

gives me pleasure to record that on August 20, 1937, a male *O. chrysis* was brought to me by parties who had just killed it with a car on a mountain road in the district of Añasco; it is now number 2884 in my collection. It weighed 161.35 grams in the flesh.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.*

Arkansas Kingbird in Adams County, Illinois.—On August 26, 1937, while driving north of Quincy, Illinois, on Illinois State Highway no. 24, I saw a fine specimen of the Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) sitting on a telephone wire. I stopped my car within twenty feet of the bird, which sat on the wire watching for insects. I have known the species for years in its native habitat in the Southwest. I believe this is the first time it has been reported from western Illinois.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois.*

Arkansas Kingbird nesting in Michigan.—I wish to report the nesting of an Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) on lot 34, Prairieville, township of Prairieville, Barry County, Michigan. The nest was found on June 30, 1937, in a white oak (*Quercus alba*) from fifteen to twenty feet up and in a crotch some ten feet from the main trunk. The discovery was verified by a party from the Michigan State Summer Session including Professor J. W. Stack and Dr. Miles D. Pirnie of the Kellogg Sanctuary. On July 9, 1937, Professor J. W. Stack made a trip with the intention of banding the young but they had already left the nest and were observed on the branches of the oak in which the nest was found. There were three young.—C. W. BAZUIN, *Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

Virginia's Warbler in Idaho.—On August 24, 1934, I collected two adult male specimens of *Vermivora virginiae* in Joe's Gap, about six miles northeast of Montpelier, Bear Lake County, Idaho. They weighed, respectively, 8.6 and 9.2 grams. This species is unrecorded from Idaho.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

Red-wings feeding on the larch saw-fly.—In the Black Rock Forest, of which I am Director, at Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, are several ponds one of which, Spruce Pond, contains a small island of perhaps half an acre in extent, and some two hundred yards from the eastern shore. This island is a definite muskeg, with much cat-tail, black spruce, poison sumach, Diervilla, Chamedaphne, sundews and the like, and is a favorite haunt for Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). At about two hundred yards from the mainland shore, we have a small plantation of European larch set out in 1928 and now averaging about twelve to fifteen feet tall. The spring of 1936 brought our first infestation of the larch saw-fly (*Nematus ericsonii*). This spring (1937) when the larvae were plentiful in late May or early June, we noticed the Red-wings making regular trips between their nests on the island and the plantation, returning with their beaks full of the wriggling larvae.—HENRY H. TRYON, *Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York.*

Song of the Chipping Sparrow.—In 'A Guide to Bird Song' (pp. 263-264, 1929), A. A. Saunders says of the song of the Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*): "When the notes of the song are not run together in a trill but can be counted, the number of notes is likely to be sixteen, twenty-four or thirty-two; that is, the bird sings in multiples of eight. But this rule is not invariable, and occasionally songs may contain seventeen or eighteen or twenty-five notes." By studying the film of recordings of Chipping Sparrow songs we should be able to confirm or deny this statement. The number of songs recorded with the sound-recording apparatus at

the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology is as yet too meager to afford positive conclusions; but of thirteen songs studied, taken at six different times and from six different birds, but one contained eight notes. The number of notes in thirteen songs was as follows: 35, 52, 20, 35, 44, 22, 19, 20, 16, 15, 12, 19, 11. The result is less than the one-in-eight average which would be expected if the song were given at haphazard.

The senior writer finds himself unable to count accurately the notes of most Chipping Sparrow songs even if they are given rather slowly. Occasionally, if the song is delivered with exceptional slowness, he can count them; but on these rare occasions he has not found anything to suggest that the song is delivered in multiples of eight notes. However, in counting notes in the field, errors seem to be extremely easy to make. A series of laboratory tests was made with the film by playing some of the less rapidly delivered songs, and asking listeners to count the number of notes. Most of the subjects were unable to do so, and rarely counted the number correctly the first time. One member of the staff of the Engineering School, who is an accomplished musician, made the following guesses on a normal song containing twenty notes. He guessed eighteen on the first playing; eighteen or nineteen on the second; he could not estimate the third; and estimated correctly only on the fourth playing. This is offered to show how liable to inaccuracies counting by ear can be. The junior writer, a professional musician, has trained his ear so that he believes he is able to count many Chipping Sparrow songs accurately. Of one hundred and sixty-five songs from six different birds heard in New York, Vermont and New Hampshire, there were but nineteen where the notes were in multiples of eight. On the theory of probabilities there should have been twenty plus.

Taking both pieces of evidence together,—the comparatively few film recordings studied under the microscope, and the more numerous songs counted by the admittedly less-accurate field method,—it does not seem that the Chipping Sparrow's song is delivered in series of eights; or as far as can be gathered, that the song is mathematical or orderly. It would appear to be delivered more or less at haphazard, stopping on any note without particular relation to number. It is not impossible, however, that in the section of Connecticut where Mr. Saunders does much of his field work, the Chipping Sparrow may sing its notes in multiples of eight. There is little doubt that types of singing within a species are often restricted to certain localities, and that these localities can be of very limited area; but these observations indicate that the Chipping Sparrow's song, in most localities, is not usually made up of notes in multiples of eight.—ALBERT R. BRAND AND HAROLD AXTELL, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Shorebirds at a Western Maryland Lake.—In Garrett County, the most mountainous and most western of Maryland's counties, is located a large reservoir created for power purposes, Deep Creek Lake. During the very dry summer of 1936, large quantities of water were diverted from this lake, leaving extensive mud flats that were very attractive to shorebirds. Since the lake is located on top of the Alleghany Plateau, it was a matter of unusual interest to see so many species and individuals in a mountain setting. Following are the species noted:

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, *Charadrius semipalmatus*.—Very common on September 20, and for several days following; last noted on October 24.

KILLDEER, *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*.—As might be expected, these birds were present in great numbers, both during the breeding season and during migration. They were still present in good numbers on November 25, although parts of the lake were then covered with ice.