

GENERAL NOTES

**Records of the Sooty Tern and Swallow-tailed Kite in Alabama.**—On March 20, 1938, following a hard "blow" from the South, an exhausted tern was picked up on the lawn of the Fairhope Hotel, Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama. The bird died soon after and was given to Mr. Duncan McIntosh, of Fairhope, who prepared the skin for his collection. Due to decomposition, the sex could not be determined. Mr. McIntosh kindly allowed me to examine the skin and on comparing it with known skins in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, it proved to be a Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata fuscata*. I believe this to be the first record of the occurrence of the Sooty Tern in Alabama.

On May 14, 1938, I observed a Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, sailing over a grove of live oaks on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay about one mile north of Daphne, Baldwin County, Alabama. The bird was watched for some time as it wheeled and glided overhead, frequently coming within a hundred yards, and at a rather low altitude. The white head, neck, and underparts, as well as the black back, and deeply forked tail were clearly visible, leaving no doubt as to its identity. Listed below are all published records, to my knowledge, for the occurrence of this species in the State.

- 1858 Dallas County. P. H. Gosse ("Letters from Alabama," 1859: 216-217), "seen nearly every day [in July] associating in little groups." (Gosse, *vide* A. H. Howell, "Birds of Alabama," 1924, pp. 128-9).
- 1889 Autauga County, Autaugaville, about March, 1889, one seen by L. S. Golsan. A. H. Howell (*loc. cit.*).
- 1890 Hale County, near Greensboro along the Warrior River. W. C. Avery (*Amer. Field*, 34, 1890: 584) says "Not common. Once abundant. It may breed along the Warrior River [near Greensboro] where now occasionally seen." A. H. Howell (*loc. cit.*).
- 1909 Montgomery County, Barachias on May 1, 1909, one seen by E. G. Holt (*Auk*, 31, 1914: 220).
- 1911 Baldwin County, Chuckee [not Chuckvee] Bay on May 12, 1911, one seen by A. H. Howell (*loc. cit.*).
- 1921 Geneva County, Hartford on January 26, 1921, one specimen shot. P. A. Brannon (*Auk*, 38, 1921: 464).
- 1932 Baldwin County, Fairhope on April 20, 1932, one seen by Duncan McIntosh. Helen M. Edwards (*Auk*, 50, 1933: 234).
- 1938 Baldwin County, near Daphne on May 14, 1938, one seen by Fred S. Barkalow, Jr.

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**Comparison of the Food of White-necked Ravens and Crows in Oklahoma.**—In southwestern Oklahoma it is not uncommon to find White-necked Ravens (*Corvus cryptoleucus*) among the flocks of wintering Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).

The bombing by State officials of a large Crow roost near Dempsey, Okla., on December 10, 1937, when an estimated 26,000 birds were killed, provided an unusual opportunity to compare the food habits of these two species. A few White-necked Ravens were noticed among the dead and a careful search revealed 20 of these birds. The stomachs of all were saved as well as those of 20 Crows, selected at random in various parts of the roost for comparison. These were examined in the Denver Laboratory of Food Habits Research of the U. S. Biological Survey.