

Wood warblers. Throughout each day, and occasionally during early evening, in the spring of 1936, small birds, warbler size and with the *chips* of warblers, flew northward across the beach near Progreso and continued over the ocean. Between 9:00 and 11:00 P.M. on March 30, there was an unusual number. It was brilliant moonlight, and the wind was in the north-northwest.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *Ann Arbor, Michigan*, and MILTON B. TRAUTMAN, *Stone Laboratory, Put-in-Bay, Ohio*.

Record of the Turkey from the Pleistocene of Indiana.—In 1936 Mr. Alton Bernhardt of North Liberty, found part of the cranium of a *Cervalces* at a locality on the headwaters of the Kankakee River, Indiana (C. L. Gazin. *Amer. Midl. Nat.* 19, 1938:740, figs. 1-2). This specimen he presented to the United States National Museum through the late Marcus Ward Lyon, Jr. In the summer of 1938 Mr. Bernhardt again visited this site to look for further bones, and on this occasion found the left humerus of a Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) that he has also kindly given to the National Museum. The specimen, while of good size, comes from an immature individual in which the bone is not yet fully formed. The locality is along a drainage ditch near Potato Creek, a mile east and about three-quarters of a mile north of North Liberty, St. Joseph County. The turkey humerus was secured about 20 feet from the point where the *Cervalces* skull was collected. This is the first record for this species for the Pleistocene of Indiana.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.*

Gulls and terns hawking flying insects.—A note by Milton and Mary Trautman on Ring-billed Gulls fly-catching (*Wils. Bull.*, 57, 1945:77) reminded me of my own observations along those lines in recent years, and the following extracts from my diary may be worth adding to the record. On September 2, 1943, while travelling from Fort Erie to Niagara Falls, Ontario, along the Niagara River boulevard, I saw great numbers of birds, obviously feeding on insects, hovering and darting high in the air over the road and inland across the fields almost as far as the eye could see. The insect eaters were nearly all terns and gulls, with Black Terns (*Chlidonias nigra*) in various plumage phases very much in the majority. However, Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) were also well represented, and some near by were plainly seen to be snapping up the flying insects in an efficient if somewhat awkward manner. A few Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) were similarly engaged, and one or two Night-hawks (*Chordeiles minor*), with lighter and more airy flight, and apparently much greater skill, were joining in the feast. Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), in great numbers over the river, were busy diving for fish, but once in a while a Common Tern would join the insect hawkers when a group of them happened to come close to the river bank. A few miles further down the river, toward Chippawa, other insect hawking flocks of gulls and terns were encountered; one fairly large group was predominately Ring-billed Gulls, while a smaller group, still nearer Chippawa, was largely composed of Black Terns. About a year later, on September 13, 1944, at several points along the river boulevard, from Old Fort Erie to near the mouth of Black Creek, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls in considerable numbers were observed hawking insects. The insects were not certainly identified, but at Fort Erie they seemed to be chiefly caddis flies, and near Black Creek, either caddis flies or flying ants. At Fort Erie, almost 50 per cent of the hawking gulls were Bonaparte's, but lower down on the river, the insect-eating flocks appeared to be composed almost entirely of Ring-billed Gulls. On both of the occasions cited, flights of ants were general throughout the area. Those on which the gulls and terns were apparently feeding seemed to be largely referable to the genus *Lasius*.—R. W. SHEPPARD, *1805 Mouland Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario*.

EDITORIAL

Unfortunately, the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club Council which was scheduled for August 20 had to be canceled. Arrangements for a later meeting have not yet been completed.

The following Nominating Committee has been appointed by President Ken-deigh to prepare a slate of Wilson Ornithological Club officers and Council members for 1946: Ernst Mayr, Chairman; W. J. Breckenridge; Ralph E. Yeatter. They will be glad to receive suggestions from members of the Club.

We wish to thank our loyal Life Member, Bernard W. Baker, for the generous gift which makes it possible to publish in color his handsome photograph of the Prairie Warbler that illustrates this issue.

OBITUARY

George Willett, ornithologist of the Los Angeles Museum and Vice-President of the American Ornithologists' Union, died August 2, 1945, at the age of sixty-six. His very extensive field experience in Alaska and California was the basis for many valuable reports, including detailed studies of the avifauna of southwestern California.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

The concluding part of H. Kirke Swann's "Monograph of the Birds of Prey" has just appeared. The first part was published in 1924, but Swann died in 1926 when only five additional parts had been printed. Alexander Wetmore generously agreed to undertake the completion of his friend's work, and publication was resumed. Many unforeseen difficulties had been overcome, and the concluding part was finally on the presses in September 1940, when German air raids completely destroyed the London printing establishment. Fortunately, the publishers, Wheldon and Wesley, had a set of corrected proofs stored outside London, and the text was gradually reset from this copy as war-time conditions permitted. Further delays resulted when new proofs, in transit between England and America, were twice lost at sea from enemy action. The completed work stands as a monument, not only to H. Kirke Swann, but to the courage and persistence of Alexander Wetmore and the publishers.

Jean Delacour and Ernst Mayr have completed for publication a manual of the birds of the Philippine Islands. The book is illustrated by Alexander Seidel and Earle L. Poole.

W. E. Clyde Todd and J. K. Douth of Carnegie Museum spent the spring and summer studying the birds and mammals of the tundra country on the east coast of Hudson Bay, north of Lake Minto.

William Beebe has just returned from six months' study of birds and other animals at the field station of the New York Zoological Society at Rancho Grande, Maracay, Venezuela.

Ralph Ellis has moved to Lawrence, Kansas, and has lent his remarkable ornithological library to the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. The library (some 65,000 volumes) is perhaps the largest private collection of books on birds and mammals in the world. It includes some extremely valuable manuscripts, as well as sets of the original sketches and drawings of famous artists. Of particular interest are the large number of sketches by John Gould and 650 drawings of the birds of India by Thomas C. Jerdon.