

GENERAL NOTES

Earlier Photographic Records of the Common Crane (*Grus grus*) for North America—in Alberta, Canada.—The Common or Gray Crane (*Grus grus*) has been sighted and photographed in Alberta twice previous to, and once since, the Alaska observation, reported as the first for North America (Kessel and Kelley, Auk, 75: 465, 1958). On December 11, 1957 Fred Sharp observed a Common Crane frequenting a farm one mile northwest of Cavendish, Alberta. The crane fed in a wheat field each morning for about three weeks before departing on December 20. Sharp was able to take snapshots (Plate 13) and some fifty feet of 16 mm. movie film of the crane both in flight and on the ground. The literature locally available did not permit positive identification at that time. On March 20, 1958 the Common Crane was sighted again by Mr. E. Carr near the Stirling Lake area south of Lethbridge, Alberta, and the bird was photographed by the "Lethbridge Herald" photographer. Both photographic records were forwarded to Mr. K. C. Lint, Curator of Birds at the San Diego Zoological Gardens in California. He considered the bird probably *Grus grus lilfordi* and thought that it must have escaped from a private breeder or zoological garden. On April 24, 1958 the Alaska observation was made. On September 19, 1958 William Wishart observed and photographed a Common Crane with two Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*), feeding in a clover field five miles southeast of Athabasca, Alberta. (An identifiable print was sent to the editor of "The Auk".) The cranes rested in a slough for about an hour after feeding, took flight, and when last seen were headed southward.

It is interesting to note that the pattern of observations so far tend to follow the migration route of the Sandhill Crane. Some of the latter are known to inhabit northeastern Siberia, where an overlap of ranges with the eastern race of the Common Crane (*G. g. lilfordi*) might occur. The possibility exists that at least one Common Crane has been taking the North American route. WILLIAM WISHART, *Fish and Wildlife Division, Department of Lands and Forests, Edmonton, Alberta*, FRED SHARP, *Provincial Naturalist, Ducks Unlimited, Tilley, Alberta*.

Nesting of the Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, *Panyptila cayennensis*, in Guatemala.—Although the Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift has been taken in most of the Central American republics, the small population which has been reported in the lowlands of southeastern Mexico (southern Veracruz) was thought to be separated from the more southern populations by a great expanse of territory in southeastern Mexico, all of Guatemala and western Honduras. That *P. cayennensis* does occur within this assumed gap was demonstrated when the writer, accompanied by his wife and Miss Katrina Thompson of Houston, found an occupied nest of this swift on the side of a tree which grew on the steep bank sloping upward at the south edge of the Great Plaza in Tikal (altitude about 500 ft.), in the Peten region of Guatemala. This was on the morning of June 9, 1958, when I saw a single individual enter the nest. Within the next five minutes two individuals emerged from the nest, at an interval of a minute or two, and flew rapidly away. The nest, attached along its entire length to the tree-trunk, seemed to be similar to several which have been previously described for this species, being a long vertical tube constructed of the down associated with the seeds of some tropical plant. The tube was judged to be less than four inches in diameter at its thickest point, was about 20 inches long, and was placed approximately 20 feet above the base of the tree. (Plate 13, below.)