A Juba River Race of Klaas's Cuckoo.—Until G. L. Bates (1937, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 57: 150) described *Chrysococcyx klaasi arabicus* from Asir, Arabia, it was generally agreed that Klaas's Cuckoo could not be divided into geographic races. Some variation in size was evident, but this was not at all clear-cut. The coloration in general is the same from the Gambia to South Africa (the type locality).

Some time ago Dr. V. G. L. van Someren lent me two adult males and two females from the Juba River, which in his opinion differed noticeably from most other birds collected in eastern Africa. Comparison of these specimens with extended series of *C. klaasi* in the American Museum of Natural History, and the British Museum too, has convinced me that these four birds from Somalia (two females and a male from Serenli, one male from Hillesheid) do differ sufficiently to be distinguished trinomially, and I propose for them the name.

Chrysococcyx klaasi somereni, new subspecies

Type: A.M.N.H. No. 704,637, adult male, Hillesheid, Juba River, southern Somalia, July 1922. Wing 96, tail 72, culmen from base 18.5 mm.

Diagnosis: In the males, the most conspicuous character is the white outer edging of the greater and middle wing coverts, the secondaries, and the primaries as well. The glossy green patches extending down the sides of the fore-neck to the chest are reduced in extent, and the green stripe down the outside of the tibial feathering also seems narrow. The pattern of the outer rectrices is about the same as in *C. k. klaasi*, not dark on the outer webs as stated for *C. k. arabicus* by Bates.

The females of *somereni* are lighter in general coloration than those of nominate *klaasi*, the barring of chest and flanks is decidedly narrow and the darker patches that usually extend down to the sides of the chest are faint, washed out, and entirely broken up by buff or whitish barring. On the upper surface of the wings the usual brown barring shows a tendency to become whitish at the outer edges of the feathers. The outer retrices of these two females have much the same pattern as those of females from Abyssinia.

Remarks: The wing of the male from Serenli measures 97; the tail, 67; the culmen to base, 17 mm. The two females from Serenli have wings 97 and 99 mm., tails 69 and 70, and culmen from base 18 in both.

It should be pointed out that white edgings on the upper surface of the wings are very occasionally present in males from Southern Rhodesia and the Transvaal.

The wings are longer (100 to 106 mm.) in South African males. Two males from Roka and the Northern Guaso Nyiro in Kenya Colony show scarcely any approach in color to *C. k. somereni*, but are short-winged (91 and 94 mm.). Not much emphasis can be placed on size, however, for West African birds average slightly smaller than those of South Africa.

Skins from Ethiopia and British Somaliland are typical *klaasi*, so the range of *somereni* seems to be restricted to the Juba River region of Somalia and perhaps the immediately adjacent portions of Kenya Colony.—JAMES P. CHAPIN, *c/o IRSAC, Boite Postale 217, Bukavu, Kivu, Belgian Congo.*

House Martin and Swift from Ascension Island. In February 1947, I received a skin of the House Martin (*Delichon urbica*) from Mr. G. Addison-Williamson. He had secured the bird by hand as it perched, completely exhausted, on a piece of machinery on the dock at Georgetown, Ascension Island. This was on November 2, 1946. A ship had arrived that morning from England, but it is doubtful whether a swallow would find it advantageous to stay with a ship for any length of time. The specimen is now number 343,884 in the collection of the American Museum of

Natural History. Three days later on November 5, and again on November 7, Mr. Addison-Williamson saw a swallow, apparently of the same species, flying around the pier on Ascension Island. He also remarks that he often observed some species of swift, black in color, flying around Ft. Thornton. This reminded me that in October, 1942, I had seen a swift, evidently of the genus *Apus*, flying over the harbor at Ascension. No swifts or swallows are resident on Ascension and the above records seem to be the first for these families from that island.—JAMES P. CHAPIN, *c/o* IRSAC, *Boite Postale 217, Bukavu, Kivu, Belgian Congo.*

Breeding Dates for Barn Owls in Southern California.—In Paul A. Stewart's excellent paper, "Dispersal, Breeding Behavior, and Longevity of Banded Barn Owls in North America," (Auk, 69: 227–245, 1952), I was astonished to note (page 244) that "Barn Owls in southern California breed only during March, April, May, and June, with the peak occurring in April."

Having observed Barn Owls here for over half a century, I looked up my notes and found records of 32 sets of eggs taken in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties of southern California. I have one record for January (eight slightly incubated eggs taken January 17, 1926), 10 records for February, 16 for March, and 6 for April; the latest being 3 fresh eggs on April 16, 1918. The mean date for all sets is March 10.

The mean weight of 76 eggs was 23.28 grams. Both the largest and the smallest eggs were in sets of six eggs, each from Colton, San Bernardino County, the incubation being slight to advanced in both sets, which I was able to blow with small holes. The weights in grams of the eggs in these sets were: March 12, 1925, 27.17, 26.89, 26.63, 26.43, 26.24, and 25.94; March 5, 1927, 22.06, 21.89, 21.61, 20.81, 19.33, and 19.11.—WILSON C. HANNA, *712 North Eight Street, Colton, California.*

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) observed diving.—In their article "The Family Anatidae" (Wilson Bulletin, 1945), Delacour and Mayr state (page 9) "All swans, except the Mute Swan, have been observed diving, although rarely." At the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary a flock of pinioned swans is allowed the freedom of a thirty-acre lake. This flock consists of about 20 Whooper (*Cygnus cygnus*), 12 Mute, and 2 to 4 Black Swans (*Cygnus atratus*). Since coming to the Sanctuary in June, 1948, I have noted with particular interest the diving activities of the swans. Whooper Swans have often been observed to swim underwater when attempting to escape another swan. Generally they swim 15 to 20 feet underwater, but on occasion I have noted one travel 50 to 60 feet.

On July 21, 1953, I watched a pair of Mute Swans with their two half-grown cygnets (about 9 weeks old) splashing about in the water and chasing one another. Suddenly one of the cygnets dove and swam eight to ten feet under water. It surfaced alongside of the second cygnet and immediately both young dove and swam about fifteen feet underwater. The cygnets surfaced, looked about then promptly dove again, traveling about ten feet under water. The four birds then settled down and busied themselves by preening.

I have not observed a Mute Swan dive and swim underwater when attempting to escape another swan as in the case of the Whooper Swans. Both adult and young Whooper Swans have been seen diving in a manner similar to that recorded here for the Mute Swan. I have not seen any of our Black Swans dive.—A. E. STAEBLER, *Director, W. K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary of Michigan State College, Hickory Corners, Michigan.*