

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.