

made near Streetsville in the valley of the Credit River in Peel County, Ontario, Canada.

In 1942, there was, to my knowledge, no martin colony in the immediate neighbourhood. On July 25, the spruce trees around our house were 'invaded' by martins, mostly young and females. The young were still being fed and spent most of the day sitting on the spruce tree tips. This happened again the next day. On the 27th, to quote from my diary: "Very hot to-day. About 90°. Such a great swallow movement all day. High and low the sky was full of them—mostly Barn, many Purple Martins and Swifts. An endless milling about. Young were being fed in the air and it would surely be a wise parent that would know its own offspring in that mêlée." On the 28th the martins and swallows were gone and only an occasional martin was seen up to August 11, the last date for the species for that year.

In 1943 we had a martin house on our property with a single pair of resident birds which raised three young. On August 9, while these young were still in the nest, there was a martin invasion resembling that of the previous year. Fifteen to twenty birds were in and about the spruce in the morning and in the afternoon many more were milling about with swallows very high in the sky. After this date, numbers dropped abruptly and tapered off to the end of the month when the last were seen. In 1944 and 1945, no such concentration of the species was noted.

In 1946, five pairs nested successfully in the martin house, raising nineteen young (fifteen were banded July 28 by R. Baker and H. Southam of Toronto). All but two of these had left the nests by August 1 and from then until the 18th (when the last two young had flown) ten or twelve were to be seen daily and roosted in or on the house each night. On the 18th, a flock of twenty birds was around all day but none stayed to roost, and after that date numbers again dropped abruptly to seven seen on the 21st, five on the 25th, and so on until the last (four) were seen on August 30.

It appears, then, in this locality at least, that there is definite movement of martins as soon as the young leave the nest and before those of late nestings have done so. Of course these gatherings that I see could come from some local roost which might be occupied until much later in the season, the birds spreading from it daily in varying directions. But I do not think so. I know of no such roost in this region and there is such an abrupt drop in numbers after each assembly that it certainly appears that the birds are definitely 'on the move.' MARGARET H. MITCHELL, *Streetsville, R. R. 1, Ontario, Canada.*

Albinism in a flock of English Sparrows.—For the past eighteen years I have had under observation a small flock of English Sparrows that have frequented the area that surrounds the bird house in the zoo and that is devoted to the outside captive birds. During this period many generations of birds have existed, as several broods are raised annually.

In 1928 I first observed that this flock of sparrows contained many partially albinistic individuals. Albinism is not infrequent among birds, and may occur in any species. This lack of pigment in a bird always excites interest. Due to the albinistic markings it is comparatively easy to follow and scrutinize such unusual birds. It is not difficult to walk around the bird house and point out this flock to the bird student, so pronounced and permanent have the markings become. The flock consists of about fifteen birds and each bird displays one or more white feathers in the tail, scapulars and sometimes scattered among the contour feathers. I assume that much inbreeding has taken place among this flock and its ancestors, thus tending to isolate homozygous types. As a group the flock does not appear to be the typically

robust sparrow of our streets and byways. The birds seem to lack vigor, do not spend most of their time in the low bushes nor engage in the tussles usually seen among the males in the spring. In contrast they appear rather passive in their way of life, spend much time upon the ground, and are rather slow on the take-off when approached. I recently observed the ease with which a Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) took a member of this flock. The falcon hovered for a second and then gently dropped upon the bird. This control factor may have prevented the flock from expanding into one much larger than it is at present.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *The National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

Albino Bluebirds.—Two brothers, John Hill and Coleman Vickers, at their home fifteen miles north of Atlanta, Georgia, observed a pair of Bluebirds nesting in a box. On April 21, 1946, they saw the three fledglings emerge to fly, one of them an albino, which they photographed. The same parents then built another nest in a box a hundred feet distant, where on June 12, the boys summoned Mr. and Mrs. Athos Menaboni and Commander Ben Rigg. Of the five fledglings (photographed in colored motion pictures by Commander Rigg) three were albinos. The parent Bluebirds returned to the first box to nest a third time, and on July 28, the five fledglings of this brood, three of them albinos, were observed and photographed by Dr. Wallace Rogers, Mr. Ray Werner, and Mr. and Mrs. Athos Menaboni. Summary: in one season, three Bluebird nestings; of the thirteen fledglings, seven were albinos.—SARA MENABONI, *Atlanta, Georgia.*

A partial albino Cardinal.—While entering the National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., by way of the Harvard Street entrance, I observed what appeared to be a strange bird perched in a small white oak tree. It continually gave the call note of the Cardinal, a *tsip, tsip*, and when I followed it up a small hill I was able, without the aid of binoculars, to identify it as a partial albino example of that species (*Richmondia cardinalis*). The entire plumage was white with the exception of the scapulars and back feathers which were olive in color, leading me to believe that the bird in question was a female.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *The National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

The range of an individual Bob-white.—At sundown on July 23, 1946, six miles west of Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio, I heard a bird utter a high-pitched call that had a rhythm like that of a Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus*). Upon tracing the call, I saw a male Bob-white perched on a strand of barbed-wire fence. The bird repeatedly delivered a high, squeaky call. To me, it sounded similar in quality to that of a flicker. The call was very much muffled and unmusical in comparison to the regular call of the species. Several times, the bird emitted a well articulated *bob-wank-wank*. Later, he gave a high, screechy *bob-white*. If the term can be appropriately used, it sounded as if the voice were 'rusty.'

With the aid of this odd call, the bird's movements could be followed rather easily. By July 29, six days later, the bird had traveled more than one and one-fourth miles in a straight line. Four days later, August 2, the bird had gone almost one and one-fourth miles in a different direction. By August 8, it had roamed in a zigzag fashion another one and three-sixteenth miles. All in all, over a period of 16 days, this one Bob-white was known to have covered nearly three and three-fourth miles.—GEORGE H. BREIDING, *Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.*

Northward extension of the breeding range of the Least Tern.—Dr. C. W. Townsend in his 'Birds of Essex County': 106, 1905, gives as the only certain record of