee's Ferry, April 17.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, Department of Zoology, University of Utah, Salt Lake, City Utah.