

**Attacks by Screech Owls.**—A recent note in 'Science' (LXXII, 91, July 25, 1930) by Chapman tells of an experience of his in Mississippi in 1915 when he was attacked and struck by a Screech Owl. He also quotes a similar experience by Reese in West Virginia. This reminded me of an episode of my boyhood in Milton, Massachusetts. On looking back in my field notes I find that this occurred on Milton Hill, June 26, 1904. I was standing under some large maples in the early dusk looking at a row of eight young Screech Owls on a limb some forty feet away, when suddenly something struck the back of my head; it was only a light glancing blow, remarkably silent, and accompanied by a slight fanning from beating wings. I was so startled that I did not see the bird the first time, but a minute or so later, when the performance was repeated, I saw him and dodged. He was quite persistent, and kept swooping at me until I left the vicinity of the young birds. Another evening the same act was repeated in the same place. I have never had any other bird actually strike me, even in protecting its young, although several species of Terns, Gulls and Hawks have come so close to me that I could feel the wind of their wings on my face.—STANLEY COBB, *Milton, Massachusetts.*

**Burrowing Owls in Illinois.**—During the middle of March, 1930, one of my students reported seeing a funny little Owl rise from a Woodchuck's hole and fly a short distance away. Before I could plan a trip to make a sight identification, the lad shot the bird. However, his cat tore the specimen to pieces, and all that was returned to me for identification purposes was a portion of skin with a few feathers on it, one of the long slender tarsi, and also a part of the head. As poor as I found this material, I felt positive that the specimen had been a Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea*). However, I hesitated to publish a record of it, and merely made a notebook notation.

On April 14, Mr. M. E. Fenton, of Hamilton, Illinois, while walking along the base of the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River near Hamilton shot another specimen which flew from a Woodchuck's hole. He sent it to Mr. Earl Lambert, Professor of Biology at Carthage College, who identified it as a Burrowing Owl. Later after the specimen was mounted, I examined it carefully, and found it to be a specimen of Burrowing Owl.

These I believe are the first records of this bird reported from the state of Illinois. Whether the appearance of two of these birds is due to the very dry season, or to the numerous nesting sites, dug by an increasing number of groundhogs is difficult to say. However, I shall search the vicinity of Hamilton, Illinois, with increased interest to determine whether the Burrowing Owl has established itself in that neighborhood or the two specimens were merely strays.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois.*

**The Winter Range of the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*).**—In identifying birds for cataloging, I have discovered that we have in the American Museum three Middle American specimens of the Chimney

Swift, and as a contribution to our knowledge of the 'Winter' range of this species I place them on record as follows:

No. 106223, Rio Givicia, Oaxaca, Mex., ♀, March 21, 1906; J. H. Batty (wing, 127 mm.); No. 248243, Cocoplum, Boca del Toro, W. Pan., ♀ (ovaries not enlarged), October 28, 1927; R. R. Benson (wing, 130 mm.); No. 248224, Cocoplum, Boca del Toro, W. Pan., ♂ (testes not enlarged), October 28, 1927; R. R. Benson (wing, 127 mm.).

The Batty specimen is, I believe, the third known from Mexico, the preceding records being Jalapa,<sup>1</sup> one, and Puebla,<sup>2</sup> one. Hartert (l. c.) also lists four specimens taken by Gaumer on Cozumel Island in April, and one from "Guatemala." The authenticity of the latter record, however, has been questioned. It is based on a specimen from the Tweedale Collection, labeled merely "Guatemala."

Wenzel's records from El Zapote, Guatemala,<sup>3</sup> have been shown by Stresemann (l. c., 1929) to be based on *Chaetura vauxi*.

Apparently, therefore, there are no authentic records of the Chimney Swift from Central America, and our two specimens from the Caribbean coast of western Panama extend the known 'winter' range of the species somewhat over a thousand miles.

