

So. Carolina (1)—April 17, 1884.

Georgia (1)—September 23, 1893.

Florida (1)—One record mentioned by Coues, no date—but obviously earlier than 1874.

An analysis of this list may reveal an interesting point or two.

The following table, for instance, discloses the chronological frequency: (The numerals represent the number of records within the indicated periods.)

13, 1851-1889
12, 1890-1899
0, 1900-1911
5, 1912-1917
0, 1918-1924
1, 1925

The absence of records between 1900-1911 and 1918-1924, and the fact that only six birds have been reported in the last quarter century, seem worthy of note.

Of the 32 records, 7 are of the spring, 2 of July, 20 of the fall, and 3 are unplaceable. The most arresting spring occurrence is that of Mr. H. S. Kirkpatrick of Meadville, Crawford Co., Pa., who writes in a letter, "I had the good fortune to get [query, collect?] a fine pair of Yellow-headed Blackbirds on March 25, 1890." Now Meadville is almost exactly in the same latitude as Chicago, which is near the normal eastern limit of the bird, where it is due about April 25.

The fact that only 7 of the 32 records occur south of Pennsylvania has probably little significance: northern ornithologists have been more numerous and better organized.—WARNER TAYLOR, 619 N. Frances St., Madison, Wisconsin.

Pine Siskin fifty miles out at sea.—On November 7, 1925, a Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) flew on board the Isthmian Line Steamship "Steel Seafarer" when about fifty miles east of Nantucket. It settled on the foremast and several times when I approached it, the bird flew off, circled around the ship and then came back. It did not seem at all tired. It stayed on board until within a few miles of Boston harbor when it flew off, headed for shore. There was only a light wind blowing that day, hardly enough to blow a bird 50 miles out to sea.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, 32 Garden Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Marriage Relations of A Red-eyed Towhee.—Since the opening of a bird banding station, Towhees have become almost as familiar about the house as Catbirds and Song Sparrows and have even given some opportunity to observe their family life.

On April 17, 1924 I found a pair of Towhees feeding at our banding station, Waynesville, N. C. and on April 19 banded the female, no. 239502. The male was very wary, but was captured on May 1 and numbered

239505. He was a very handsome bird with eyes unusually red. The pair continued to feed at the station and were left undisturbed, as I hoped they might bring their young to the station. No brood appeared, however, and after the nesting season the male never allowed the female to feed with him. On August 19 she was found dead in the orchard, probably from natural causes, as no injuries appeared. The male continued to feed at the station until after the moult, when he disappeared.

On April 26, 1925 the male was recaptured and subsequently came about the station with No. 238833, a female banded on April 23, which was readily distinguished by the fact that she wore her band on the left leg. She was allowed to feed undisturbed and soon formed the trap habit, but the male stayed at a safe distance.

Early in June the female began to carry crumbs away, but the male was still afraid of the trap. The young then followed the parents to the station, one male and three females still too young to feed themselves. To my surprise the female very soon lost interest in the brood and left the feeding to the male. Under these circumstances any man will understand why the male threw caution to the winds and led the whole brood into the trap, where they stood around him in a ring to be fed. For fear the young might hurt themselves by fluttering about the trap, they were not caught until they could be taken separately. The eyes at that age are singularly beautiful, of a soft brownish gray closely matching the first plumage. The iris changes with the first moult.

On June 22 the male abandoned them, but allowed them to feed at the station, which they continued to do until full grown when, as usually happens, they disappeared.

About August 1 the program was repeated. For some time the female had been carrying off crumbs, but she and the male seemed on such bad terms it was believed she had a new mate. They both came, however, with the new brood of two males and one female, but again the female deserted. She was seen to feed one young male only, while the male parent fed all three. To her he showed decided animosity, even driving her away when she fed the young male. She soon lost all interest in the young, while the male as before fed them for about two weeks after their appearance at the station. Whether or not he was governed by a Freudian complex, he certainly had a partiality for the little girl, feeding her two or three days longer than the others, and showing considerable weakness in weaning her. He would thrust a morsel into the ever gaping mouth, then turn away, but after him she hurried, unabashed. Sometimes he would just stand looking at her hopelessly or would even give her a feeble peck, then weaken at her entreaties and feed her again.

This second brood fed at the station until they had acquired adult plumage, which the female did much sooner than the males. She was taken in adult plumage on September 2, though her eyes at that time were still gray. One young male, No. 357106, had the iris red on September 5,

but still showed some juvenal plumage when captured on September 23. The adult female also molted much earlier than her mate.

Towhees are abundant here in winter, but so far no individuals taken in summer have been recaptured in winter.

This one pair raised seven young to full growth, a high record which may be due in part to the protection and the abundant food of the banding station.—MARION A. BOGGS, *R. F. D. Waynesville, N. C.*

A New Race of Rufous-crowned Sparrow, from North-central Lower California.—*Aimophila ruficeps lambi*, new subspecies. CAPE COLNETT RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW. *Type* and *type locality*: male adult; no. 46357, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Colnett, lat. 31°, Lower California, Mexico; October 28, 1925; collected by Chester C. Lamb; original no. 5146.

Diagnosis.—In general characters similar to *Aimophila ruficeps canescens* Todd (Condor, XXIV, July, 1922, p. 126) of the San Diegan subfauna, but decidedly darker—less ashy brown, more slaty—in general tone of coloration; light feather edgings on upper surface scantier and of darker tint; sides of head, neck and body, and dark band across chest, darker; concealed portions of webs of remiges and rectrices slaty brown rather than a lighter tone of brown; bill, feet and claws, in the dried specimens, decidedly darker, slaty rather than translucent flesh-color. These differences hold quite as well in comparison with *Aimophila ruficeps ruficeps* of central California, since the darkness of the latter in contrast with the pallor of *canescens* lies in the direction of warm browns and tans rather than slate. The darker webs of the wing and tail feathers in *lambi* and the slatier color of the "soft parts" set off the specimens of that race from nearly every specimen at hand of *ruficeps*, *canescens*, *obscura*, or *sororia*; the mass effect is striking. In general size and proportions, *lambi* is as in *ruficeps*. The bill is appreciably smaller than in *sororia* and *obscura*.

Range.—That portion of northwestern Lower California which lies west from the Sierra San Pedro Martir to the Pacific Coast. Life-zone chiefly Upper Sonoran, but also Lower Sonoran locally. Specimens examined, 6, from the following localities, all near latitude 31°; near Concepcion, 6000 feet; Valladares, 2700 feet; near San José, 2500 feet; San Telmo, 600 feet; Colnett, near sea-level.

Remarks.—Rufous-crowned Sparrows proved elusive in direct proportion to the eagerness with which they were sought. As usual they kept to a low, sparse, dry-hillside type of chaparral within which, when pursued, they would keep to the ground and give no audible clue to their individual whereabouts. I, personally, shot just one, near San José, although I heard their well-known voices in the distance there and at other collecting stations almost daily. The other five birds were taken by Mr. Chester C. Lamb; and I wish here to acknowledge, and to memorialize in the name chosen for the new race, Mr. Lamb's high qualities as a field collector. Although hours in the aggregate were put in after *Aimophila*, I do not believe the small number of examples taken to be an index to the real