

with this species, having seen it many times in Utah.—FRANK C. BELLROSE, JR., AND JESSOP B. LOW, *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois.*

Sycamore Warbler in Ontario.—On May 20, 1943, in Stamford Township, near Niagara Falls, Ontario, toward dusk of a cool, wet evening, my eight-year-old son, Peter, and I saw a warbler fly from a forsythia bush under the front window of my house to an adjacent spirea shrub. The warbler appeared to be cold, hungry, and tired, and allowed a very close approach—so close, in fact, that we were both peering into the very moderate-sized shrub with our faces pressed against the outer twigs while the warbler climbed and searched for insects about the central stems. It acted somewhat like a Black and White Warbler in its methods of creeping and climbing about the bush, but it was not that species for it was not marked all over like it and, moreover, it very distinctly had a clear yellow throat. The bird seemed to combine somewhat the appearance of a washed-out female Blackburnian Warbler with the habits of a Black and White Warbler and some of the side markings, albeit paler, of that latter strikingly marked species. The clear, rather pale yellow was seen, at a distance of only a foot or two, to be definitely confined to the throat area, and did not extend at all over the eyes. The distribution of coloring, the creeping habits, and other general characters forced me, after some puzzling, to the conclusion that this bird was a Sycamore Warbler (*Dendroica dominica albitora* Ridgway), the northern representative of the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica d. dominica*), and probably a female.

In connection with this sight record, possibly a first for Ontario, it is perhaps of interest and significance to mention that about two months after making the entry in my diary from which the above notes were prepared, I received a copy of the July number of the Buffalo Ornithological Society's mimeographed journal, 'The Prothonotary,' in which was mentioned, under an item dated May 30 (Seeber), the first record of a Sycamore Warbler in the Buffalo area. The center of the city of Buffalo, N. Y., would be just about twenty miles southeast of the point near Niagara Falls, Ontario, where I made my observation ten days earlier.—R. W. SHEPPARD, 1805 Mouland Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The European Starling in central Saskatchewan.—On May 24, 1940, while on a bird trip to Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, I was puzzled for a few minutes by a small blackbird with a yellow bill and bobbed tail which was flying about the grain elevators in the village of Dafoe at the southwest corner of the lake. I had never seen a Starling before nor had I read anything about its appearance into this province. One of the chaps with me who had been to England some years previously immediately recognized it to be what I had thought it. The next spring I visited this area again about the same time and found the Starlings still present; and, from questioning the men in the elevator, found that they had remained all winter.

On June 13, 1942, I was in the village of Duck Lake, Sask., about forty miles south of Prince Albert and one hundred and fifty miles northwest of the village of Dafoe, when to my surprise I found Starlings nesting in one of the grain elevators. I am sure that they had not been here during previous seasons as I visit this district at least once during the summer. On April 30, 1943, I saw a single female at the local stockyards and another chap reported to me that he had seen three in the same vicinity the day previous.

During the four seasons, 1940–1943, this species has spread a distance northwest-

ward of about one hundred and seventy miles, after a winter that was excessively hard—very cold and heavy snows. Prince Albert is just inside the Canadian Zone and it will be interesting to watch the reaction of the Starling to the forest areas to the north.—O. C. FURNESS, *Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.*

A Sparrow Hawk in Costa Rica in July.—On June 24, 1943, while passing through a pasture in this vicinity—the upper Térraba Valley of Costa Rica—I heard the unmistakable call of the Sparrow Hawk (*Cerchneis sparveria*). The following day, in the same pasture, I enjoyed an excellent view of the bird. It was in exceptionally dull plumage, resembling an immature female, with the head markings very pale, the back and wing-coverts dull grayish brown with dusky bars. What at once took my eye was its nearly tailless state. Its tail feathers were just growing out, and the longest appeared to be only an inch or two in length. Despite this handicap, it flew well. I saw it again on July 2, but after that met it no more, although it had been in the pasture behind my house and I kept watch for it.

Races of the Sparrow Hawk nest in northern Central America and again in northern South America; but, strangely enough, the species is not known as a breeding bird in the intermediate territory of Costa Rica. In this country it is a common and widespread winter visitant from the north, arriving about the middle of October (once recorded on September 29) and lingering until early April (latest previous record April 15). In 1943, I saw the last in this vicinity on April 1, then no more until I met the tailless bird on June 24. I think it likely that the same physiological derangement that caused the bird to be without a normally developed tail at this date, was also responsible for its failure to migrate. I do not believe that accidental loss of the tail caused it to remain behind; for had it been deprived of its tail feathers in early April, at the time it should have departed northward, a normal bird—if I may rely upon observations on other species—would have produced a new tail in less than two months.—ALEXANDER F. SKUTCH, *Quizarrá de Pérez Zeledón, Costa Rica.*

Barn Swallow in Costa Rica in July.—On the evening of July 5, 1939, I embarked at Puntarenas, Costa Rica, on the freighter 'Cuzco,' for Guayaquil. Coming up on deck when it was nearly dark, I noticed that about thirty or forty swallows were fluttering about the harbor beacon, which was mounted on a steel tower about forty feet high, standing at the end of the long pier, close beside the point at which the ship was unloading. Soon the birds settled down on the steel railing that surrounded the light. The beacon was now sending its fleeting red flashes over the broad expanse of the Gulf of Nicoya; and from time to time a swallow, quitting its perch upon the railing, would flutter against the glass cylinder that enclosed the lighting apparatus. The birds chirped much as they settled down to roost; and from the quality of their voices, as well as their size, I took the majority to be Grey-breasted Martins (*Progne chalybea*). But the light of day was too far spent when I found them, and the light of the beacon too dull and fugitive to allow positive visual recognition of their kind; and before morning the ship sailed. Among these birds was one Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*), unmistakable when its long, pointed tail feathers were viewed in silhouette against the sky. No other swallow known to occur in Costa Rica has a deeply forked tail of this kind, nor any other bird of the same size and habits. The swallows slept in surroundings which would have seemed to make slumber impossible. Many people were walking and talking beneath them; a ship was unloading close by;