

by my presence, and his only singing was in half-hearted attempts. Later in the day, a mile or so farther northwest, I saw another such couple plus two singing males. One of the males was taken, the testes of which were greatly enlarged. Still later, I saw two additional individuals in an alfalfa-Johnson grass field at the Brophy Ranch headquarters along the Babocomari River east of Elgin.

There is at present no positive evidence that Botteri's Sparrow nests in Arizona. The bulk of Arizona records fall during the months of June, July, and August (extremes, May 17 and October 7), which argues that the bird does breed in Arizona. There is a set of eggs taken May 24, 1891, in the "San Rafael Valley" (probably San Rafael Valley in Santa Cruz County) by A. H. Marshall, "♀ shot" (American Museum of Natural History, New York City), in grass in juniper association. This seems too early for five eggs, and is probably a misidentification, as all available data indicate the species is a very late migrant. On the other hand, the supposed Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*) eggs found by O. W. Howard (Swarth, Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 4: 43, 1904) in the San Pedro Valley may well have been *botterii*, since Phillips (Auk, 61: 409-412, 1944) has introduced strong evidence to show that Cassin's Sparrow is a post-breeding visitor to Arizona. It is hoped that some ornithologist will soon have the opportunity to establish Botteri's Sparrow conclusively as a breeding bird of the state.

Nearly all Botteri's Sparrows noted were inhabiting stands of sacaton (*Sporobolus wrightii*), a tall grass which occurs along the Babocomari River and in parts of the southern end of the Sulphur Springs Valley. Singing perches used most frequently were mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*), catclaw (*Acacia Greggii*), and whitethorn (*Acacia constricta*), which shrubs occur with the sacaton stands or on their borders. In some instances, the birds were occupying swales of sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryp-tandrus*), intermingled with mesquite and catclaw.

My thanks are due to Allan R. Phillips of the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, for contributing data otherwise unavailable to me, and for offering valuable comments during preparation of this paper.—GALE MONSON, P. O. Box 1717, Parker, Arizona.

The White-faced Petrel again off Massachusetts.—On the afternoon of May 3, 1946, when returning from Europe on the steamer 'Wooster Victory' I noticed two petrels skimming low over the water that were white beneath, the white being conspicuous as they banked and turned. The locality was on lat. 42° N.; at noon the steamer was 515 miles from New York, but by the time I saw the birds we had probably covered about one hundred miles. As the White-faced Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) is the only species with the entire under parts white there can be little doubt that this was the species observed.—CARROLL E. WOOD, JR., 434 High Street, Salem, Virginia.

Red-bellied snake in Ruffed Grouse crop.—While doing analysis work recently as food habits research biologist with the Wisconsin Conservation Department, Harry Anderson found a small specimen of the red-bellied snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata*) in the crop of a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*). The grouse had been collected in Taylor County, Wisconsin, in October, 1942. This unusual record was of double interest when no specimen record of this snake could be found for this Wisconsin county.—WALTER E. SCOTT, Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison, Wisconsin.

Early fall migration of the Purple Martin.—A rather distinct lack of specific dates for the first departure of the Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*) from its summer

nesting grounds appears to exist in the literature. There are ample data on the *latest* date it has been seen in many localities, and while it is well understood that the bird is an early migrant both in spring and fall, difficulty is encountered in exact times of the *beginning* of the autumnal movement. Therefore, the following should be of interest.

On June 21, 1946, the writer was returning up the Florida Keys from Key West. Late in the afternoon, on the eastern end of Plantation Key and the western end of Key Largo, a surprising concentration of martins was observed on the telephone wires bordering the Overseas Highway. In a distance of about half a mile, three large flocks were seen on the wires, with numbers of birds wheeling and circling about the resting individuals, and others coming in from the northern segment of sky over Florida Bay. The total number could hardly have been less than five hundred.

A considerable preponderance of immature birds was noted, but there were adults among them, both male and female. The martin does not nest in the Keys, nor indeed, anywhere at the very southern tip of mainland Florida. That this was a migratory movement seems beyond question, but the date is surprising in view of the fact that it was, by the calendar, the first day of "official" summer, and exceedingly early to witness the southward migration of even such an early traveller as the martin. None the less, there they were.

In the Charleston, S. C. area, migration begins in July, varying from the middle to the end of the month in regard to resident nesting birds, but movement is noted earlier than that at times, and concerns birds which have nested to the north of South Carolina. Charleston is some 700 miles by road from Key Largo and the migratory (?) birds seen there were about one month ahead of those of this section which usually depart in late July!

F. C. Lincoln in his 'Migration of American Birds,' page 70, says of this species that ". . . it may be noted that Purple Martins have been known to arrive in Florida in late January and the northward movement may continue so that late arrivals are still coming in during the first week in June. With some birds the migration is so prolonged that the earlier arrivals in the southern part of the breeding range will have completed nesting while others of the same species are still on their way north." Certainly, this would appear to be the case in this instance. Here were birds which must have been starting their autumnal flight while many others far to the northward had not yet finished nesting. More dates on this first departure of martins from nesting areas are needed, but so few of such appear to be listed that this may constitute at least a beginning.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston, South Carolina.*

The Bridled Tern again in south Florida waters.—On October 2, 1940, the writer was fortunate enough to see, capture, band, and release a Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus melanoptera*) in Florida Bay, an account of which appeared in *The Auk*, 58: 259, 1941. Apparently it was the fourth record for this species in the state.

On June 21, 1946, when returning from the Dry Tortugas on the National Park Service boat, the writer was called from below by his son, Alexander Sprunt, 4th, with the statement that a Bridled Tern was following close in the wake. No time was lost in arriving at the stern of the boat! The bird was flying a few yards off the stern, wheeled several times and presented excellent views of its back, under parts and profile. The whitish collar separating the black of the crown and that of the back was as plainly visible as though marked with paint. The bird continued to follow for a few minutes, then dropped astern. Since we had just completed a popu-