

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.

Litchfield (Montgomery County), November 5, 1877; a notation in the distribution file of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey states that the catalogue of the Hurter collection includes this entry.

Spoon River, near Magnon (?) (probably Fulton County), April 15, 1881; stomach sent by Professor S. A. Forbes, University of Illinois, to the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey (or equivalent organization of the period) for examination; data from the food-habits file of the Bureau.

Vandalia (Fayette County), 1893, mounted bird in the Steinhauer collection at that place; data from Dr. T. E. Musselman, Quincy, Illinois.

Chicago (Cook County), winter of 1894, bird taken by J. G. Parker, now in the Field Museum of Natural History in that city; data from Rudyerd Boulton of that museum.

Cisco (Piatt County), March 3, 1899, a mounted adult male taken by E. V. Rannenberger, now in the Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois; data from Gilbert Wright of that museum.

Philo (Champaign County), March 13, 1900, bird taken by G. A. Shafer, now in the University of Illinois Museum of Natural History, Urbana, Illinois; examined by Dr. A. R. Cahn, now of Norris, Tennessee.

Champaign County, June 26, 1900, skin in the University of Illinois Museum of Natural History; examined by the writer.

Catlin (Vermilion County), about 1900, two mounted specimens, one in the collection of the Catlin Township High School, and the other in the collection of N. M. Payne of that town; both examined by the writer.

Crab Orchard (Williamson County), December 14, 1904, bird killed by T. M. Mitchell, now in the museum of Southern Illinois State Normal University, Carbondale, Illinois; data from Fred Cagle of that museum.

Brown County, November 20, 1907, bird mounted at the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History, Urbana, for the Mt. Sterling, Illinois, high school; notation in an old record book of the now defunct laboratory.

Peoria (Peoria County), about 1910, bird in the collection of Bradley Polytechnical Institute of that city; data from W. A. Starrett of that place.

Toledo (Cumberland County), November 10, 1913, bird wounded by Blaine Holsapple of that town; kept in captivity by S. E. Miller of that place until April 23, 1917, but now mounted and in the latter's possession; data from Mr. Miller. Bird examined by the writer.

Bement (Piatt County), January 1, 1915, bird received for mounting by the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History; entry in an old record book of the Laboratory.

Decatur (Macon County), November 1, 1915, bird taken; examined by Paul Smith, Illinois Department of Conservation, Mt. Zion, Illinois. A poor photograph in the 'Decatur Herald' examined by the writer.

Carthage (Hancock County), November, 1916, bird mounted by E. L. Lambert of Carthage College; shot by and presumably still in possession of Orville Walker, Fountain Green, Illinois; data from Mr. Lambert. An excellent photograph examined by the writer.

Springfield (Sangamon County), December 22, 1916, bird received by K. W. Kahmann, now of Hayward, Wisconsin, and the stomach sent by him to the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey for examination; data from the food-habits file of the Bureau.

Toledo (Cumberland County), October, 1918, bird shot by Carroll Willis, formerly of that town and now mounted in the cabin of the Toledo chapter of the Izaak

Walton League of America; data from S. E. Miller, Toledo. Bird examined by the writer.

Wood-dale, near Itasca (DuPage County), October 20, 1922, bird examined in a Chicago taxidermist's shop by C. W. G. Eifrig, Concordia College, River Forest, Illinois; data from Mr. Eifrig.

Lacon (Marshall County), March 7, 1923, mounted bird in the museum of R. M. Barnes of that town; data from Mr. Barnes.

Oakwood (Vermilion County), January 23, 1924, mounted bird examined by Frank C. Bellrose in the home of the farmer who shot the bird; data from Mr. Bellrose, Ottawa, Illinois.

Lacon (Marshall County), November 6, 1925, skin in the museum of R. M. Barnes of that town; data from Mr. Barnes.

Chandlerville (Cass County), fall of 1925, two mounted birds in Virginia, Illinois, one in a general store, and the other in the high school; information from Messrs. G. W. Rexroat, Jr., and M. M. Cruft of Virginia.

Frederick (Schuyler County), autumn, about 1925, mounted bird in the collection of Western Illinois State Teachers College, Macomb, Illinois; bird examined by the writer.

Oakland (Coles County), January, 1930, skin in the collection of Eastern Illinois State Teachers College, Charleston, Illinois; data from Walter Scruggs of that institution. Skin examined by the writer.

Lacon (Marshall County), August 10, 1930, mounted bird in the museum of R. M. Barnes of that town; data from Mr. Barnes.

Niles (Cook County), October 28, 1931, a male, now mounted and in the possession of P. R. Meeske, Arlington Heights, Illinois; examined by C. W. G. Eifrig, data from Messrs. Eifrig and Meeske.

