

OPPOSITE: Photograph of museum exhibits of male and female (on left) God-wit, a migratory wading bird mentioned in this article

in preparation for the journey. It appeared at first that, if they were there at all, they must be very busy feeding, for none was to be seen on the wing. However, it was not long before Mr. Stead's experienced eye lighted on a small grey and white bird feeding with a flock of Dotterel. It was of the same size, and in the distance nothing but a slight difference in its method of running had enabled him to single it out. A little careful manoeuvring with field glasses



EDGAR STEAD  
"Our foremost authority on  
migratory shore-birds"

soon enabled us to distinguish the stranger as a Curlew Sandpiper. This was a good start, for the Curlew Sandpiper is one of the less common of the Siberian visitors. It is hardly bigger than a sparrow but of very different build, with a slender beak and spindly legs. It looks an absurdly delicate bird to make a journey twice annually from one end of the world to the other, but some of these travellers, like the Little Stints, are even smaller.

### Weather Wisdom

We were still scanning the lake and shore for more birds when Mr. Stead turned his attention to clouds. There seemed to be no visible change in the weather, but he detected a faint greyish smudge in the south-east, and predicted that within less than 20 minutes we should see all the birds we wanted to without moving from the spot. This seemed to me rather unlikely, but in a very short time a southerly was advancing on a broad front. In addition to the gathering low cloud there was a deep roar as the wind came across the lake, and very soon we could see birds of all kinds being picked up and swept along in front of it like so many scraps of paper. By the time the wind reached us they began to hurtle past in some confusion, much too fast indeed for us to distinguish any but the more obvious

birds like swans, ducks, gulls, and stilts. The little grey and white waders that were mixed up with them might have been anything as they flashed past. It turned out, however, that this was only a temporary retreat. It takes more than a strong wind to keep birds off their feeding ground, and the lake itself was beginning to move and spread into new areas and form a new shoreline. As it did so the birds began to come back. They came back in small parties, usually one kind at a time. The wind being now steady, the birds flew low, and alighted to rest at frequent intervals. It was from this process that we were able to identify many more of the migrants.

