

The Louisville, Kentucky, *Times* for April 24 contained an editorial which quoted the protest of *The American Field* against this very propaganda by ammunition companies, and says, in conclusion, "The purpose behind the crow-killing contests (such as the one in Tilden, Nebraska, which resulted in the destruction of 17,000 crows) which the Federal Department of Agriculture has not indorsed, and which many ornithologists and many mere human beings deplore as a foolish and savage onslaught upon a species probably more useful than injurious, is ammunition selling."

The Hesston, Kansas, Audubon Society has given this year for the benefit of its members a series of lectures on "Birds and Bird Life."

There are always good ways to keep people informed and interested in birds. Our good friend, I. H. Johnston, State Ornithologist of West Virginia, has adopted the method of speaking to the thousands of people in his state through the columns of the Weekly Market Bulletin. "Questions and Answers about Birds", "Request for a Bird Census", "Birds of West Virginia", "Pileated Woodpecker" and "Red-bellied Woodpecker" are successive articles in the Bulletins.

John B. Lewis, Lawrenceville, Virginia, recently became a member of the W. O. C. For years he was official observer for the Biological Survey at Eubank, Kentucky, his records there being used extensively by the Survey in determining migration routes.

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## GENERAL NOTES

### THE GOLDEN PLOVER AT COLUMBUS, OHIO

The Golden Plover was seen this spring in large numbers for a short period of time in the vicinity of Columbus, Ohio. In Ohio, it is a very, very rare migrant. It confines its migration to the Mississippi Valley and the Atlantic coast, as a rule. Thus, we seldom have it in Ohio, which is several hundred miles from either place. In Dawson's "Birds of Ohio," Mr. Dawson comments upon the fact that it was once seen several years before his writing of that book. To my knowledge, it has not been seen in Ohio since that time until this spring. Although we have several distinguished bird observers who have been in the field observing birds for the last fifteen or twenty years, it has never been seen here before. So we must consider this record as a very rare accident.

It was first seen on April 18 by Mr. C. F. Walker and Mr. R. M. Geist at the junction of a small road with a well-traveled highway, about two miles southwest of Columbus and about one-half mile west of the Scioto River. There was a flock of twelve Golden Plovers there and no other birds. The majority of the flock were in winter plumage, but a few were changing to summer plumage, while several were in full summer plumage. They seemed to have come in for the night for they were running around a little pond which was hardly more than ten feet in length and about half as wide.

The next morning, at sun-rise, Mr. Milton Trautman went down to this little pond and again found them. This time there were eighteen in the flock. He crept up to them and observed them with a 8X glass at a distance of about thirty feet. He saw them bathe and sun themselves right in front of him. They fed quite a bit, but he is under the impression that their prime object of being there was to bathe in the pool of water and to prepare themselves for the day. The afternoon of that same day Mr. E. S. Thomas and a party found a large flock of Golden Plover about twelve miles southeast of Columbus. There were about 500 of them and about the same number of Pectoral Sandpipers together in a field. This number of Plovers was merely a low estimate of the flock of Plovers as the exact number could not be determined. Upon Mr. Thomas' inquiry of the owner of this field, who lived near by, he found out they had been seen there for the last three or four days.

The last time that they were seen was on the afternoon of Easter Sunday (April 20) when Mr. Trautman and I went down for the express purpose of seeing them. We were greatly disappointed for we saw no trace of them. We went on down the road for several miles in order to see other birds. While there, we saw a long string of about fifty birds fly over us. They flew so high, so swift, and so different from any other birds of this general class that we believed them to be Golden Plovers, but this record is doubtful. On our way home we stopped at the pond where they had been seen before, and there were twenty of the Golden Plovers! They stayed there just about five minutes after our arrival, when they flew away for good. We got a fine view of them during that short time, for I used a 33X telescope on them at a distance of about 75 yards. There were not more than three males in summer plumage which were in that flock. Again it seemed that they had stopped at that place merely for a rest or to spend the night.

It is unfortunate that one of the observers could not have collected one of these birds, but the only possessor of a collecting permit among our bird student friends was unable to get out in order to collect one. However, as we are so certain of their identity, we consider ourselves fortunate in having seen them at all, for we shall probably never see them again at Columbus.

[A flock of 25 was seen near Huron, Ohio, on May 5, and one on the 18th, and another on the 23d at Bay Point, Ohio.—L. J.]  
in this connection.

F. DALE PONTIUS.

May 2, 1924.