

when I estimated the number of birds of this species seen as fifteen. I first detected the birds by the difference between their calls and those of the Common Tern, and later made out the distinctions in plumage and color of bill and feet.

These birds were observed again on May 18 and 24, 1929, and on the latter date were sitting on the beach in company with Common Terns, facing the late afternoon sun, which lighted their breasts sufficiently to make out the tinge of pink color.

In 1930 these birds had increased in numbers and occurred from May 8 to 20. In 1931 they were observed from May 7 to 24, and when they first occurred were fully as abundant as the Common Terns, though as May advanced their numbers decreased while those of the Common Tern increased. It seems probable that the increase of this species must have begun prior to 1929 but was at first overlooked. Inquiry among other observers has not disclosed, up to now, an earlier date of occurrence in this state.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Conn.*

Caspian Tern in Connecticut.—On June 27, 1931, the writer saw a Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*), in full breeding plumage on a sand flat laid bare by the tide, at Waterford, Conn.

This would seem to constitute the first known occurrence of the Caspian Tern in Connecticut (according to Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts'), and is particularly puzzling due to the date. I appreciate the fact that, unsupported by a specimen, the record may not be accepted,—a policy with which I am heartily in accord,—yet the bird was observed at close range, both at rest and in flight, with a good glass. All the distinguishing marks were clearly and carefully noted, as well as its great size as contrasted with the Common Terns which were near it. I am furthermore familiar with the Caspian Tern through having seen it several times on Lake Erie, where, though very rare, it is of fairly regular occurrence in the fall.—CLARK S. BEARDSLEE, *132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore, N. Y.*

The Black Skimmer a Permanent Resident in Georgia.—In view of recent winter records of the Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra nigra*) on the Georgia coast my observations on this species seem worthy of record.

From July 1930 to May, 1931, I was located in the vicinity of the Savannah River entrance, and it was possible to keep quite a close watch on the birds of the near-by beaches and mud flats. Until November large flocks of skimmers could be seen at any time, and through the winter months a few birds or a small flock were seen during some time each month.

During a rather leisurely trip through the inland route along the entire Georgia coast, going south in January, 1928, and north again in February of that year, several flocks were seen near Brunswick, Ga. and Fernandina, Fla.

In March, 1930—from the 10th to 25th—on Tybee Island, Ga., migrating flocks were seen nearly every day, about four p.m., irrespective of tide.

A single bird last spring was found in a small open space surrounded with marsh grass, and it seemed the bird was imprisoned by the tall grass which did not allow enough space for it to rise. As I picked it up carefully by the wing and tossed it into the air, it caught its balance and drifted across to a near-by sand bar, and later was gone.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge Morgan, Savannah, Ga.*

The Name of the East African Brown-headed Parrot.—In his list of the types of birds in the Tring Museum (Nov. Zool. XXXI, p. 125, 1924) Dr. Hartert called attention to the fact that “. . . the African Parrot now called *Poicephalus fuscicapillus* (*Pionus fuscicapillus* Verr. et Des Murs, 1849) cannot be called by this name, because of *Pionus fuscicapillus* Wagler, 1832, which is a new name for *Psittacus spatiocephalus* Kuhl, 1820, and refers apparently to a female of a *Geoffroyus*, but it is not possible to say which form.” The next available name for the species is *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus* Peters, 1854.

Recently (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., p. 267, 1930) I have shown that this species is divisible into three races, and since the name *cryptoxanthus* applies to the South African mainland form, the bird inhabiting Zanzibar Island requires a new name. *Poiocephalus hypoxanthus* Peters is a nomen nudum, and as there is no other name available I propose: *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus zanzibaricus* nom. nov.—W. WEDGWOOD BOWEN, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

The Barn Owl (*Aluco alba pratincola*) at Sea.—On November 1, 1931, while proceeding southward on the Clyde Line steamship “Cherokee,” I saw a Barn Owl (*Aluco alba pratincola*) come aboard the vessel as it was passing the Diamond Shoals Lightship. It was exactly 11 a.m. when the bird was sighted some fifty yards off the port side, flying strongly against a fresh westerly breeze. In a few moments it came aboard and alighted on the after yard supporting the wireless aerial. Standing on the boat deck I watched it with 8 x glasses and every detail of the plumage was distinct. The bird seemed to experience some difficulty in maintaining its perch in the wind and attracted considerable attention among the passengers.

Curious to see how long it would remain, I watched it closely and for twenty minutes it clung on to the yard. After that period of time the ship entered a heavy bank of grayish smoke which covered the sea for miles, caused by brush fires ashore, the vapor being carried to sea on the wind which was directly off-shore. So dense was it that it resembled a heavy fog and the whistle was set going every few seconds. At the first blast, the owl took flight, evidently frightened by the sudden sound, and disappeared at once into the haze. The position of the ship at the time was between twelve and fifteen miles from the coastline of North Carolina in the Cape Hatteras section.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.*