

Bird Lore, 35:372, 1933). In recent years the White Ibis population has sharply declined and years of successful nesting have been increasingly irregular (Kushlan, unpubl.).

The colony was active from March through June 1972 and near its peak held 17,800 nests. The birds fed primarily in the Everglades but also in other areas at considerable distances away from the colony. The distribution of feeding sites and the food consumed by birds breeding at this colony were studied in detail and will be discussed in a future paper.

Although a small percentage of the nests (approximately 150) were located in cattail (*Typha* sp.), most were in sawgrass. This is the first report of White Ibis using sawgrass as a nesting site and as nesting material. Nests were built within the mass of blades projecting from the base of the sawgrass plants. They were constructed primarily of sawgrass, but twigs, particularly willow (*Salix caroliniana*) and strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*), were also used in small numbers. Some of these were brought from trees growing on levees up to 5 km from the nesting colony. Sawgrass blades are characterized by their sharp, spiny edges which make manipulation difficult. Nonetheless, sawgrass over the entire colony area was broken off and used in nest construction. It is of interest that some White Ibises at another colony, Rookery Branch in Everglades National Park, Florida, also nested in sawgrass during the spring of 1972. The majority of the ibises at this colony, however, nested in and under mangroves which is the usual nesting habitat for the species in extreme southern Florida.

These observations were made as part of a study of the ecology of White Ibis and Glossy Ibis in southern Florida supported by the Maytag Chair of Ornithology, University of Miami. I thank J. W. Dineen and the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District for cooperation in my study of this colony.—JAMES A. KUSHLAN, *Department of Biology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, 33124, 8 August 1972.*

Sparrow Hawk predation on Bank Swallows.—The Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) is known to be highly adaptable in its food habits, preying upon a variety of insects, small mammals, birds, and occasional reptiles. The following observations are offered as evidence that under certain circumstances Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) may be an important food item.

At 14:30 on 25 June 1972 a male Sparrow Hawk was seen attacking a Bank Swallow that was caught in a mist net placed across a Bank Swallow colony near Ellenville, New York. The hawk was not captured. The net had been in place only a few minutes, and it contained only four birds. They were all removed, banded, and released. The attacked bird, an immature Bank Swallow, was released last; it did not appear to be seriously injured, and flew quite strongly. As I watched it fly away, it was suddenly snatched from the air by a Sparrow Hawk. The hawk was flying in the same direction as the swallow; it appeared to simply overtake the swallow and grab it with its talons. Without pausing, the hawk carried the swallow some distance to the edge of a woods above the colony, where it was lost from sight.

I continued to band, using one net, and catching mostly adult birds. At 16:15 another young bird (the fifth of the day) was banded and released. As it flew away, it too was taken from the air by a Sparrow Hawk. The method of capture was the same: the Sparrow Hawk overtook the young swallow and snatched it from the air.

I took down the mist net and began to search the area for further evidence of Sparrow Hawk predation. A rock at the base of the colony was surrounded by partially sheathed flight feathers; a hawk had evidently perched there and plucked young Bank Swallows.

Five such "plucking perches" were located by the colony. By counting the tails, I estimated that at least nine young birds had been plucked at these perches. All must have been taken on the 24th or 25th, since they were not covered with mud from the heavy rains of tropical storm Agnes during 21-23 June.

At 16:50 as I watched the colony from the car, a male Sparrow Hawk landed at the entrance of a hole in the colony (apparently pursuing young which had been peering out of several holes). He remained a second or two, and then abruptly flew about 100 yards to a smaller cluster of holes. He briefly touched a near-vertical surface and took off immediately carrying a Bank Swallow.

At 17:00 a fourth swallow was caught, this time from the air. I heard a loud rush of wings over the car, a sudden thunk! and then saw a Sparrow Hawk flying away, carrying another bird. Although I did not witness the actual strike, I assume the prey was another Bank Swallow, since there were many of them in the air around the car.

I visited the colony four more times during the next week. On 26 June a Sparrow Hawk was observed as it carried an unidentified bird, but no attacks on swallows were seen. On the 27th, a net was set again. Out of 25 birds caught, only two were young. Sparrow Hawks were seen in the vicinity, but no attacks were observed. A new "plucking rock" was found above the colony and about 25 yards from the edge of the bank. It was a boulder about 4 feet high with many Bank Swallow feathers scattered on and around it. Frank Fish and I estimated that 10 to 12 birds had been plucked there since the heavy rains of the night before.

On succeeding visits, no new evidence of Sparrow Hawk predation was observed, but the hawks evidently had taken a heavy toll of the young swallows from this colony. In four banding sessions between 17 June and 2 July, 99 adult and only eight young birds were caught. (In other years many more young birds have been banded at this and other Bank Swallow colonies; after the third week in June, most new birds caught have been young.)

