friend Dr. W. Moses of the Palestine Ornithologists' Union whose taxidermist mounted it, and it was shot early in the war. However, it appears that in the winter of 1934–1935 an Arab hunter shot what was seen to be probably this species in the same area, but would not surrender the specimen. In 1945, Dr. Mendelssohn told me, he found a nest in the Dead Sea area in January, with a bird sitting.

It is most likely that *Torgos* has inhabited the Dead Sea/Arabah depression as a rare resident for some considerable time, but has been confused with the somewhat similar but darker *Aegypius monachus*, although we now know the whitish underwing and flanks as field characteristics. This determination of yet another tropical African species in the Syro-African/Rift Valley links up with several more tropical species, not only of birds, but of reptiles, insects, and plants established in the Jordan-Dead Sea rift. In an ecological study of the fauna and flora of this area, made in several expeditions of the Middle East Biological Scheme during the past two years, which I am publishing shortly in America in joint authorship with Claude T. Barnes, the American zoologist of Salt Lake City, who first suggested the idea, there is described the breeding of another apparently previously unrecorded African bird in the S. W. Dead Sea cliffs at Jebel Asdum—the Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*), with specimens from so far north as Bethlehem and Mt. Scopus/Jerusalem. When I first began field studies here for the Middle East Biological Scheme I suspected that the several African birds breeding in the Dead Sea depression—the Palestine Sunbird (*Cinnyris osea*, Bonaparte), the Small Fan-tailed Raven (*Corvus rhipidurus*, Hartert), etc.—had originated as an immigration into Asia from Africa via the Red Sea-Aqaba-Wadi Arabah-Dead Sea route into the subtropical Rift Valley, but subsequent studies in coöperation with Palestine botanists and zoologists at several 'pockets' or enclaves of typically tropical fauna and flora that occur in the area altered my theory to a view that they are survivals of a tropical fauna and flora formerly covering a larger area.—(Capt.) ERIC HARDY, *47 Woodsorrel Road, Liverpool 15, England.*

Barn Owl breeding near Chicago, Illinois.—On several occasions in June and July, 1946, I (and others) watched Barn Owls (*Tyto alba pratincola*) and their young at their nest about thirty feet from the ground in the hollow top of a broken oak in the yard of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Dunbaugh, Winnetka, Illinois. This is in a residential part of the village, a few hundred years from Lake Michigan. Ford, Sanborn, and Coursen, 'Birds of the Chicago Area,' 1934, report the Barn Owl as "A rare resident. There are three published breeding records." Since 1934 there has been one additional record, made in 1936 and published by E. K. Hammond (Auk, 60: 599, 1943).—WALTER T. FISHER, *Chicago, Illinois.*

Barn Swallow nesting in Florida.—A nest containing two eggs and two newly hatched young of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica* subsp.) was found on June 23, 1946, about twelve miles southwest of Pensacola, Florida, at a point almost on the Gulf beach. On June 30, the two eggs were found to have hatched and the four young swallows were being fed regularly by both parents. As far as can be determined, this is the only nesting of this species ever recorded from Florida.

The nest was plastered against the side of a roof beam of a tiny, reinforced concrete building in the Army reservation on the west side of the entrance of Pensacola Bay. It was about nine feet above the floor, and its upper edge was only two inches below the ceiling. An open doorway allowed easy access to the parent birds. The nest had evidently been built in two distinct stages, for the lower half was of black mud and the upper half of red clay from a near-by road. Since it is a well-known habit of this species to add to an old nest in successive seasons, the first stage of the present nest may well have dated from the 1945 nesting season.

Of the two races of the Barn Swallow known to occur in this central Gulf Coast region, the northern form (*H. r. erythrogaster*) is an abundant spring and fall migrant, and is present (at Pensacola) from early April until late in May and from early August until the last of October. Its nearest known nesting point is in extreme northwestern Alabama, 300 miles north of the Gulf Coast. The other race is the comparatively rare Gulf Coast Barn Swallow (*H. r. insularis*), a pale-breasted form discovered and described by T. D. Burleigh (Occ. Papers, Mus. Zool., Louisiana State Univ., 11: 179–183, 1942), who found it nesting on the islands along the Mississippi coast. Burleigh noted this form only along the actual Gulf beaches, and reported that he had never seen it inland, whereas the abundant northern form covers the whole region during its sojourn. In spring, when the northern birds are in fresh, bright plumage, the pale-breasted Gulf Coast birds can be identified in the field with ease and certainty; though, when the northern birds return in August accompanied by many pale-breasted young-of-the-year, the separation of the two forms in the field is no longer possible.

Prior to the publication of Burleigh's description of the Gulf Coast form, I had several times seen Barn Swallows along the Gulf beaches near Pensacola in June and July, but I had missed the significance of the paleness of the under parts of these birds and had considered them to be mere stragglers of the northern form Dates of these occurrences, taken from my journal, are: July 4, 1925 (1 bird); June 21, 1931 (1); July 16, 1933 (1); June 23, 1940 (2); and July 19, 1942 (2). These birds were, I now believe, representatives of *H. r. insularis*. The parent birds at the nest recorded in the present note were seen to be pale-breasted, noticeably paler than the brightly colored birds that had passed through this region a month earlier. The presence of these birds on an Army reservation precluded the shooting of specimens for subspecific identification, but it seems not unreasonable to call them *insularis* rather than *erythrogaster*, and to ascribe this first nesting to be recorded from Florida to the near-by Gulf Coast Barn Swallow and not to the distant northern form.

After Burleigh had discovered the Gulf Coast form but before he had published his description of it, he had found a thriving nesting colony at Fort Morgan, Alabama (Auk, 58: 261–262, 1941), thus extending the known breeding range 57 miles eastward from the point of discovery. The present note extends the known range another 43 miles eastward, to a point in Florida 14 miles east of the Alabama state line.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, *2006 E. Jordan St., Pensacola, Florida.*

The Red Phalarope in Florida.—On October 29, 1946, the junior author found a fresh specimen of the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) on the three-mile bridge that spans Pensacola Bay, Florida. The bird had apparently been killed in flight by striking some overhead electric power cables and had fallen into the roadway. The specimen is now Number 134 in the collection of Miss L. E. Pate, of Pensacola.

On December 23, 1938, a living bird of this species was found in a dazed condition (as from a collision in flight) at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and was brought to the senior author for identification. The bird later recovered its powers of flight and was released.

Howell (Florida Bird Life, 1932) records but two specimens of this phalarope from Florida. As well as can be determined by the authors from available data, the specimen recorded herein is only the third from the state.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, *2006 E. Jordan St., Pensacola, and* MALETA M. (MRS. J. F.) WERNICKE, *Gull Point, Florida.*