

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;