

by passing cars. Indeed, this has been advanced by some observers as a reason for the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus atratus*) extending its range northward in recent years.

Along the coastal highways of the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida and the Gulf States, one has to watch the buzzards. Frequently, they delay their rising from the highways to the point of being either just missed by a car, or actually collided with. The writer knows of several instances where they have come through the windshields of cars to the detriment of themselves and the occupants of the vehicle! Along the Tamiami Trail this all but constitutes one of the hazards of the road. Much prey is strewn along this stretch, and it is not too much to say that, if the driver tried to do it, he could kill a dozen vultures between Miami and Everglades, providing he did not wreck himself doing it. The writer has only just avoided killing many by a narrow margin. It seems a safe plan, when buzzards are in the road ahead, to slow down, sound the horn frequently, and this usually puts the birds in the air at a sufficient distance to allow a fair margin of safety.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

A hybrid between Turkey Vulture and Black Vulture.—On Friday, February 5, I baited the trap in which I catch Black Vultures for banding. This is a large wire enclosure with a receiving pen on one side connected with the main trap by a 'V'. The entrance to the trap is through a square hole in the center of the top, which is depressed from the four sides toward the center, leaving a three-foot square hole open. Part of the carcass of a freshly killed cow was put into the trap. Black Vultures go readily into the trap to get the food, but do not find their way out. Turkey Vultures will not go into the trap. In this trap I frequently capture as many as one hundred and fifty vultures at one time. These birds are banded and liberated. I usually do not visit the trap until twenty-four to forty-eight hours after it has been set, as this enables the birds to digest the food that they have eaten, and makes the banding not quite so unpleasant, as there is then no regurgitation in handling them.

Late in the afternoon of the 6th, I visited the trap with four assistants and found both the trap and the receiving pen packed with Black Vultures. In the sea of black heads, I noticed one red head, and remarked that there seemed to be a young Turkey Vulture in the catch. When, on handling the birds, this red-headed 'buzzard' was brought to me, I saw at once that it was a hybrid between the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus atratus*) and the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*). The predominating color and shape were those of the Black Vulture, but the beak, eyes, eyelids and fore part of the head were like those of the Turkey Vulture, as were also rear part of the head and neck, and all of the body plumage. The shape of the tail was as in the Black Vulture. The legs and feet were more Turkey Vulture than Black Vulture, both in coloring and in shape. The primaries were definitely Turkey Vulture. The remainder of the wing plumage was Black Vulture.

This is the first time I have ever seen a hybrid between these two birds, though I have banded thousands of them.

This bird was sent by express Saturday afternoon, February 6, to the U. S. Biological Survey for the attention of Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln, to whom I make my banding reports. On checking my bands after emptying the trap, I found that the trap had made the largest catch I have ever recorded for one time, 279 of freshly banded birds and 77 returns; a total of 356 Black Vultures, and one hybrid.—E. A. McILHENNY, *Avery Island, La.*

Mississippi Kite in South Carolina in Winter.—Through the courtesy of Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, the writer is privileged to record the first winter occur-

rence of the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) in South Carolina. This species is rare in winter, even in southern Florida and its presence in coastal South Carolina at that season is remarkable indeed. One would naturally expect that the weather was unseasonably warm when the specimen was observed, but as a matter of fact, the conditions were exactly the reverse and the winter was exceptionally severe in this State, with the almost unheard-of occurrence of snow in the Low Country! The bird was seen by Dr. Murphy and his host, Mr. Jesse Metcalf, on the latter's plantation, Hasty Point, Georgetown County, S. C., on the morning of February 2, 1936. It was watched at leisure with and without high-powered binoculars as it flew over the swamps of Cypress Creek. The weather was cold at the time, the mercury registering 33° and "considerable melting snow lay on the ground."

This species usually reaches lower South Carolina in early April, the earliest record heretofore being March 22, 1929, when Mr. Herbert R. Sass and the writer observed one at Goose Creek, Charleston County. The reason for the appearance of the Hasty Point specimen in such unseasonable time is a mystery.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., R. F. D. 1, Charleston, S. C.

A Swainson's Hawk migration.—In the eastern United States autumnal *Buteo* flights are almost invariably associated with mountain ridges. Year after year these migrating hawks come down well-defined flyways because of definite physical advantages offered by air currents. Even though I had read of such flights over the plains area, it was a genuine revelation to observe the heaviest *Buteo* migration I have ever had the fortune of witnessing out on the relatively flat plains around Hutchinson, Kansas, on October 2, 1936.

Early that morning a wheeling flock of some seventy-five Swainson's Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*) brought the migration to my attention. For the next half hour scattered small flocks followed the invisible path overhead from north to south before the heavy movement got under way. For a little over an hour and a half I kept as near actual count as possible and ended with 3400 hawks on my tabulation. There were scattered individuals in this count but most of the birds were in definite compact flocks ranging from a dozen to three hundred individuals. In spite of the fact that there was no apparent marked difference in the earth's surface for miles around, the birds seemed to follow a definite course over the State Fair Grounds. While I was able only to keep count during this hour and a half, intermittent observations showed that this flight continued well into the afternoon. Over ninety-nine per cent of the birds were Swainson's Hawks.

It was significant to notice that as the sun rose the birds rose to a higher altitude until after eleven o'clock one just arriving in the area would have been ignorant of a hawk migration for the birds were now mere specks, visible to the naked eye only after careful scrutiny. Are there definite annual flight lanes over the prairies or are these paths merely fortuitous, varying from year to year?—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, Freeport, Long Island, New York.

Additional Illinois Golden Eagle records.—During the past two years the writer has been accumulating information concerning the former and present status of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) in Illinois. It seems advisable to make known the following records, which have apparently not appeared previously in the literature. Appreciation is expressed for information received from the several cooperating individuals and institutions. Specimens taken are:

Cantine (Madison County), May 8, 1877, immature bird now in the Julius Hurter collection in St. Louis, Missouri; data from Professor Rudolf Bennett, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.