

that way after working down river, the birds were plainly and simply "Chimney Swifts, migrants from the States." That first evening they were circling in a wide, spiral cone, and at the bottom of the cone a continuous stream of birds filtered into the chimney. Each of the two following evenings they were circling about the chimney more aimlessly, for we passed the spot somewhat too early to observe them entering it for the night.

On Sunday evening, April 4, I set out to obtain specimens, but to my intense disappointment the flock had vanished. Subsequent investigation here at the American Museum of Natural History indicates that I should not have wasted a moment in visiting the chimney, since New Jersey spring arrivals begin as early as April 3 (1926; Rushing), although the first migrants usually reach the New York area in late April and early May.

It is probable that George A. Seaman will still be with the Rubber Development Corporation at Manaus this coming autumn (1943) when the swifts return and, with this in mind, I have written him that the birds may arrive early in November, a deduction based on the following premises: Swifts usually have departed from the New York area by middle October and most have left in early September; autumn records based on specimens are: ♂ and ♀, Cocoplum, Boca del Toro, western Panama, October 28, 1927 (Chapman, Auk, 48: 119-121, 1931); Changuinola River, Panama, October 24, 1926 (Peters, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 71: 314, 1921).

I have asked Seaman to try to examine the base of the chimney for feathers and other remains, and to question natives living in the vicinity about the "andorinas." Of course, the ideal solution would be to trap the entire flock, examine them for bands, and then mark them with distinctive bands or waterproof ink; there are a thousand bird observers in North America for every one in Brazil, and some recoveries would certainly be made. Probably no other North American species lends itself so readily to such a reversal of our usual system of banding and if, in time, this plan could be carried out, it is probable that our Chimney Swifts, which until now have kept their secret so well, might become one of our best-known migrants.

The flight characteristics of South American swifts are not too well known, but, having collected eight species and observed probably several more, I can say that none other that I have ever seen acted at all as these Manaus birds did. To me they were the same birds that I had previously seen so often in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, but especially in the last-named state. There during September, on numerous occasions with Mrs. Gilliard, I have paused when homeward bound to watch 'our' swifts funnel into the top of a low chimney, with each flier silhouetted against the golden Kittatinny sky in an ever-increasing band, gathering and waiting that magical instant when they would sail off, perhaps into the Amazon Valley to winter in that red brick chimney overlooking the Ilha Mte. Christo.—E. THOMAS GILLIARD, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Northward extension of the breeding range of the White Ibis.—Many observers have noted with interest and satisfaction the gradual but steady extension of the breeding ranges of certain of the herons up the Atlantic coast. It probably is not so well known that a parallel exists in the behavior of the White Ibis (*Guara alba*) in recent years. While it is true that the ibis has been even more gradual in its northward movements, the advance is none the less certain and the season of 1943 has seen another short penetration to the northward. A brief review of

its nesting in South Carolina will be in order since this state marks the most northerly limit on the Atlantic seaboard.

The first instance of the breeding of the species was discovered on May 20, 1922, by the late Arthur T. Wayne and the writer. A colony of some seventy-five pairs was found in a cypress lagoon on Fairlawn Plantation, Christ Church Parish, about eighteen miles north of Charleston. Mr. Wayne recorded the discovery in the Bulletin of The Charleston Museum, 17: 27, 1922. This situation was used for the next four seasons but the colony diminished in numbers and finally died out after a very light nesting in 1926. Probably too many visitors to the lagoon were the cause of the birds' desertion.

A hiatus of several years ensued during which no birds were found in the South Carolina coastal region, though it is perfectly possible that some were there. At any rate, the next discovery was in 1937 on the same plantation but in another lagoon or, as they are called locally, a 'backwater.' The birds were again in cypress growth which appears to be essential to them here. From 1937 through the past season (1943), this colony has returned and has grown steadily. From barely a hundred pairs it has grown now to about 700 pairs. The birds usually arrive in mid-April and young are in the nests by the middle of May.

In the season of 1943, the writer was notified by Andrew H. DuPre, Manager of the Cape Romain Federal Refuge, with headquarters at McClellanville, that White Ibises were nesting in a large cypress backwater on the grounds of the Santee Gun Club with the usual American Egrets and smaller herons which have used this spot for over a hundred years. It is of interest to note here that this is the oldest continually occupied rookery of herons and egrets in the country (cf. 'A Magnificent Repository,' Audubon Magazine, 46: 77, 1943) with records of its existence going back to 1823.

This lagoon is on the South Santee River and approximately halfway up the South Carolina coast. While the air-line distance between it and the site of the Fairlawn nestings is not great it represents an advance of some twenty-odd miles and brings the ibis to the banks of the Santee. There were very few there this season (1943)—only some seven or eight pairs—but it means another step forward. Observers along the coastal areas where cypress occurs would do well to watch the lagoons from the area of Georgetown, S. C., up to the North Carolina line, and it is hoped that progress can be reported in future seasons.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston, South Carolina.*

First record of Audubon's Caracara in South Carolina.—On the afternoon of May 1, 1943, while driving home from work at the Stark General Hospital where I am stationed, Mrs. Hoyt and I were startled by the sight of an Audubon's Caracara (*Polyborus cheriway auduboni*). We were going toward Summerville, S. C., along the Old Dorchester Road about ten miles from Charleston when we simultaneously noted a large, vulture-like bird soaring and flapping over the road ahead. We stopped and watched it while it fluttered and sailed over the pine trees for about four minutes before gliding down wind and out of sight. It veered and turned many times, swooped, and then flew up and swooped again as it circled above the trees and the road. We had a very fine view of all sides of the bird as it displayed in this manner before us. The large white patches on the wings and the white of the tail were conspicuous in both dorsal and ventral views before the bird finally sailed off. Both of us have seen this bird in its native haunts in Florida