Its absence from the large collections that have been made in Costa Rica and, prior to 1927, in western Panama, induced me recently to express a belief that the Chimney Swift did not winter south of Costa Rica;<sup>4</sup> but its occurrence on the Caribbean coast of Panama, at a date before the fall migration of the species is completed, makes it not improbable that it may continue its journey to South America. This theory is supported by the fact that from October 24 to November 12, Mr. Benson collected no less than 31 species of North American migrants at Cocoplum as follows:

- Marsh Hawk, 1, Oct. 26.
- Broad-winged Hawk, 3, Oct. 31–Nov. 10.
- Duck Hawk, 2, Oct. 31, Nov. 8.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3, Oct. 25–28.
- Belted Kingfisher, 2, Nov. 2.
- Kingbird, 1, Oct. 26.
- Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus crinitus*), 1, Oct. 29.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher, 1, Nov. 2.
- Wood Pewee, 14, Oct. 25–Nov. 5.
- Alder Flycatcher, 3, Oct. 28–30.
- Orchard Oriole, 1, Oct. 25.
- Indigo Bunting, 1, Nov. 5.
- Dickcissel, 3, Oct. 27–Nov. 3.
- Summer Tanager, 4, Nov. 1–8.

<sup>1</sup> Hartert, Cat. Bds. B. M., XVI, 1892, p. 481.

<sup>2</sup> Cory, Cat. Bds. Ams., II, 1, 1918, p. 138.

<sup>3</sup> Orn. Monatsb., XXXVI, 1928, p. 76; XXXVII, 1929, p. 115.

<sup>4</sup> Bird-Lore, 1930, p. 370.

Barn Swallow, 2, Oct. 26.  
Red-eyed Vireo, 3, Oct. 26–Nov. 5.  
Philadelphia Vireo, 1, Oct. 29.  
Prothonotary Warbler, 5, Oct. 26–Nov. 10.  
Golden-winged Warbler, 1, Oct. 28.  
Tennessee Warbler, 3, Oct. 30–Nov. 8.  
Yellow Warbler, 10, Oct. 24–Nov. 10.  
Myrtle Warbler, 3, Nov. 7–12.  
Magnolia Warbler, 1, Nov. 5.  
Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1, Nov. 3.  
Bay-breasted Warbler, 5, Oct. 26–31.  
Blackburnian Warbler, 1, Oct. 29.  
Water-Thrush, 3, Oct. 24–Nov. 9.  
Mourning Warbler, 3, Oct. 25–29.  
Catbird, 12, Oct. 24–Nov. 5.  
Gray-cheeked Thrush, 2, Oct. 31–Nov. 1.  
Olive-backed Thrush, 2, Oct. 29–Nov. 7.

All but six of the species above recorded are known to reach South America, a further indication that the Chimney Swifts formed part of a stream of southbound migrants. If we may assume that they winter in a forested, rather than an arid region it is not improbable that they were bound for Amazonia, where the presence as permanent residents of five species of *Chaetura* shows that the region offers a favorable habitat for birds of this genus. From at least two of the Brazilian species, *pelagica* could not certainly be distinguished in the air. Sight identification, therefore, is out of the question, and until a specimen is secured we shall not know where the Chimney Swift winters. But, as every collector of birds in tropical America knows, to see a Swift is one thing, to get it quite another. Native collectors are not willing to expend the ammunition required to capture Swifts, and even visiting naturalists secure comparatively few. With our attention directed toward Amazonia as the possible winter quarters of the North American species it may be long, therefore, before our theory is confirmed by specimens.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**The Chuck-wills-widow in Maryland.**—At dusk on the evening of June 28, 1930, near North Beach, Maryland, we heard the call of the Chuck-wills-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*) from a dense growth of sweet gum a short distance back of the shore of Chesapeake Bay, and approached until finally we were within 75 yards of the bird. We listened for half an hour or more to the unmistakable notes, the song being interrupted at intervals as though the bird was feeding. The low *chuck* at the beginning of the song was heard clearly. From the date it may be supposed that this individual was on its breeding grounds. Careful search was made the following morning but the bird could not be located, the area where it had been heard being difficult of penetration.—A. WETMORE AND F. C. LINCOLN, *Washington, D. C.*