Frank Fish and I had previously watched a Sparrow Hawk at a Bank Swallow colony several hundred yards from the colony just described. We were banding swallows on 22 June 1971, when a Sparrow Hawk landed on the top of the bank and proceeded to walk along the edge, apparently watching the swallows with great interest. Additional evidence of Sparrow Hawk activity at Bank Swallow colonies came from Harriet Marsi and Gail Corderman, who caught four Sparrow Hawks in mist nets at Bank Swallow colonies in the Binghamton, New York area on 19 June 1966, 27 June 1966, 24 June 1968, and 4 July 1972 (pers. comm.).

I have been unable to locate any other account of Sparrow Hawks taking Bank Swallows, although Heintzelman (Wilson Bull., 76:323-330, 1964) refers to one capture of a Cliff Swallow by a Sparrow Hawk.

It may well be that the specialization of this Sparrow Hawk on Bank Swallows represents a case of the development of a "specific searching image" (Mueller, Nature 233: 345, 1971, and pers. comm.). This tendency to specialize in a given type of prey at a given time was a successful strategy for this Sparrow Hawk or Hawks as evidenced by the large number of prey taken and by the fact that three aerial attacks observed resulted in captures—a remarkably high rate of success as compared with observations by others (Rudebeck, Oikos 2:63-88, 1950). Incidentally, aerial captures by Sparrow Hawks have not often been recorded; Heintzelman (Linnaean News-Letter, 20: Nos. 6 and 7, 1966) found that the only prey species previously recorded as captured in the air included a Starling, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, two species of bats, and insects.

Mueller (pers. comm.) observed aerial captures of many House Sparrows by a nesting pair of Sparrow Hawks in downtown Milwaukee.

Appreciation is extended to Frank L. Fish who assisted in banding operations and observations, and to Dr. John Phillips and Kenneth Niven who read the manuscript and suggested improvements.—VALERIE M. FREER, *Biology Department, Sullivan County Community College, Loch Sheldrake, New York 12759, 6 August 1972.*

First specimen of Laughing Gull for Illinois.—Although there are many sight records of the Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) for Illinois, there has never been a specimen taken previously. The American Ornithologists' Union's Check-list of North American Birds (1957) does not list the species as occurring in Illinois and "A Distributional Check List of the Birds of Illinois" (Smith and Parmalee, 1955) indicates that there is no specimen—only sight records. On 26 May 1971, I observed a Laughing Gull near the north end of Lake Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. On the following day (27 May) I collected the bird just north of the dam at Lake Springfield (No. 604789, ISM Coll., Springfield). The gull was a male in breeding plumage, the testes measuring, right, 12 mm \times 7 mm and left, 15 mm \times 7 mm. The gizzard contained one small fish.

There are nineteen sight records from northern Illinois, 14 fall and five spring records. There are three other records from downstate Illinois: Alton Dam, Madison County, 30 May 1955, by Sally Vasse (Anderson and Bauer, *A Guide to Finding Birds in the St. Louis Area*, 1968:35); along the Mississippi River near Nauvoo, Hancock County, 12 June 1971, by James Funk, four adults and one immature (Kleen and Bush, *Amer. Birds*, 25:864, 1971); and Lake Springfield, Sangamon County, 30 April and 1 May 1972, by myself.

In light of these sight records and the specimen from Springfield, the Laughing Gull should be considered a rare migrant in Illinois.—H. DAVID BOHLEN, *Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois 62706, 17 August 1972.*

Common, Arctic, Roseate, and Sandwich Terns carrying multiple fish.—It has been well documented that the Fairy Tern (*Gygis alba*) carries more than one fish at a time in its bill. Howell (*Natl. Geogr. Mag.* 140:417, 1971) reports a Fairy Tern carrying as many as 15 small fish and a Fairy Tern carrying a number of fish is pictured by Walker (*Natl. Geogr. Mag.* 90:807-814, 1946).

In 1969 Dunn observed Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), Arctic Terns (*S. paradisaea*), Roseate Terns (*S. dougallii*), and Sandwich Terns (*S. sandvicensis*), bringing in more than one fish at a time to the Coquet Island Colony in Northumberland, England.

In 1971 observers on Great Gull Island, New York, noted both Common and Roseate Terns bringing in multiple fish. Having found nothing in the literature on this behavior for the above species we felt it would be worthwhile to combine our observations in a note.

Dunn's sightings of fish carried by all four species during 10 days in July are given in Table 1. In all but two cases the birds carrying more than one fish brought in two-inch sand-eels (*Anmodytes marinus*). The exceptions were a Common Tern carrying two two-inch sprats (*Clupea sprattus*) and in another case an Arctic Tern carrying two three-inch sprats.

Most of the Great Gull Island observations were made by a team monitoring fish brought to two young Common Terns between 17 June and 30 July, and fish brought to two young Roseate Terns between 30 June and 14 August. Observers each took two-