

I hoped to preserve one as a specimen for the record of the occurrence of the Mallard in Puerto Rico, but did not succeed because they were skinned before I could reach his place.—VENTURA BARNÉS, JR., *Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.*

Swainson's Hawk in Massachusetts.—There are half a dozen published records of Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) in the little (but much "birded") Commonwealth of Massachusetts, so far to the eastward of its normal range, besides several others termed "apparent" or "probable." My own experience indicates that the bird may be less unusual—especially in the August-September period when other western species seem likeliest to occur here—than has been thought, for the vast majority of our observers, on seeing one, would give it up as unidentifiable. For instance, on September 13, 1939, at the southern end of the Artichoke reservoirs in West Newbury, I thus "gave up" a hawk which I saw very well: big; mainly a plain, dark, dull brown; with long tail; long, pointed wings not quite extending to tail-tip; behavior of a Marsh Hawk (standing on mud, or perching on a rock in the shallow water) but with no white croupe! Again, on August 23, 1942, I "gave up" a hawk I watched in very low, steady flight at Arcadia Sanctuary in Northampton. Its long wings and very long tail suggested Marsh Hawk, but the flight seemed too regular and again there was no white croupe. It appeared to be dark gray all over.

Now on the same month and day, August 23, in 1945, at Clark's Pond, Ipswich, I spied a big hawk alighting in one of the lonesome trees on the bare hills, and through a telescope made certain it was a Buteo, but a remarkably long-tailed Buteo. It presently flew out of sight behind the western hill. Mr. Ludlow Griscom arrived and was told of it, and four of us in the car of Mr. Richard C. Curtis drove over the hill and flushed the hawk so that we could first look down upon it and later up at it as it gyrated higher and higher and moved away on the easterly breeze. Mr. Griscom, of course, *knew* Swainson's Hawk and pronounced this one an immature in the dark phase, pointing out to us its "sooty" appearance, scarcely lighter below than above; the absence of bars in its long tail (which looked dull tan when the sun shone through it); and the great length of the wing, with blackish tip and a light patch clear across the primaries proximal to this tip but more distal than is the smaller light spot in the primaries of the Red-shouldered Hawk.

Seeing this bird so perfectly enabled me to identify with moral certainty that of September 13, 1939, and with at least probability that of August 23, 1942.—SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.*

A baby Florida Sandhill Crane (Plate 4).—On May 27, 1945, Capt. and Mrs. Donald B. Lawrence, Wray Nicholson, Lt. B. F. McCamey, and I motored from Orlando south to the Kissimmee Prairie expressly to observe the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) on its nesting ground. We found a few pairs of these sparrows in open country southwest of Kenansville, Osceola County, heard the males singing their weak songs, and found a nest with four fairly fresh eggs. The most thrilling find of the day was, however, a captive baby Florida Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis pratensis*), about two days old, which we saw at a farmhouse near Lake Marion, just north of the Prairie proper.

The beautiful little creature had been taken the day before from a nest on an islet in a shallow pond on the Prairie. It was too young to stand firmly, appeared to be wholly unafraid, and cheeped in a high, fine voice. If put in the strong



SUTTON—A BABY FLORIDA SANDHILL CRANE.

sunlight, it promptly sought shade. It took small grasshoppers from the hand, but did not swallow them very expertly. Given a pan of water, it waded about, sat down and drank deeply, but did not go through the motions of taking a bath. After eating four small grasshoppers, it became drowsy, sank to its belly, and let its head sink farther and farther forward until one side of the face rested on the grass. In this attitude it napped briefly but soundly, with eyes closed.

Standing, it held its head moderately high and let its wings hang limp. On "sitting down" it rested on its heels and lifted its head, or sank to its belly and let its head rest between its shoulders. Its plumage was foxy red-brown, brightest on the back, paler on the face, belly and sides, with a white spot in front of each wing. The forehead and crown were fully feathered. The feet were brownish pink. The basal half of the bill was pinkish flesh color, the terminal half horn gray, the egg-tooth grayish white. The eyelids were dull bluish gray, the irides light gray with a faint greenish or bluish cast, the pupils milky gray rather than black.

On inquiry, we found that the nest had been discovered some time before, and that it had never held more than one egg. Wray Nicholson, who knows Florida birds from a lifetime of experience with them, informed us that Florida Sandhill Crane eggs usually hatch in the early spring, and expressed the opinion that the severe drought of recent months was responsible for the lateness of the nesting of this particular pair. Both half-tone illustrations are from perfectly exposed kodachromes taken by Captain Lawrence. These kodachromes were used in checking my color-notes on the fleshy parts of the young crane.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, Major, Air Corps, ADT Branch, Bldg. T-43, AAF Center, Orlando, Florida.

Northward extension of the summer range of the Limpkin.—The status of *Aramus pictus pictus* outside the state of Florida is usually understood as embracing only that part of southeastern Georgia covered by the Okefenokee Swamp. Casual occurrences are known from South Carolina. However, even in south Georgia it is now a rare species and difficult to find. In the recently published "Birds of Georgia" (Greene, Stoddard, Tomkins, *et al.*) the authors state on page 36 that it is "rarely found in the southeastern part of the State. Recent records are from the Colerain section in western Camden and eastern Charlton counties where the species appears to be a rare resident."

During an ornithological investigation of parts of the Altamaha River Swamp in Glynn County in May, 1945, the writer, with Mr. E. B. Chamberlain of the Charleston Museum, found a pair of these birds on Altama Plantation. This tract lies on the south bank of the Altamaha, and immediately adjacent to the county line between Glynn and McIntosh counties. It is about eight miles south of Darien and sixteen miles north of Brunswick. The birds were flushed from sawgrass in the midst of a large cypress-gum swamp on the edge of a canal. One of them alighted on a small cypress just across the narrow canal where it stood, jerking its tail and bobbing the head in characteristic fashion. We approached to within about 75 feet. Search was made for the nest as we felt confident the birds must have been breeding (the date was May 22), but we were unsuccessful. A day or two before, at the same spot, we had found a few eggs of the *Pomacea caliginosa*, the fresh-water snail which forms such an important item of diet of this bird. Later, we found live snails. This may be the northern limit of the snail's range and, therefore, that of the Limpkin also. At any rate this is the farthest north by about 100 miles that the species has been found in the breeding season, virtually up to the McIntosh County line which, in this case, was not over a half mile distant.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, S. Carolina.*