

## GENERAL NOTES

**Records of Swainson's Warbler in southern Illinois.**— Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) is typically associated with extensive southern bottomlands and shallow swamplands, particularly where there are large cane brakes, *Arundinaria gigantea* (Walt.) Chapm. Although southern Illinois is at the northern limit of such habitat, there are a few places along the rivers and creeks that harbor fairly good growths of cane. In these areas Swainson's Warbler has been recorded occasionally, although the records are extremely few and irregular. The few published observations are as follows: Wabash County in April (Ridgway, 1878. *Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club*, 4:163); Perry County in June (Gross, 1908. *Auk*, 25:225); Alexander County in May and Johnson County in June (Howell, 1910. *Auk*, 27:216); near Cairo, Alexander County, in September (Ammann, 1939. *Wilson Bull.*, 51:185). These were the only published records of the warbler for southern Illinois until mention of some of the following observations appeared in *Audubon Field Notes* (1951. 5:292; 1952. 6:292). No published observations of Swainson's Warbler were made in southern Illinois over an extended period in summer prior to 1951.

On April 29, 1951, Richard Brewer and I discovered a singing male Swainson's Warbler in the extensive Cave Valley cane brake, two miles north of Pomona in Jackson County. With further searching during the following weeks, we found the male singing on May 15 and June 16, but otherwise were unable to discover any clue to its status. On July 1 we observed a Swainson's Warbler at close range in an upland forest adjacent to the swamp. The bird was excited by our presence, as if perhaps concerned for the safety of a nest or young birds. It carried insects in its bill and fluttered on the ground almost to our feet, but, although we searched carefully, we were unable to discover a nest. No further observations were made of the species in 1951. Observations of Swainson's Warbler in 1952 were made on May 4 and 20, and on July 4; all were of a singing bird or birds, obviously not excited by the observer's presence. Other duties prevented our searching for the possible nest during the remainder of 1952. In 1953, drought conditions caused the swamp to go nearly dry, so that repeated search for Swainson's Warbler yielded only one late May observation and no summer records. In 1954, moisture conditions returned to near normal, and with this condition Swainson's Warbler again appeared in the Cave Valley swamp in summer. Brewer and I heard a singing male on June 13, and I observed an individual on June 19. We both watched a singing male on July 3 as it fed or gathered food on the ground in the swamp. The preceding observations definitely establish Swainson's Warbler as a summer resident in Illinois. Furthermore, the actions of the bird or birds observed in suitable breeding habitat would seem to indicate nesting activities. It is hoped that these records will assist in ultimately clarifying the status of Swainson's Warbler in Illinois.—JOHN WILLIAM HARDY, *Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, August 2, 1954.*

**Tail winds and migration.**— The *Wilson Bulletin*, vol. 66, no. 2, June, 1954, contains several articles dealing with the relationship of weather, particularly of wind direction, to bird migration; and there have been a number of other recent articles on this general subject in several journals. There seems to be general agreement among most authors that birds tend to drift with the wind, something like aerial plankton, but there seems also to be a general tendency to assume that the wind blows from the same direction at all levels. This is by no means the case; and a couple of observations on the Preston Laboratories' grounds in Western Pennsylvania seem to show that birds of many species can find and use a limited stratum of air that is moving in the direction in