show marked differences in habitat selection in winter, as well as during the breeding season, this is apparently not true at the subspecific level in Savannah Sparrows. However, a larger sample might show that there was a quantitative segregation.

The fact that five distinct subspecies were found within a small area indicates that Savannah Sparrows wintering on the Savannah River Plant area may come from breeding areas which are geographically widely separated both north-south and east-west.

Finally, it is of interest to point out that the specimens of three of these subspecies, —*mediogriseus*, *nevadensis*, and *oblitus*,—constitute additions to the list of South Carolina birds because these forms are not listed by Sprunt and Chamberlain in *South Carolina Bird Life* (Univ. S. C. Press, 1949).—DAVID W. JOHNSTON, *Department of Biology, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia.*

**Waterfowl Reaction to an Earthquake.**—To have a group of wild creatures under observation at the moment of an earthquake is a rare opportunity. At 9:45 A.M., February 14, 1956, an earthquake with an intensity of 4 struck the Tokyo area. Its center was in Saitama Prefecture only about 15 miles north of the city. My two assistants and I were watching birds in the Shin Hama Imperial Duck Netting Grounds on the shore of Tokyo Bay at the eastern edge of the city. We were situated in small house blinds at the edge of a pond surrounded by a dense bamboo thicket. Before us and about us were several thousand birds including Teal (*Anas crecca*), Pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*), Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), Spectacled Teal (*Anas formosa*), Common Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Snowy Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Plumed Egret (*Egretta intermedia*), Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*), Bull-headed Shrike (*Lanius bucephalus*), Tree Sparrows (*Passer montanus*), and Ashy Starling (*Sturnus cineraceus*).

The waterfowl were resting quietly on the water, either asleep or slowly paddling around. The herons and egrets were roosting in the bamboo. The other species were in the bamboo and about trees of nearby lawns. As it was mid-morning the amount of activity was reduced to a minimum.

I had been watching the ducks through peep-holes in the blind, had just stepped out, and was walking on a lawn behind the bamboo border of the pond. My assistant was still watching through a peep-hole.

Suddenly all of the ducks squawked loudly. I quickly scanned the sky for a Peregrine Falcon, and my assistant looked over the pond to see where the strike was to be made. Then the earth began to shake violently from side to side accompanied by a concussion-like change in air pressure. Trees before me swayed as if to be uprooted and I could hardly stand. The swaying lasted several seconds. The ducks had obviously heard or sensed the first shock before I did. Their initial squawk was similar to that given when a falcon swoops to attack. Immediately after this shock and as the earth began to rock, they rose from the water. About ten per cent remained on the water and all were swimming in one direction after the rocking started. It seemed to me that the waves of movement came from Tokyo Bay, and all of the ducks were headed in the opposite direction. The reverse may have been true, and they were orienting themselves to face the direction of shock, for the epicenter was northwest of us and the Bay south and east. Herons and egrets left the bamboo and the doves and passerines flew excitedly out of the refuge. The waterfowl and ardeids circled in the air above the refuge for a few minutes and then returned to the water and foliage.

Within ten minutes the refuge had returned to normal and the only excitement remaining was that of the workmen who were discussing the matter.—H. ELLIOTT McCLURE, *406th Medical General Laboratory, APO 343, San Francisco, California.*

**Nesting of the Pygmy Palm-Swift.**—Lack states in his "A review of the genera and nesting habits of swifts" that the nest of the Pygmy Palm-Swift (*Micropanyptila furcata*) is unknown (Auk, **73**: 22, 1956). However, Hermano Nicéforo María, the well known Colombian naturalist, writes (*in litt.*) that he found on July 31, 1948, a nest of this rare species situated in a palm about 15 meters above the ground. The locality was Petrólea, Norte de Santander, in the Catatumbo lowlands, Colombia. He remarks that "the 2 birds, in turn, went in and out of the hollowed base of a leaf, and at this place they were both killed." One of these (sex not determined) is in the collection of this Academy (A. N. S. P. 157,551). It will be noted that the nesting site is similar to that of an Antillean *Tachornis*, which I have collected in like fashion. —JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

**The Little Egret, a New Bird for North America.**—The National Museum of Canada has received from Mr. Leslie M. Tuck, Canadian Wildlife Service, St. John's, Newfoundland, the skin of a female Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta garzetta* (Linnaeus). It was shot by Robert Emerson at Flatrock, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, on May 8, 1954. Dr. Alexander Wetmore, who kindly examined the specimen at the writer's request, concurs with the identification. The finding of this Old World bird in Newfoundland adds a new genus and species to the North American list.—W. EARL GODFREY, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.*

**An Anomalous Condition in the Eye of Some Hawks.**—During a morphological study of the eyes of birds in Texas, specimens of several species were collected, two of which exhibited an anomalous condition in one eye. The condition called colaboma is usually congenital and is characterized by an absence of some portion of the eye. An adult Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) and a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) both exhibited colabomas which involved a lack of development or an atrophy of approximately three fourths of the iris, lens, retina, and choroid. The eye could not possibly have functioned in image formation if indeed it was able to function in light perception.

It is very difficult to make a hawk with normal eyes observe an object which is close at hand with only one eye. They seem to insist on binocularity at close range, which demands the use of their temporal foveae. Apparently the binocularity is of use in depth perception during the stoop.

The above-mentioned hawks, without the use of one eye, were of course forced into monocularity for all situations. Yet they managed to survive as adult hawks. Either they managed to compensate for their loss by using the other clues for depth perception (size of object, shadows, etc.) or possibly they subsisted on carrion or locusts, both of which were abundant in the area where they were collected.—REXFORD D. LORD, *Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.*