

GENERAL NOTES

Burrowing Owl at sea.—On November 11, 1943, at 1:30 p.m., while aboard U.S. Destroyer "C. K. Bronson" en route with two other naval vessels from the Canal Zone to San Francisco, California, I observed with 7x binoculars a Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*). The ships were off the mouth of the Gulf of California in latitude 20° 30' N, longitude 109° 20' W, and moving at a speed of 18 knots. From the wing of the destroyer bridge, I watched the bird at intervals during a 2-hour period as it flew to one ship, rested a while, then flew to another in our formation.

It alighted several times aboard our vessel, on whaleboat davits or on gun mounts. In both locations the owl was in full view and within 15 feet of many observers on the bridge and deck areas. Neither fright nor weakness from extensive flight was apparent from the bird's actions. After a minute or two it would fly off, moving rapidly low over the water, toward one of the other two ships 3,500 yards distant, where it would land.

The sea was calm, with no unusual wind or weather disturbances in the vicinity. The nearest points of land were Cape San Lucas, Lower California (130 miles); Cape Corrientes, Mexico (185 miles); and Revilla Gigedo Islands (125 miles).

A bird in such a position at sea could well be migrating from Lower California to the Mexican Provinces southward. The Florida Burrowing Owl has been reported in localities that seemed to indicate extensive migrations over water (Barbour 1943, "Cuban Ornithology," pp. 80-81), but there is apparently no previously recorded observation of Burrowing Owls over oceanic waters at any great distance from land.—ROBERT L. PATTERSON, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*.

Late nesting of Barn Swallow in Saskatchewan.—On September 26, 1945, Fred G. Bard showed me a nest of a Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*) in a shed on the outskirts of Regina, Saskatchewan. The nest contained one dead young bird which—judging by its large size and well-developed plumage—must have been nearly ready to leave the nest. No adults were observed in the vicinity.

Bard told me that when he visited this nest on September 24 it contained two young birds, alive and seemingly in normal condition. He saw no adults. For a week previous to his visit, night temperatures at Regina averaged as low as 30° F. On the night following his visit, the minimum temperature was 22° F. It seems logical to suppose that, because of the low night temperatures and the resulting curtailment of insect food, the parent birds had deserted the nest and young to undertake southward migration.—OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR., *Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota*.

Returns of winter-resident Mockingbirds in Arkansas.—In nine years of banding at my home in North Little Rock, Arkansas, 13 banded Eastern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) have held two winter territories, one at the east of the house, the other at the north. Of these 13 individuals, one returned to the same territory for a sixth winter, one for a third, and two for a second. A fifth individual that returned to the area for a second winter held, not the same territory, but one 150 yards away.

The bird that returned for a sixth winter (37-220602) was a female that held the east territory in 1936-37. From her plumage, which had been damaged in an ice storm, she was known at sight even before she was caught at the start of my banding in February 1937. Each year, until the fall of 1942, she returned about