

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;

while a steam locomotive, noisily shunting freight cars, from time to time enveloped the birds in clouds of sulphurous smoke. While a few tucked their heads back among their feathers, the majority kept their heads exposed; and I could see the eyes of some gleaming in the flashes of the beacon, even after night was well advanced.

The Barn Swallow is known in Costa Rica chiefly as a passage migrant, appearing early in September (earliest record September 3) and continuing to pass southward in numbers until early October. Its status as a winter resident is doubtful; but it reappears in late February, becomes more abundant in March, in April passes through in countless numbers, and continues to migrate in decreasing numbers well into May. My latest date—save the one recorded above—is May 29, 1940. In 1939, I saw innumerable Barn Swallows in southern Costa Rica in April and early May, but none after May 23 until I met the one on the beacon-tower at Puntarenas. The record seems of interest because this is the only passerine bird, of a species known to breed only north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, which in a dozen seasons in the field I have seen in Central America at a date which suggests that it would not migrate to its nesting area during the season in question. Instances of failure to migrate from the winter home have been recorded for shore-birds and other non-passerines, but must be extremely rare for passerine species. Possibly the scarcity of records of this kind is caused by the fewness of observers, and the smallness of most passerine birds.—ALEXANDER F. SKUTCH, *Quizarrá de Pérez Zeledón, Costa Rica.*

Glossy Ibis near Toledo, Ohio.—On May 30, 1943, Harold F. Mayfield and I saw three adult Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis f. falcinellus*) in a flooded field adjoining the Cedar Point Marsh, Jerusalem Township, Lucas County, Ohio. The birds were viewed at close range and carefully distinguished from the White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis guarauna*). Although no specimen was taken, neither of us has the slightest doubt as to the correctness of our identification. This record seems to be the second for the Glossy Ibis in Ohio. In his 'Report on the Birds of Ohio' (1879), Dr. J. M. Wheaton quotes Dr. Kirtland to the effect that two were seen in 1848 near Fairport, Lake County, one of which, a male, was shot by Mr. Prugen and forwarded to him. At the time of Dr. Kirtland's statement, the mounted specimen had been placed in the cabinet of Natural History at the Cleveland Medical College.—LOUIS W. CAMPBELL, *Toledo, Ohio.*

Connecticut records.—This is to report two unusual records for Connecticut, both of which came to light on anniversaries, as it were. On October 7, 1943, Mrs. William Curtis of New Haven gave the Peabody Museum of Natural History an adult White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), having found it somewhat cumbersome in her apartment. It proves to have been shot by her father, Reuben D. H. Hill, at Branford, Conn., on October 15, 1928, almost exactly fifteen years before the bird came to our attention. A boy who had discovered it on the water near shore told Mr. Hill of the "big goose." When shot, the pelican was retrieved from the water by means of a rowboat. Mr. Hill sent it to John Oed, a taxidermist in New Haven, to be mounted. Evidently no printed record appeared at that time, although this is, as far as I can learn, the first and only White Pelican known to have been seen in Connecticut. It is fairly well mounted and preserved (Catalogue No. 13510, Peabody Museum of Natural History).

The other bird is a female of the European Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) shot October