

**Michigan Records Questioned.**—The recent paper by Mr. Ralph Beebe on the "Influence of the Great Lakes on the Migration of Birds" (WILSON BULLETIN, XLV, No. 3, September, 1933, pp. 118-121) contains a number of bird records which we feel should not be allowed to pass unquestioned into the literature of the ornithology of Michigan. The following cases require comment:

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). Beebe—one seen near Newberry, September 10, 1910. There are but four entirely acceptable records of this hawk in Michigan. In view of its extremely variable plumage and its similarity to other species of *Buteo*, sight records of this species can be accepted only when they are made under very exceptionally favorable circumstances by observers thoroughly familiar with the species in the west.

Purple Sandpiper (*Arquiatella maritima*). Beebe—four records at Newberry. In reply to a letter of inquiry, Mr. Beebe has kindly sent us further information on these records. Unfortunately the "specimen" listed by Mr. Beebe proves to be not that at all, but simply a dead bird shown to him by a hunter twenty-three years ago. The bird was not preserved. Since there are no specimens or even other sight records for the Purple Sandpiper in Michigan, and since it is highly improbable that this marine sandpiper would occur several times at a locality such as Newberry so far from even the Great Lakes, we feel that these reports cannot be accepted as establishing the presence of the Purple Sandpiper in the state.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). Beebe—three seen in flight near Newberry. There is but one record of this jaeger in Michigan, a specimen collected in 1879 near Detroit. Sight records of jaegers by observers not thoroughly familiar with the many confusing plumages of all three species are certainly not conclusive and should not be used.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). Beebe—two records (400 seen at East Tawas, October 6 and 7, 1930, and a smaller flock seen on the Detroit River, December 14, 1920). We have no satisfactory record of this marine species in Michigan (see B. H. Swales, WILSON BULLETIN, XXV, No. 1, March, 1913, pp. 31-32), and its occurrence in the interior of the United States is to be regarded as purely accidental. Mr. Beebe writes that he identified these birds by their "higher pitched notes" and by the fact that they were in a large flock. In the case of a bird that is extremely rare in the interior and that is so difficult to separate in life from the Common Tern, we consider that the record should not be accepted.

Western Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*). Beebe—three seen at Newberry in 1909. These, Mr. Beebe writes, were "distinguished from *brachidactyla* largely on account of larger size". However, Ridgway (*Birds of North and Middle America*, part 2, p. 668) separates these subspecies mainly on color characters, reporting that the longest winged *occidentalis* measures but one millimeter longer than the maximum of *brachidactyla* and the longest tail measures but half a millimeter longer than in the eastern form. The normal range of *occidentalis* extends east only to the western Dakotas.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). Beebe—"Many thousands" seen. Stray individuals of this Great Plains species may be detected in Michigan in the future (there is no state record), but this sight record of thousands points very strongly to a confusion with the rather similar Lapland Longspur.—NORMAN A. WOOD, *Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Mich.*