

nesting grounds appears to exist in the literature. There are ample data on the *latest* date it has been seen in many localities, and while it is well understood that the bird is an early migrant both in spring and fall, difficulty is encountered in exact times of the *beginning* of the autumnal movement. Therefore, the following should be of interest.

On June 21, 1946, the writer was returning up the Florida Keys from Key West. Late in the afternoon, on the eastern end of Plantation Key and the western end of Key Largo, a surprising concentration of martins was observed on the telephone wires bordering the Overseas Highway. In a distance of about half a mile, three large flocks were seen on the wires, with numbers of birds wheeling and circling about the resting individuals, and others coming in from the northern segment of sky over Florida Bay. The total number could hardly have been less than five hundred.

A considerable preponderance of immature birds was noted, but there were adults among them, both male and female. The martin does not nest in the Keys, nor indeed, anywhere at the very southern tip of mainland Florida. That this was a migratory movement seems beyond question, but the date is surprising in view of the fact that it was, by the calendar, the first day of "official" summer, and exceedingly early to witness the southward migration of even such an early traveller as the martin. None the less, there they were.

In the Charleston, S. C. area, migration begins in July, varying from the middle to the end of the month in regard to resident nesting birds, but movement is noted earlier than that at times, and concerns birds which have nested to the north of South Carolina. Charleston is some 700 miles by road from Key Largo and the migratory (?) birds seen there were about one month ahead of those of this section which usually depart in late July!

F. C. Lincoln in his 'Migration of American Birds,' page 70, says of this species that ". . . it may be noted that Purple Martins have been known to arrive in Florida in late January and the northward movement may continue so that late arrivals are still coming in during the first week in June. With some birds the migration is so prolonged that the earlier arrivals in the southern part of the breeding range will have completed nesting while others of the same species are still on their way north." Certainly, this would appear to be the case in this instance. Here were birds which must have been starting their autumnal flight while many others far to the northward had not yet finished nesting. More dates on this first departure of martins from nesting areas are needed, but so few of such appear to be listed that this may constitute at least a beginning.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston, South Carolina.*

The Bridled Tern again in south Florida waters.—On October 2, 1940, the writer was fortunate enough to see, capture, band, and release a Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus melanoptera*) in Florida Bay, an account of which appeared in *The Auk*, 58: 259, 1941. Apparently it was the fourth record for this species in the state.

On June 21, 1946, when returning from the Dry Tortugas on the National Park Service boat, the writer was called from below by his son, Alexander Sprunt, 4th, with the statement that a Bridled Tern was following close in the wake. No time was lost in arriving at the stern of the boat! The bird was flying a few yards off the stern, wheeled several times and presented excellent views of its back, under parts and profile. The whitish collar separating the black of the crown and that of the back was as plainly visible as though marked with paint. The bird continued to follow for a few minutes, then dropped astern. Since we had just completed a popu-

lation count of Sooty Terns at the Tortugas, the different aspect of this bird was most obvious.

The position of the boat at the time was about a mile and a half southwest of the whistling buoy on New Ground Shoal (between Marquesas Keys and the Dry Tortugas) and distant about 25 miles east of the latter group. This appears to be the fifth appearance of this tropical bird in the south Florida region.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Evening Grosbeak in eastern Virginia.—On May 5, 1946, I saw about fifteen Evening Grosbeaks in a grove composed principally of large beech trees with a scattering growth of smaller trees and shrubs. The location was on Gordon's Creek ten miles from Williamsburg, Virginia. This is the first record I have for this state although they may have been previously reported, and the date of their occurrence is of particular interest. I visited the same locality on May 7 and 8 and found the birds still there, and on the latter date, I collected a male specimen. The sexes seemed to be about equally divided but they showed no sign of being paired and moved about as a compact flock. They were found in the middle and lower foliage of the trees and, at times, all of them would be on the ground where they may have been feeding on beech nuts of which there was a plentiful supply.—F. M. JONES, *Cologne, Virginia.*

Late Evening Grosbeaks on Long Island, New York.—During the winter of 1945–1946, a flock of Eastern Evening Grosbeaks, *Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina* (W, Cooper), came daily to the Baldwin Bird Club feeding station at the library grounds in Baldwin, L. I., N. Y. The flock, at its maximum, numbered more than eighty birds. The grosbeaks were first seen on December 24, 1945. On Easter, April 21, 1946, 33 birds were still at the feeding station. On Sunday, May 12, John Bull and George Komorowski, of The Linnean Society, recorded one male and four females at the feeding station. The next day, May 13, Mrs. Teale saw one male and three females and on Wednesday, May 15, Weston Fowler, Conservation Chairman of the Baldwin Bird Club, saw one female, the last bird observed. This date exceeds by 19 days the latest previous record for Eastern Evening Grosbeaks on Long Island and by nine days, the record for the New York City region as recorded on page 438 in Allan D. Cruickshank's 'Birds Around New York City.'—EDWIN WAY TEALE, *Baldwin, L. I., New York.*

Curlew flight through southwestern Oklahoma.—That a considerable number of Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus americanus*) moved through southwestern Oklahoma in the spring of 1946 seems apparent from observations of personnel of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Comanche County, Oklahoma.

Approximately 50 appeared on the Wichita Refuge between March 23 and April 10; the last were observed April 20. This curlew is very rare on the refuge, having been reported but once previously, when a few were seen in early April, 1943. Roy T. Ballard, refuge patrolman, observed 1,500 in the vicinity of Tipton, Oklahoma, March 31, and also saw between 700 and 800 in an 80-acre grainfield on the L. H. Lindsey farm, three miles north of Tipton, on the same date. It is the conclusion of Tipton residents that the species was slightly more numerous during the 1946 spring flight than in previous years. Several flocks of 20 or 30 birds were also reported from the Indianhom (Oklahoma) area to the writer.

Four birds were found along roadsides, apparently victims of passing cars. The crop of one which was examined contained a number of small cutworms, a few striped