

yields an average nest density of 0.67 per square meter, or more than one nest in every two-square-meter plot. This agrees with my field observations, although in a few very small areas there were as many as four nests in a square meter. In other areas there were several meters between nests.

Phelps (Bol. Acad. Cien. Fis. Mat. Nat., 50:1-54, 1953) provides photographs (figs. 7, 8) that show essential agreement with my estimates of nest density.

It is difficult to base estimates on photographs, but Zuloaga's figure 3 seems also to agree with my maximum density, and was presumably taken of an area he felt would indicate the huge number of terns present. My estimates of numbers of nests are perhaps conservative. I cannot, however, make any allowances sufficient to reconcile my estimates with Zuloaga's, which I find patently incredible.

Sooty Terns are reported by Ashmole (Ibis, 103b:297-364, 1963) as breeding in March in the Southern Hemisphere, on Ascension Island. Noddy Terns are also recorded, by Dorward and Ashmole (Ibis, 103b:447-457, 1963), as nesting there at this season, and as nesting at approximately the equator in the Galápagos by Lévêque (Alauda, 32:5-44 and 81-96, 1964). Robertson (Bull. Florida State Mus., 8:1-94, 1964) does not record any breeding activity during the winter months in the Dry Tortugas. Bridled Terns have not been previously recorded as breeding on Aves Island.

In addition to terns, Aves Island is inhabited by spiders (of three families), beetles (of two families), crickets, centipedes, ants, amphipods, and ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros*. The ticks are especially abundant, and probably take a considerable amount of blood from terns, although they are free-living and do not actually imbed themselves in the birds.

Without the uncanny ability of Captain McLawrence to navigate despite a false horizon, I would never have seen Aves Island. K. E. Hyland was kind enough to identify the ticks. The trip was supported by the New York Zoological Society.—JAMES D. LAZELL, JR., *Department of Zoology, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, 20 May 1966.*

Nest-Robbing Behavior of the Sparrow Hawk.—Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) have frequently been observed under the pressure of tremendous harassment from certain passerines. Young Sparrow Hawks have actually been knocked from their perches by irate robins, and swallows at times attack with such intensity that the hawks are forced to seek cover. These activities seem much more intense than the usual responses of passerines to birds of prey, and suggest the existence of species-specific defense reactions.

Bonnot (Condor: 23:136, 1921) observed a Sparrow Hawk taking an adult Cliff Swallow from its nest. White and Behle (Univ. of Utah Anthropol. Papers, 48:193, 1960) reported that a young Violet-green Swallow was taken from its nest, despite much harassment by many adults. Drinkwater (Auk 70:215, 1953) saw a female Sparrow Hawk reaching into a bird house to capture young bluebirds. William Yancey, of Boise, Idaho, related to the author an incident in which a Sparrow Hawk flew directly into a House Sparrow's nest, dislodging the occupants, one of which was caught by the hawk. On 12 June 1965 at Provo, Utah, a Sparrow Hawk was observed tearing the top from a House Sparrow's nest while under harassment by a pair of robins. This particular hawk searched several trees in what appeared to be a rather systematic manner. On another occasion, a Sparrow Hawk was seen with a fledgling robin that must have been removed from a nest. Here again, the raptor was being harassed by robins. Other observations have been made where Sparrow Hawks were seen inspecting House Sparrow nests while the adults flitted helplessly nearby.

Judging from the above observations it seems likely that the unusually intense harassment of the Sparrow Hawk by certain passerines has resulted from its nest-robbing behavior, which is probably more common than generally noted.—GERALD L. RICHARDS, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, 2 March 1966.*

The Baird's Sparrow and Burrowing Owl in Missouri.—The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (1957:592) does not list Missouri as part of the migratory range of Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). Central Texas, central Oklahoma, and western Kansas are given