

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

the Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons antillarum*) in the Ipswich region of Massachusetts the statement of C. J. Maynard in the 'Naturalist's Guide': 157, 1870, that he "found a few breeding at Ipswich." Dr. Townsend indicated that the date was in the late sixties, and then proceeded to point out that the species at the time of his writing did not breed regularly north of Cape Cod. In 1925, E. H. Forbush in 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States,' 1: 123, stated that the breeding range at that time extended as far north as Duxbury. Subsequently, another advance of about ten miles occurred and for many years now the species has been a regular summer resident at Scituate.

During the seventy-five years following 1870 there have been but casual records of the species at Ipswich which is thirty-three miles north of Scituate, air-line, and easily double that following the shore. In 1944, Miss Katherine Tousey of Medford observed the species in Ipswich although I was unaware of this when, on June 10, 1945, I saw several Least Terns at the mouth of Fox Creek which empties into the Ipswich River just before the latter discharges north of Ipswich Beach. Startled by observing two of the terns practically alight in turn on the tail of a Herring Gull passing leisurely by—and departing in a sudden hurry—I made a lengthy detour through the salt marshes and ultimately arrived back on the other side of the creek at a spot only some two hundred yards distant. A total of ten Least Terns rose to greet me from a slightly raised mound in the marsh and mud flats. This mound was one of a number of old clam-shell dumps of great antiquity. The reception accorded me was little short of vicious and, with the full realization of the importance of the discovery, I decided the danger of disturbing and possibly breaking up the colony outweighed the scientific proof of collecting an egg.

On June 24, I returned again, approaching within about a hundred yards, and noted five Least Terns in the air at once. On July 8, there were still four birds and these were acting as though they were two pairs. At this late date there seemed little likelihood of harming the colony and, accompanied by my wife, I went up to the mound. One of the pairs by that old childhood game of: "You are getting colder—warmer—hot!" led me on until, looking down, I saw a shallow nest scooped out of the powdered shells right at my feet. There were two eggs.

On July 21, only one bird remained at the nesting site and this bird showed but casual interest in us. On the 22nd we found three adults at the south end of Ipswich Beach, several miles distant, and again on the 29th two birds. On August 8, Dr. Winsor M. Tyler, J. A. Hagar (the State Ornithologist), Mr. L. B. Fletcher and I made an extensive sea trip as guests of Mr. Cornelius Crane. We encountered the Least Tern almost immediately upon pulling out from the Crane's landing in the Castle Neck River behind Ipswich Beach, more birds at the southerly end of the beach, and two or more in the Ipswich River at the north end of the beach.

On May 26, 1946, I saw one bird at the mouth of Fox Creek, but the breeding site had been shifted, for some reason, to the beach itself. I did not follow the nesting period there, but on August 4, at two different locations at the south end, I saw groups of four birds in the air at once and judged by the numerous ones flying about that there were at least ten present—probably more. One bird caught a fish, rose straightway high into the air, dropped the fish, and then caught it again while still some thirty feet above the water.

This northerly progression of the breeding range of the Least Tern acquires added interest when taken with the breeding of the Black Skimmer at Plymouth as reported by J. A. Hagar in the Auk, 63: 594-595, for October, 1946.—WENDELL TABER, 3 Mercer Circle, Cambridge, Massachusetts.