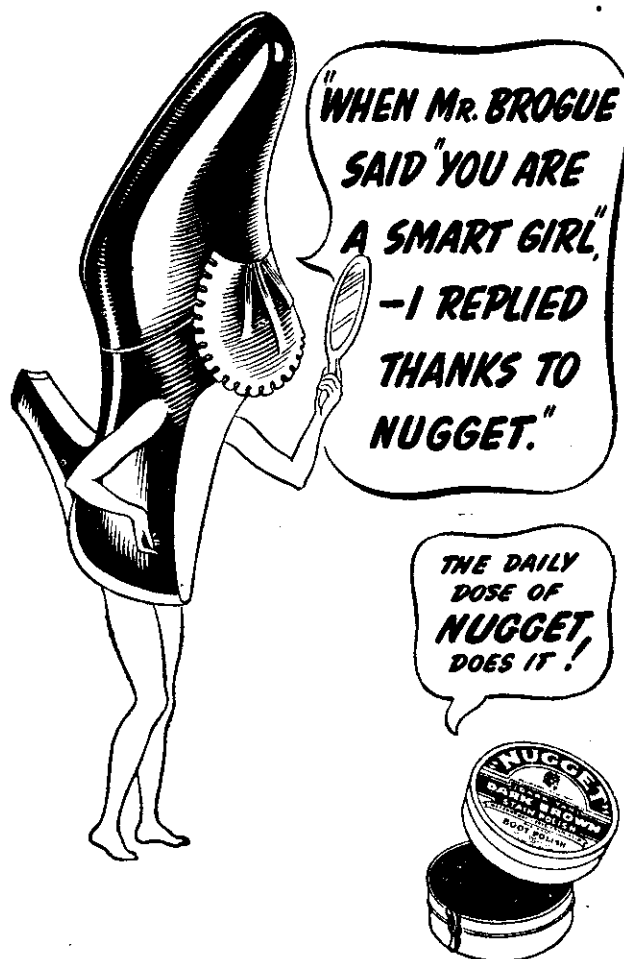
### Birds Prepare for Spring

First three Godwits came over, flying strongly, and passed on. The stocky little Knot, also flying strongly, was the next one seen, and then some Golden Plover, all of these in their winter plumage and not very conspicuously marked. The bird of more striking pattern that came next was the Turnstone. By now we had been lucky enough to see all of the more regular migrants that seem to come every year in fair numbers, but we were still optimistic enough to hope for more of the rare ones.

Before we left one of them came along. A party of very trim little birds, six or seven of them, alighted to feed for a few minutes in a flooded patch of salicornia. They were Siberian Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, and by the time we had identified them they were already on the wing again. One of them, in richer plumage than the rest, gave a trilling call as it passed and hovered in the air like a skylark for a few seconds. This little ceremony and the brilliant plumage showed that it was an adult bird commencing that train of behaviour that ends on the nesting-ground in North Siberia some two months later. Although it was autumn here, these birds that belong to the other end of the world were already putting on their spring plumage and practising the rather pretty display with which they enliven the nesting season on the Siberian tundra.

### Midget Radio

SO far no one seems to have built a practical radio set as small as a wristlet watch. But a little more than a month ago, according to *Time*, a National Bureau of Standards physicist announced that scientists had come close to it. A tiny new skeleton set, no bigger than a packet of cigarettes, could be hidden in the palm of the hand, he said. The miniature set is a descendant of the famous proximity fuse, which was a complete transmitter-receiver in the nose of a 5-inch shell. Part of the secret is the small tubes, no bigger than lima beans. Instead of the conventional radio's bulky tangle of wires, designers used lines of silver-bearing ink, printed accurately through a stencil on a small ceramic plate. The "resistors" are printed, too, in carbon ink. The condensers are paper-thin discs of ceramics, silver-coated on both sides and stuck on the plate. Even the coils can be printed. Problems that need to be worked out before the little set is manufactured in mass are a mobile source of power, and an amplifier.




## NUGGET SHOE POLISHES

BLACK • DARK BROWN • MILITARY TAN • BLUE, Etc.

### NO MORE EMBARRASSING SUPERFLUOUS HAIR

You'll have no more of those agonising moments, if you remove unsightly superfluous hair from your face, arms or legs with Beautie Wax. Nothing is more unattractive than a dark shadow on your face, and it is now in your power to remove this unpleasant condition. With smooth, inviting cheeks, your whole appearance will be enhanced, giving you that feeling of complete self confidence. Beautie Wax is a dainty preparation, and will remove with the greatest of ease, every sign of unwanted hair. Each tin of Beautie Wax comes in a plain wrapper, with full instructions, only 10/6 post free. Write to-day, enclosing postal note, to:-

BEAUTIE WAX  
P.O. Box 1300, Christchurch  
(22 Shrewsbury Street).



**RELIEVE ASTHMA,  
BRONCHITIS, COLDS,  
COUGHS, CATARRH.**  
All tobaccoists & chemists  
or from  
**JOHNSTONE & BRIDGES LTD.**  
P.O. Box 172, ADELPHI  
Packets, 10/- 1/3    Time, 50/- 5/6

**SURAMA**  
MEDICATED CIGARETTES

Don't let  
**BLONDE**  
hair darken



Blonde hair is distinctive. It gives you extra attractiveness. Never let your blonde hair darken. Keep it fair always with Sta-Blond. And if your hair has darkened, Sta-Blond will bring back its glorious golden sparkle. For Sta-Blond is made specially for Blondes. Not a luxury—but a necessity and an economy for natural blonde hair.

Fassett & Johnson Ltd.,  
Mauners Street,  
Wellington 438

**STA-BLOND**  
THE BLONDES OWN SHAMPOO