

1959 from six pairs near Arroyo del Potrero, Uruguay, at 35° S. Both females had active gonads; one preserved in my collection (no. 573) had two empty ovarian follicles and an unshelled egg in the oviduct measuring 31.5 × 24.7 mm.

I express my gratitude to Juan Cuello, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Montevideo, who permitted me to borrow specimens from the collections of this museum and those of Sociedad Taguató, and to José S. Abente, who allowed me to study the skin of a Yellow-billed Tern in the Sociedad Guazú-birá's collection of Montevideo.

LITERATURE CITED

- FRIEDMANN, H. 1927. Notes on some Argentinian birds. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 68: 139-236.
- GRANT, C. H. B. 1911. List of birds collected in Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia and southern Brazil, with field notes. *Ibis*, 5, 9th Ser.: 459-478.
- HAVERSCHMIDT, F. 1968. The birds of Surinam. London, Oliver and Boyd.
- MEYER DE SCHAUENSEE, R. 1966. Birds of South America. Narberth, Pennsylvania, Livingston Publ. Co.
- MURPHY, R. C. 1936. The oceanic birds of South America, vols. 1 and 2. New York, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.
- OATES, E. W. 1901. Catalogue of the collection of birds' eggs in the British Museum, vol. 1. London, printed by order of the Trustees.
- SAUNDERS, H. 1896. Gaviac. Pp. 1-339 in Catalogue of the birds in the British Museum, vol. 25. London, printed by order of the Trustees.
- WETMORE, A. 1926. Observations on the birds of Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile. *U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 133: 1-448.

RODOLFO ESCALANTE, *Guayaquí 3425, Apto. 301, Montevideo, Uruguay.*

Swimming ability of the Barn Swallow.—The note by Scherner (*Auk*, 86: 350, 1969) regarding the swimming ability of a Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) brings to mind a similar incident involving another palaeartic migrant to Africa, the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). On the night of 18 April 1964 Ted Davison and I, assisted by Ted's sons and by Mr. Jordaán, Warden of the Lake McIlwaine National Park near Salisbury, were banding swallows and martins at a roost in a reed bed in the lake, when one of the Barn Swallows fell into the water. It immediately swam away from our boat, utilizing what in swimming terminology would be called the "butterfly" stroke, i.e. simultaneously moving both wings up, forward, down, and backwards, in a circular motion, each backstroke against the water thrusting the body forward. It progressed in this manner for approximately 10 feet before reaching a reed and clambering out. At this stage our attention was diverted by the drifting boat and in the darkness we lost track of the bird, so I am unable to say to what extent the plumage was soaked by the immersion.

On several occasions while collecting specimens for the National Museums I have had occasion to observe passerines that had fallen into water after being shot; the most recent example occurred on 3 March 1969 when I shot an African Sand Martin (*Riparia paludicola*) while canoeing on the Sabi River near Birchenough Bridge. My impression is that the air trapped in the plumage imparts sufficient buoyancy to keep the bird afloat almost indefinitely, so that I wonder whether Scherner is altogether correct in stating that the Willow Warbler spread its wings and tail feathers so that it did not sink; was this action not merely part of the swimming movement?—H. DESMOND JACKSON, *P.O. Box 8014, Causeway, Rhodesia.*