

N. Y. Visitors to John Boyd Thacher Park will find them in the wilder portions of the hemlock forest at an elevation above 1300 feet.

Here hundreds of trees are to be viewed showing the great chiseled feeding holes—some freshly made, with the splinters still sticking to the sides of the trunk; others on old, fallen, punky logs, made at least fifty years ago.

All evidence shows that this bird has been a resident continuously.—
EDGAR BEDELL, *Waterford, N. Y.*

Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) in New Mexico.—On August 13, 1923, I saw four Kingbirds in an orchard in Velarde, a small town at the mouth of the Rio Grande Canyon about forty-five miles north of Santa Fe. Two of the birds were adults, and were feeding the other immature birds. These had probably been raised near the same place, and very likely in the same orchard.

On August 15, I again found the birds in the same place, and on August 21, a Kingbird visited my garden at the United States Indian School two miles south of Santa Fe, for only a few minutes. I saw it go to a strawberry bed and eat some of the ripe fruit, and take a few honey bees from the front of a hive in the garden.—J. K. JENSEN, *U. S. Indian School, Santa Fe, New Mexico.*

***Tyrannus verticalis*, a new bird for Illinois.**—R. A. Turtle, a Chicago taxidermist, phoned me to come over to his shop and identify a strange bird, which proved to be a fine male *Tyrannus verticalis*, brought to his studio by Prof. Wright of Highland Park to be mounted for the Lincoln School Collection. The bird was picked up dead on the road between Deerfield and Highland Park by Dorothy Clark, a school girl, on June 6, 1924—and is the first authentic record for Illinois.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

Least Flycatcher in the Ozarks.—Mr. Otto Widmann, in his catalog of Missouri birds states that the Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) is a common transient visitant in the state of Missouri, not being known to breed within the limits of the state. Tindall, according to Mr. Harry Harris, collected eggs of the species at Independence, Mo., in 1891. Since other bird students have possibly found the species breeding within the state I can not claim any discovery, but wish to record that I found the species breeding in Lawrence County, Southwest Missouri, in 1923, and that it is again present in 1924.

About August 10, 1923, I located in a young apple tree the nest of a small Flycatcher previously unknown to myself. It contained three totally white eggs. I was very busy at the time, and before I was sure of my identification the eggs had hatched. I banded these young birds on August 18. About August 15, 1923, I was very lucky in finding a second nest only a hundred yards away from the location of the first. It held four spotless white eggs. This time I took the necessary time to study the

nest, eggs and adults. Also I corresponded with Mr. Widmann concerning my find. After some study I find myself convinced that the nests were those of the Least Flycatcher. The latter brood was banded on August 23, 1923.

Mr. Widman stated in my correspondence with him that this record not only confirmed the breeding of the species in southwestern Missouri, but also extended its breeding range some two degrees of latitude, from 39° to 37°. During this 1924 season I have heard and seen the adult birds occasionally, but have been unable to institute a close search for their nests, which I feel sure are located somewhere in the orchards in which they nested last season.—JOHNSON A. NEFF, *Marionville, Missouri*.

Decrease of the English Sparrow in Eastern Massachusetts.—In checking statistical observations of *Passer domesticus* in eastern Massachusetts from November, 1914 to June 1922 inclusive, during which period I kept a careful and, so far as possible, accurate account of every bird seen at any time, I found that my records confirm, in striking fashion, conclusions derived from other sources. The following statistical chart will be self-explanatory but certain qualifications are necessary.

The average number of individuals seen per day when a species is observed I believe to be far more conclusive than the percentage of days seen unless one is devoting all one's energies to looking for a particular species. In other words the variable factor, *i. e.*, time in the field is to a large degree eliminated, and you do not count the same birds indefinitely.

Date	Days on which Sparrows seen	Total of individuals	Average per day
Nov. 20, 1914–Jan. 1, 1916	207	2705	13.7
1916	232	2488	10.7
1917	181	1478	8.2
1918	194	1311	6.8
1919	221	1343	6.2
1920	144	871	6.0
Jan. 1, 1921–June 28, 1922 ¹	101	570	5.6

From November, 1914 until July, 1918, most of my observations were confined to Weston, Mass., and in the summers to Brewster, Mass., with two or three intervals of a week or so outside the state, which have been discounted. From September, 1918 to June 1922, I lived in Cambridge with many trips in the vicinity of Boston and to Cape Cod. I have purposely excluded the summer records of 1921 for they covered portions of Rhode Island—although if included the general trend would only be accentuated.

Taking as an hypothesis that the English Sparrow has remained stationary in numbers one would expect to find that in the second period the number of times and the number of individuals seen per time would

¹Summer of 1921, July–Sept., spent in Rhode Island.