Arlington Heights (Cook County), November 4, 1931, a female; examined by P. R. Meeske; record considered valid by C. W. G. Eifrig.

Basco (Hancock County), November 17, 1932, skin of female killed by Henry Rosenbloom of that town, now in the Carthage College Museum; data from E. L. Lambert, Carthage, Illinois.

Carmi (White County), January, 1934, mounted bird in a local lawyer's office, examined by G. H. Brown of that town; data from Herman Morrill of Carmi.

Charleston (Coles County), February 22, 1935, dead bird examined by Walter Scruggs of that place; data from Mr. Scruggs.

Waukegan (Lake County), October 13, 1935, female in the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago, killed by N. Griffin; data from Rudyerd Boulton of that museum.

Chicago (Cook County), October 17, 1935, bird captured alive on Lake Michigan and presented to the Lincoln Park 'Zoo' of that city; an excellent photograph appeared in the 'Chicago Daily News'; and the live bird was examined by the writer.

Barrington (Lake County), October 26, 1935, a male, mounted by Asmus and Reese, Woodstock, Illinois; data from J. C. Asmus. Excellent photograph examined by the writer.

Moweaqua (Shelby County), October 27, 1935, bird wounded, kept in captivity in Decatur, Illinois, then seized by the Illinois Department of Conservation and turned over to the Illinois State Natural History Survey, where it was kept on display until its death from disease; bird examined by the writer.

Virginia (Cass County), December, 1935, bird caught in a steel trap by Dave French and kept in captivity until seized by G. L. Kuhlman, Illinois Department of

Conservation, Beardstown, Illinois, who banded it (U. S. B. S. 36-802136, issued to Professor V. E. Shelford, Urbana, Illinois) and released it at Beardstown (Cass County), on February 28, 1936; a letter from Mr. F. C. Lincoln informs me that the bird was killed at Hillcrest (Calhoun County), Illinois, on March 28, 1936, by C. C. Jones, Jr., of Hamburg, Illinois; identification by G. W. Rexroat, Jr., Virginia, Illinois, and by warden Kuhlman.

Mattoon (Coles County), late autumn, 1935; mounted bird formerly in a sporting goods store in that town; information from the proprietor of the shop. Bird examined by the writer.

Goreville (Johnson County), March 26, 1936, bird killed by Will Lingle; data from Fred Cagle, Carbondale, Illinois.

Crystal Lake, Woodstock, and Huntley (all McHenry County), between 1910 and 1935, eight or ten birds mounted by P. E. Bertram, a taxidermist of Crystal Lake, Illinois. C. W. G. Eifrig considers Mr. Bertram's records as valid; however, the specimens now cannot be located.—CHARLES T. BLACK, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois*.

An Illinois record for the Little Brown Crane.—As far as known, the Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis canadensis*) has never been reported from Illinois although it has been collected in Clark County, Missouri, in eastern Nebraska and in western Wisconsin. Recently, among a lot of kitchen-midden bones from a pit on the Ed. Korando farm, near Jacob, Jackson County, the distal end of a tibio-tarsus of this crane was found. Remains of the Whooping Crane have been found in a pit near Sand Ridge, Jackson County, as well as in kitchen-midden material from other places. The Sandhill Crane was represented in bones from pits on Plum Island, La Salle County. Forty-four species of birds have been identified from Indian mounds and village sites in Illinois. The Little Brown Crane, as well as the other bird bones, were identified by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, in charge of the United States National Museum.—FRANK C. BAKER, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois*.

Winter shorebird notes from Massachusetts.—In the ten years since Forbush published the first volume of 'Birds of Massachusetts,' I have accumulated records which extend the fall migration period of the White-rumped Sandpiper by more than a month, confirm the winter status of Knot, Sanderling, and Red-backed Sandpiper, and definitely establish the Black-bellied Plover and Turnstone as rare winter residents in the State. These notes are summarized below.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Squatarola squatarola*). The A. O. U. Check-list gives North Carolina as the northern limit of the winter range, and Forbush defines its season in Massachusetts as "April 15–June 13; (summer); July 5–November 20; (December)." My recent records outside these limits are:—

- 1929. February 22, two at Gurnet Head, Plymouth, of which one was collected.
- 1934. December 7, one, Gooseberry Neck, Westport.
- 1935. January 11, one, Coatue Point, Nantucket.
November 30, three, Third Cliff, Scituate.
December 2, five, Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard.
- 1936. December 28, three, Nauset Inlet, Eastham.
- 1937. January 12, three at the same place, presumably the same birds. They were reported by other observers through February.

All these birds appeared to be healthy, strong-flying individuals, and their presence during the winter months fits in rather naturally with another pronounced tendency