

Barn Swallow Migration at Jones Beach — On August 23rd, 1958, in company with P. A. Buckley, D. B. Peakall, H. Recher and F. Scheider, I saw an enormous westward migration of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) along Jones Beach, L. I. The migration was in full swing for about four hours, from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m., and sample counts during this period showed an average of 80 to 90 birds passing per minute, or roughly 5,000 birds per hour: most of these were following the northern edge of the barrier beach or flying over the adjoining marshes. On reaching Captree State Park, at the east end of Jones Beach, at 2 p. m. we found many birds arriving from the north-east, suggesting that they were crossing from the mainland to the beach, and during the remainder of the afternoon, which we spent on Fire Island, we saw only comparatively small numbers, passing westwards along the north shore of the island and crossing to Jones Beach from its westernmost point. Although I made no complete count, the total number passing during the day must have approached 25,000, and may well have been considerably larger.

Stone (Bird Studies at Old Cape May, New York, 1937) describes very similar movements of Barn Swallows at Cape May, N. J., but I have not found any previous records from Long Island: Cruickshank (Birds around New York City, New York, 1942) regarded concentrations of even a few hundred as unusual there. On the other hand, as Stone points out, a large Barn Swallow migration is only subtly spectacular, and such movements may well have been overlooked in the past. There is, in fact, no reason to believe that the numbers which I saw might have been due to concentration by abnormal weather conditions. A cold front had passed through the area during the night of August 21st-22nd, bringing a good deal of rain to inland districts, but there was only a slight fall in temperature as the front moved out to sea on the 22nd, and the wind changed rapidly through north-east to east as the high pressure centre moved E. N. E. into New England. August 23rd was typically fine and warm on Jones Beach, with a light onshore wind freshening from the south-east. It is possible that such conditions are especially favourable for Barn Swallow migration: additional records would be of great interest. — I. C. T. Nisbitt, Cambridge, Mass.