

The Barn Swallow in Surinam.—In Surinam, *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster* is a common visitor from the north. It is, however, rather local as it is never seen in forests or wooded areas but wholly confined to wide, open spaces such as rice fields, savannas, lagoons, and the mouths of the big rivers.

My first record of its arrival from the north is August 22, 1953, three birds at Nickerie, while four were seen along the coast in the same district on August 23, 1953. Heavy migration takes place in the first half of September. On September 12 and 14, 1946, and again on September 13, 1947, numerous birds crossed the mouth of the Coppename River and followed the Saramacca River upstream in a southeasterly direction. Migration continues during October: on October 2, 1949, a strong migration took place toward the southeast over the savanna at Zanderij and to a lesser extent on October 9 and 30, 1949. It lasts even far into November: on November 12, 1952, 16 birds were seen following the coast at Coronie, as were five on November 20, 1949, over the savanna at Zanderij. On both dates, the birds flew in a southeasterly direction.

During December, January, February, and March great numbers assemble in the open spaces already mentioned: on December 20 and 21, 1946, a great many birds were hawking over the lagoons at Nickerie. When I arrived here about one hour before sunset on December 13, 1952, a great number of swallows was flying low over the surface of the water, taking a kind of communal bath, splashing in flight into the water, so that the drops spattered up into the air. Later on they all assembled in a huge flock in a fully-leaved tree in the middle of the lagoon, where they spent the night.

During these months many birds hawk around the sheds and barns in the vast rice fields in the same district. It is difficult to state when the northward movement starts again, as the birds are present during all the intervening months, but spring migration lasts into the latter part of April, as great numbers were present in the rice fields at Nickerie until April 20, 1953. A few stragglers are present in May and even in June. My latest records are: May 4, 1953, one bird above the rice fields at Coronie; May 11, 1946, one above the Surinam River at Paramaribo; May 24, 1953, one at the mouth of the Coppename River; June 5, 1948, one above the Boromoffo Creek at the place where it enters the Coppename River. In the interior of the country it seems that the birds follow the course of the big rivers during migration, as on March 24, 1953, six birds were seen flying downstream along the upper Surinam River between Kabel and Brokopondo; on March 25, more birds were seen further downstream.

My records agree well with the observations by Young (Ibis, 1929: 235) from the neighboring coast of British Guiana, who observed the first migrants from the north in the latter part of August.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *P. O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam.*

***Conirostrum bicolor* Parasitized by *Molothrus bonariensis* in Surinam.**—Hellmayr (Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ. 347, Zool. Ser. vol. 13, 1935, p. 319) includes Surinam in the range of *Conirostrum bicolor* on evidence of the Penard brothers (Vogels van Guyana, 2, 1910, p. 475), though he mentions no specimens nor localities.

In Surinam, as elsewhere in its range, *Conirostrum bicolor* is confined to the tidal mangroves (*Avicennia nitida*) bordering the seacoast. I found this species particularly common in this habitat in the Nickerie District in the west of the country, where I collected four specimens near the mouth of the Corentyne River on February 27 and 28, 1953. Cowbirds (*Molothrus bonariensis*) are also common in these mangroves.

On February 28, 1953, I observed a fledgling cowbird sitting on a branch of an *Avicennia* tree and uttering constantly its chirruping, begging call. After a short while a *Conirostrum* approached with a small insect which it fed to the cowbird. I collected the cowbird (coll. no. 1326, Leiden Museum).

This is the second case of a cowbird parasitizing *Conirostrum bicolor*; the first one being reported by Friedmann (Auk 55, 1938, p. 44) on authority of Smooker who found, on July 18, 1932, in the Caroni Swamp on Trinidad, a nest of *Conirostrum* with two eggs of a Cowbird, but none of the host. However, this record seems not wholly satisfactory, if we compare it with the remarks by Belcher and Smooker (Ibis 1937, p. 520) on the nesting of *Conirostrum bicolor* in which some doubt is left by the authors themselves about the identity of the nests they attributed to this species.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, P. O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam.

***Quiscalus lugubris fortirostris* in Surinam.**—On November 27, 1952, I was walking along the sea coast near Galibi (Surinam), just west of the mouth of the Maroni River, when suddenly a flock of five birds alighted in some dead shrubbery on the beach. The birds seemed exhausted and immediately gave me the impression of migrants having just arrived from the sea. For this reason, I collected two of them which proved to be *Quiscalus lugubris*. I sent both specimens (♀♀ coll. nrs. 1255 and 1256) to the American Museum of Natural History at New York, and my suspicion that they might not belong to our local breeding race was substantiated as Dr. Zimmer informed me (*in litt.*) that both of them were *Q. l. fortirostris*, the race inhabiting Barbados.

What is even more interesting is that there is in the same institution another specimen of *fortirostris* from Surinam in the Penard Collection, taken on October 3, 1921, near Diana Creek (as far as the label could be deciphered, but a locality unknown to me in Surinam).

Dr. Zimmer agrees that the circumstances attending the appearance of the small flock at Galibi from which I collected two specimens certainly suggest that the birds were vagrants just arriving. According to Bond (Check-List of birds of the West Indies. 1945, p. 143), *fortirostris* breeds on Barbados, was probably introduced on St. Vincent, was introduced and is now established on Barbuda and Antigua, and is said to have been introduced on St. Kitts. Mr. Bond, whom I informed about my experience, agrees (*in litt.*) that the small flock I met at Galibi probably consisted of vagrants from Barbados and now believes that the St. Vincent records of *fortirostris* also pertain to vagrants. He further tells me that the Barbadian Grackle is definitely not a migrant in the ordinary sense, for it is abundant on Barbados throughout the year. It is relatively more numerous than any other race of *Q. lugubris*, and this may account for its proclivity for vagrancy.

Our local race in Surinam, *Quiscalus l. lugubris*, occurs in quite a different habitat from that in which I found the birds at Galibi. It frequents lagoons and inundated areas, providing there is open water with scattered bushes and trees. In this rather restricted habitat it is numerous.

On September 24, 1953, I again visited the coast near the mouth of the Maroni River but I could not find a trace of any *Quiscalus*.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, P. O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam.