

the species as "not uncommon during the migrations, usually mixed in flocks of *E. pusillus*, but sometimes in small companies by itself." There seems to be little doubt that while more recent publications have taken exception to this statement for lack of supporting evidence, directed effort and more field observation would probably support it as valid.—KARL E. BARTEL, *Blue Island*, and FRANK A. PITELKA, *Lyons, Illinois*.

**Passenger Pigeons recorded by Pike in 1806.**—There is an interesting account of the nesting of Passenger Pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in the journal of Zebulon Montgomery Pike ('Exploratory Travels through the Western Territories of North America,' 1811). Inasmuch as this account is not included in Mr. A. C. Bent's life history of this extinct bird (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 162), it may be worth while to republish Pike's notes. While descending the Mississippi River, in 1806, he wrote under date of Monday, April 28: "About ten miles above Salt River we stopped at some islands where there were pigeon roosts, and in about fifteen minutes my men knocked on the head, and brought on board, about three hundred. I had frequently heard of the fecundity of this bird, but never gave credit to what I then thought to approach the marvellous; but really the most fervid imagination cannot conceive their numbers. Their noise in the woods was like the continued roaring of the wind, and the ground may be said to have been absolutely covered with their excrement. The young ones which we killed were nearly as large as the old; they could fly about ten steps, and were one mass of fat; their craws were filled with acorns and the wild pea. They were still reposing on their nests, which were merely small bunches of sticks joined, with which all the small trees were covered."

The Salt River is well above the junction of the Missouri and the Mississippi, and the location Pike gives would probably be a few miles below the site of the city of Hannibal, Missouri. Mr. Bent does not include Missouri among the States in which nesting colonies of pigeons occurred, and it would seem that State has a just claim to such a distinction.

Early writers gave very few specific nesting dates, so these notes from Pike's journal may be of value in that they give the day and month on which he visited the colony. April 28 seems surprisingly early for nesting Passenger Pigeons, and especially for the birds to have large young. Pike seemed to have had the ability of including a great deal of information in a few lines of copy; in the above notes he gave the specific dates of his observation, a rather definite location of the nesting colony, a good account of the great numbers of birds, information regarding the size, condition, and food of the young, and a description of the nests.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado*.

**Smooth-billed Ani nesting in Florida.**—In 'Florida Bird Life,' (p. 290) Arthur H. Howell says of the Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*), that "the ani is not known to breed in Florida, and little seems to be known of its habits there." Perusal of 'The Auk' since the publication of Howell's book (1932) has failed to throw additional light on the status of this species other than Semple's reference to a small flock which he took to be examples of *Crotophaga ani* at Miami Beach in February 1937 (Auk, 54: 391) in which no allusion was made to nesting. R. J. Longstreet noted birds at the Dry Tortugas also, but took no specimens. Therefore, it seems that the following is the first record of the actual breeding of this species in Florida and in the United States. I am indebted to my friend J. Earle Moore, of Miami, Florida, for the privilege of recording it.

This highly interesting occurrence took place in the yard of Mr. Charles Lange, at

32d Ave. and 19th St., N. W., Miami, Florida (Dade County). A pair of these birds was seen engaged in nest building there, and began building the "last of June" 1938. Eggs were in the nest on July 15, to the number of four. These hatched on August 9. The nest was placed in a 'toothache bush' between fifteen and eighteen feet from the ground. The young were brought to the stage of flight when one adult and one young were killed by marauding small boys. The three other young survived, as did the remaining adult. Mr. Lange had the dead adult and the young bird mounted, and they are (presumably) in his possession at this writing. His residence is just outside the city limits of Miami.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Nat'l Association Audubon Socs., Charleston, South Carolina.*

**Burrowing Owl in the Lower Florida Keys.**—In 'The Auk' (55: 532, 1938) the writer listed what are apparently the first records for the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto* sp.) in the Florida keys. No specimens were secured, but diligent inquiry could reveal no former occurrence there. It was suggested that these birds might be the western form, coming over in winter to the Keys, as does the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) and the Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*). During this present winter of 1938-39 a sharp watch has been kept by the writer on his monthly trips to the Keys, for other specimens. On the night of December 11, 1938, in company with Messrs. E. M. Moore, Audubon representative in Key West, and Ellison A. Williams of Charleston, South Carolina, the writer saw a Burrowing Owl on Sugarloaf Key, eighteen miles east of Key West. It will be noted that this locality is in the Lower Keys, while the former records are all in the Upper Keys, from Matecumbe to Key Vaca. Hence, the occurrence of this bird was established in both Upper and Lower groups. Since determination of the identity of the form could not be accomplished without the specimen, it was secured on the night of the 12th, at the same spot. The skin was sent to Dr. Eugene E. Murphey, of Augusta, Georgia, and after comparison with his series, he writes me that he can come to no other conclusion than it is the Florida form (*Speotyto cunicularia floridana*). While this is not conclusive that the western form does not visit the Keys in winter, it reduces the possibility to a degree. At any rate, it is now certain that the Florida form does resort to the Keys, both Upper and Lower, in the winter months, and probably has done so formerly. That it has escaped the attention of ornithologists working in that area seems rather remarkable.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, South Carolina.*

**Unusual nesting site of the Chimney Swift.**—When I was passing through the Mississagi Forest Reserve, seventy miles northeast of Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario, Canada, I found on August 11, 1938, a nest of the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) in a large sprinkler. Several birds flew from the interior as I climbed in and I nearly succeeded in catching an immature bird that was perched on the nest. The nest was in the darkest corner, fastened to the side within ten inches of the top. The sprinkler is little more than a water-tight box on four sled runners, the box measuring about fifteen feet long, eight feet wide and five feet high, and with all but a small portion of one end of the top boarded over. During the winter it is used to sprinkle water on the logging roads to ice the sled tracks. The sprinkler is moved from one locality to another each year as the logging operations progress and is left for the summer wherever it was last used. Thus it cannot provide a nesting site that might be used yearly by a certain pair of birds.—ARTHUR E. STAEBLER, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*