

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.