

Possibly the presence of Wilson's Phalarope at Martinique may be explained by the violent atmospheric disturbance that prevailed over the Caribbean area during September, 1949. Between September 20 and 23 there were similar depressions and anticyclones over the southern United States and the Gulf of Mexico, and on the 24th of the month a hurricane swept over the Tampico district with violent repercussions as far east as the Lesser Antilles.

From July to November, Martinique lies on the flyway of many migrant shore birds, including *Totanus melanoleucus*, *T. flavipes*, *Tringa solitaria*, *Numenius phaeopus*, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*, *Micropalama himantopus*, *Ereunetes pusillus* and *E. maurii*, *Erolia melanotos*, *E. fuscicollis*, *E. minutilla*, *Pluvialis dominicus*, and *Squatarola squatarola*. Under the circumstances it is likely that further observation in the Lesser Antilles may show that the species here recorded is a less uncommon migrant than has been believed in the past.—REVEREND FATHER PINCHON, *M. Bon-Saint-Come, Martinique*.

The Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus*, in South Carolina.—Heretofore, there has been but one record for the occurrence of *Stercorarius pomarinus* in South Carolina—a sight record by Allan R. Phillips, off Charleston, November 4, 1943. On October 28, 1950, while fishing in Lake Moultrie, Santee-Cooper, Berkeley County, S. C., Mr. Ben Scott Whaley of Charleston secured a male Pomarine Jaeger with a boat paddle! It was making an attack on a Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*, and had knocked the latter out of the air into the water three times when Mr. Whaley came up to it in an outboard skiff. The jaeger was so intent upon its victim that it was itself killed in the above mentioned manner. The specimen was presented to the Charleston Museum. Two others were seen the same afternoon.

This record, aside from constituting the first actual specimen of the species for the state, is the more remarkable on account of the location. The writer has seen jaegers but twice from South Carolina beaches, though they occur regularly offshore. Lake Moultrie is a huge, impounded body of water, created for hydroelectric power, about 30 miles in from the coast. Its presence attracts numerous gulls, and one supposes that these jaegers must have followed such birds inland. The writer is indebted to Mr. Whaley for the privilege of recording this important capture and observation.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, S. C.*

Nests of the Barn Owl, *Tyto a. pratincola*, and the Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*, in Essex County, Massachusetts.—The Barn Owl has nested regularly for many years on Martha's Vineyard, off the southeast coast, but there are few records of breeding birds for the mainland of Massachusetts. Several for the Springfield area, Cambridge (1942-1944), Concord and Pittsfield (each in 1945) are the only printed records found for this century. In Essex County the bird has been considered an accidental visitor, with eight records prior to 1949; three of these are substantiated by specimens in the Peabody Museum in Salem. These were collected over a wide span of years: Lynn, 1862; Danvers, 1900; and Ipswich, 1931. On May 9, 1949, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Poor, Jr., of the latter township found an owl sitting on four eggs in their barn; this was identified by Mrs. Lionel Shepherd as a Barn Owl. On June 7, 28 days later, one egg hatched. The adult continued to sit on the remaining eggs until they were removed on June 24, after they had been incubated for more than six weeks. Two proved to be empty, the third was infertile. The single young was photographed and banded on July 9; on July 20 it left the rafter near the nest and was not again seen until July 23 when it was found, well-feathered out, in a "nest" of old automobile tires piled on the floor below. It was noted intermittently

until the first week of September; fresh owl pellets were found during the remainder of the month.

Although this barn is in constant use and the doors are usually open, the Barn Owls again nested here in 1950. Three young hatched from the clutch of four eggs and the young were again banded.

Flocks of Red Crossbills appear in Massachusetts with some regularity; there are more than 60 published records for the decade 1940-1950. Nesting records are quite otherwise—the Marblehead nest of 1917 being the only one known for the mainland of this state in the twentieth century (Wm. Brewster, *Auk*, 35: 225, 1918).

During the winter of 1949-50 from one to four of these wanderers were seen at intervals on Andrews Point, Cape Ann. A pair was watched on March 3, 5, and 13 for a total of five hours as they fed on the seeds of the pitch pine, *Pinus rigida*. They called softly and continuously, though the hard, dry *pip-pip* was never heard; the male at times sang briefly. On March 17 Mr. Martin Curtler of Rockport and I saw the female carrying nesting material. With the male in close attendance and singing softly, we watched her working on a half-built nest about 30 feet up in a pitch pine. The nest was saddled on a branch three feet from the tip, where the foliage was dense, and only a short distance from the upper windows of a summer cottage. The female carried an eight-inch willow twig from a nearby tree and worked it into the nest; she also broke off and used dead twigs from a white spruce, *Picea alba*, planted in a neighboring yard. The area contains a number of summer homes, then vacant, with adjoining groves of pitch pines.

On March 15 Miss Ann McCarthy of Beverly saw the pair of Crossbills with Chickadees, *Parus atricapillus*, and Red-breasted Nuthatches, *Sitta canadensis*. The Red Crossbills later left the flock and went to the nesting tree where the male was seen to pick up pine needles and present them to the female, repeating this performance three times. The birds kept up a constant low chattering while working. On March 24 the nest appeared to be finished, but there were no Crossbills in the vicinity. However on April 6, the owner of this property, Mrs. Harold S. Dole, saw the female sitting on the nest as the tree was whipped by a wild gale. Later in the day it had fallen, and she recovered the nest, intact but empty, from the road below. There on April 7, Mr. Curtler found some egg fragments which with the nest were placed in the Peabody Museum.

The nest is composed principally of fine grasses and weed stalks; around the outer rim there are a few small twigs from three to five inches long, most of them from the spruce mentioned above. Three feathers are visible, the largest a white chicken feather worked into the base. While allowance should doubtless be made because of the fall from the nesting tree and subsequent handling, the measurements as taken are: outside diameter 4.75 inches; inside diameter 2.0 by 2.4 inches; the somewhat oval bowl slightly more than an inch deep; total height was 2.0 inches.—DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass.*

Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius a. acadicus*, Nesting in Illinois.—To date there is but one known record of the nesting of the Saw-whet Owl in Illinois. Benjamin Gault's 'Check List of Birds of Illinois' records one nest in Marion County, Illinois, in 1890. For several years I have wondered whether Saw-whet Owls nested in the vicinity of Quincy, Illinois.

On April 28, three boys were hiking through a heavy willow woods bordering the Mississippi River, when a small brown bird flew from a broken willow. Looking up, they discovered four fuzzy little owls slightly larger than a domestic chicken egg. One bird fell into the river and was not retrieved, but the other three were captured,