

numerous on 8 May) although there were very few passerine birds present at any time to serve as prey species. On 11 May a female Sharp-shinned Hawk captured in a mist net was found to have three broken porcupine quills from one-half to one inch long in its left foot. These extended completely through the toes and had to be removed with tweezers. The bird had no food in its crop; in fact, of more than 60 hawks examined in the week, only four had full crops, attesting to a meager food supply. Although there are examples in the literature of Sharp-shinned Hawks attacking larger birds (Black-crowned Night Heron, Wood Duck, Common Crow, and domestic chickens), nothing was found regarding attacks on porcupines, dead or alive. The bird seemed to be in good condition, none the worse for its encounter, and flew away spiritedly when released.—ALICE KELLEY AND NEIL KELLEY, 3681 Forest Hill Drive, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 31 May 1968.

**The migration of the American Golden Plover through Surinam.**—The American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) has the fame of making a long transoceanic flight in autumn from Nova Scotia to northern South America and after a short stop proceeding to its winter quarters in Argentina. In spring the birds are said to return in a long overland flight more to the west of the southbound route over the Amazonian rain forest, then via central North America to the arctic breeding grounds so that the entire route is in the form of a giant ellipse. The map illustrating this supposed route dates from Cooke (U.S. Dept. Agr. Bull., 185:12, 1915) and still is one of the show pieces of bird migration which appears in even the latest handbook on migration by Dorst (The migrations of birds, 1962, p. 100) and even on the dustcover of Griffin (Bird migration, 1964). Lately Johnston and McFarlane (Condor, 69:165, 166, 1967) stated, in my opinion quite rightly, that some of these ideas perhaps deserve corrections and are at least unproven. As to the long oversea flight in autumn I might remark that recent field observations prove that there is quite a lot of island-hopping in the Caribbean. To mention only three authors: Pinchon (Faune des Antilles Françaises. Les Oiseaux, 1963, p. 37) states that in the French Antilles (perhaps pertaining to the main island Martinique though this is not specially mentioned) these birds are regular guests from the beginning of August till the end of November. The gunners of the island kill large numbers (“ils en font une hécatombe”) a practice which is, according to the author, “justified, it must be admitted, by the quality of the bird.” Mees (Junge and Mees, Zool. Verhandl. 37:27, 1958) saw a flock on 22 September 1953 on Trinidad which were still present when he left the island in December and French (Herklots, The birds of Trinidad and Tobago, 1961, p. 80) remarks that large flocks annually visit the golf course at Pointe à Pierre during September and October.

The handbooks further state—once more copying Cooke—that after a short stop on the north coast of South America the plovers resume their travel overland to the pampas of Argentina. One gets the impression that the birds are in a desperate hurry to reach their winter quarters. This too needs some correction as we now know—apart from the presence of Golden Plovers on some islands in the Caribbean during two to four autumn months—that the plovers remain in the northern part of continental South America for two or more months. Foster Smith (Friedmann and Smith, Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus. 100:458, 1950 and Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus. 104:490, 1955) says that the Golden Plover is quite common on savanna ponds in Venezuela during October and November and lists as extreme dates 18 September and 5 December. He also drew attention to the interesting habit of these birds feeding at night on the well-watered lawns in oil company camps. A similar situation exists in Surinam where the Golden Plover is a

regular if not very numerous migrant in open places with a very short vegetation and especially on recently harvested and burned over sugar cane fields where small flocks of up to 40 Golden Plovers occur, often in company with Upland Plovers (*Bartramia longicauda*). Mr. Th. Renssen who lives at the sugar estate Marienburg in the Comewijne District sees Golden Plovers regularly in this type of habitat and has collected a series of specimens for me.

The first date of occurrence in Surinam is 1 September (1 September 1963 1 & 5 birds at Maasroom (sight), 1 September 1966 Marienburg (specimen), 1 September 1967 Marienburg (sight)). All birds up to the middle of October were in full or in nearly full breeding plumage so it is apparent that adults arrive first. In recent years I observed about a dozen birds staying for some time on a football field of the Police Training Center at the outskirts of Paramaribo. In 1957 they were rather late: from 11 October until 8 November, in 1966 from 9 until 23 September and in 1967 from 11–14 September. My latest dates in autumn are 7 November 1965 Maasroom (specimen) and 8 November 1957 Paramaribo (sight). In contrast to the Upland Plover (Haverschmidt, *Wilson Bull.*, 78:319–320, 1966) Golden Plovers do not remain during the northern winter in Surinam. However, from these records it is clear that the birds are in no hurry to travel southwards and stay in Surinam for at least two months.

In Surinam Golden Plovers occur rarely in spring. Mr. Renssen saw a flock of 4 in breeding plumage on a meadow at Moengo on the Cottica River on 2 February 1962, which seems very early. In this connection I may refer to the capture of a banded bird at Demerara River in Guyana on 30 January 1949 which is in my opinion an early spring migrant and not a wintering bird. Mr. Renssen further saw a bird in breeding plumage at Peperpot plantation on 20 March 1964 and a few in the same locality on 24 March 1964. The latest date in spring is of a bird in nearly full breeding plumage which was shot at Marienburg on 13 May 1967.

The birds which arrive in September appear to be healthy and the weights of my series of 14 specimens are: 1 September 1965, ♀ 122 g; 7 September 1963, 3 ♀♀ 109, 114, and 130 g; 26 September 1963, ♂ 147 g, ♀ 139 g and ? 111 g; 26 September 1964, ♀ 135 g; 1 October 1964, ♂ 155 g; 22 October 1964, ♀ 160 g; 29 October 1964, 2 ♀♀ 132 and 144 g; 7 November 1965, ♀ 122 g; 13 May 1967, ♂ 146 g. The contents of the gizzards of these birds were identified by Dr. D. C. Geyskes and contained insects: Coleoptera (Chrysomelidae, Curculionidae) and larvae of Lepidoptera.—F. HAVER-SCHMIDT, *Wolfskuilstraat 16, Ommen, Holland, 5 March 1968*.

**Mew Gulls in Ontario.**—On the morning of 24 October 1967, Daniel Salisbury observed a Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) at St. Catharines (Port Weller) in the Welland Canal near its entrance at Lake Ontario. This bird was with a small flock of Ring-billed and a few Herring Gulls. It remained in this vicinity through the afternoon, either flying above the water or alighting on the surface or the concrete wall bordering the canal. In late afternoon, with the assistance of Salisbury and Arthur Clark, we collected this bird south of canal lock no. 1 in the same locality. It is an adult male (BSNS no. 5102) in winter plumage (dark flecking on head, neck and breast), was moderately fat and weighed 422.55 g; its testes measured (mm): left 9 × 3, right 5 × 2. We determined this individual to be of the race *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, a diagnosis verified by Dr. Richard C. Banks at the U. S. National Museum. This is the first record for Mew Gull in the Niagara Frontier Region and the Province of Ontario, and is apparently the first specimen of this subspecies taken in eastern North America.

On 28 November 1967, Salisbury found another Mew Gull in the Welland Canal just