

west?) of Cuyaba, Matto Grosso, Brazil").—JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Penna.*

Notes on Birds of Islands in Great Salt Lake.—During the summer of 1949, I had the opportunity of briefly revisiting two islands in the Great Salt Lake, Utah. Although the time was devoted almost entirely to collecting mammals, some brief notes were made of birds observed. Several additions to the lists from 1938 (Marshall, W. H. and Leatham, L. J., "Birds of the Great Salt Lake Islands" *Auk*, 59 (1): 35-45, 1942) were noted.

For the period June 22-24 birds seen on the "Benchlands" of Stansbury Island were the same as those reported for 1938 except for one Nuttall's Poor-will, *Phalaenoptilus n. nuttallii*, at the north end of the island, and several Ash-throated Flycatchers, *Myiarchus cinerascens*, and two Barn Swallows, *Hirundo r. erythrogaster*, at the cabin built near the sheep corral at the south end of the island. The corral and cabin had been added to the environment since 1938 and may explain the addition of these two species. We did not visit the "original island" areas.

On June 29 while approaching Dolphin Island on foot across the salt flats, two Snowy Plovers, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, were observed along the edge of the lake waters. Later that evening a lone California Gull, *Larus californicus*, was seen soaring in the wind currents at the low cliffs on the north end of the island.—WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, *University of Minnesota, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.*

Ocean Vessels and the Distribution of Birds.—On November 14, 1950, the S. S. Steel Surveyor of the Isthmian Steamship Company left Colombo, Ceylon, for the United States. I was a passenger, returning from Calcutta, India. The vessel was a C3 type, Dry Cargo, with a loaded tonnage of 18,000 tons. Her length was 492 feet overall and beam was 69.2 feet. She made an average of 17 knots an hour.

We cleared the port of Colombo at five a. m. and about one hour later a wind squall arose from the mainland of Ceylon and engulfed the ship. The disturbance was of a short duration and when the skies cleared, Captain Burton Green pointed out to me four crows on the ship. They were the Common House Crow, *Corvus splendens*, and were perched on the foremast of the ship. This species is a common form of India and Ceylon. This crow is found always in the company of man. These four birds apparently had been blown from the mainland and had taken refuge upon our cargo ship. As we were well out to sea the birds remained aboard, making themselves at home, and devouring the food and water offered them. For six days the crows remained aboard; on November 18, the ship came within eight miles of Cape Guardafui, Somaliland, Africa, and the Socotra Islands. The sea was smooth and land clearly visible. The crows left the ship and flew towards the Cape. Through binoculars it appeared that they made a safe landing upon the rugged cliffs. The crows had been transported about 3,000 miles over the Indian Ocean.

On the afternoon of November 19, while the ship was in the Gulf of Aden, a Hoopoe, *Upupa epops*, in pursuit of a dragon fly terminated its flight on the radar mast of the ship. For five days this bird alternately circled the ship and rested upon its deck. I did not observe the bird feeding during its sojourn aboard. At Suez where we dropped anchor prior to entering the Suez Canal, the Hoopoe flew to the African shore. Its flight appeared to be strong despite its lack of finding food aboard. I had observed Hoopoes upon the Indian lawns, in groups of three to five, as they probed the soil in search of insects. On the ship the bird appeared out of its usual habitat, although it seemed to enjoy circling the ship and flying alongside as the ship moved at 19 knots an hour.

On the morning of November 20, as we entered the Red Sea through the Straights of Bab El Mandeb, a White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*, came aboard; later, this bird was joined by another. These birds walked the afterdeck, incessantly wagging their tails. Their food consisted of a green aphid which they pursued on the deck of the ship. The vessel was homeward bound and the seamen were busily engaged in the activities of preparing the ship for the home port. However, their activities did not discourage the Wagtails for the birds flew among the working crewmen. At Port Said the Wagtails left the ship. They had ridden the ship the entire length of the Red Sea and the Suez Canal and had probably flown ashore to some part of Egypt.

These observations are examples of one method by which organisms may be introduced into different parts of the world.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *The National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The Committee on Biography will welcome heartily the preparation of obituaries by any member. To prevent duplication of effort, please send to A. W. Schorger, 168 North Prospect Avenue, Madison 5, Wisconsin, the name of the deceased member for whom the obituary will be prepared.

The Editor wishes to extend his sincere thanks to all those who have aided in producing Volume 68 of 'THE AUK.' Many have aided by reading manuscripts in their particular fields of interest. John Emlen, S. Charles Kendeigh, and Robert W. Storer, members of the Editorial Committee, have done much of the first-reading of manuscripts submitted for publication. Robert W. Storer prepared the Index to Volume 68.

Appreciation of the colored plate and the increased use of black and white plates has been expressed by a host of readers. We take this opportunity to pass along this appreciation to all who contributed funds. The next colored plate will be in the January, 1952, issue and will be of the Cahow, painted by Roger Tory Peterson.

In June, 1951, the first five grants for ornithological research were made from the income of the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund. The amount distributed totaled \$1950.00; the recipients were as follows:

RICHARD B. FISCHER, Cornell University. A study, based upon banded birds, of the reproductive behavior of the Chimney Swift in central New York State.

BYRON E. HARRELL, University of Minnesota. Faunal and ecological investigations of bird life in southern Tamaulipas, Mexico.

OWEN A. KNORR, Colorado College. Life history studies on the Northern Black Swift in the Rocky Mountains.

MRS. ROBERT SCHULTZ, University of Washington. Continuation of a study of the life history of the Glaucous-winged Gull.

DAVID K. WETHERBEE, Clark University. Research on the pterylosis of North American birds.

Additional grants from the Chapman Memorial Fund may be made in the spring of 1952. In general, the needs of student investigators will be given preference over those of candidates already possessing widely recognized scientific prestige. Applicants should clearly state their problem and their qualifications and should be sponsored by one or more of their professors. Requests should be addressed to the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Committee, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th, New York 24, New York. They should be received not later than January 31, 1952, in order that decisions may be made well in advance of the summer vacation period.