

from a flock of Pectoral and other Sandpipers feeding in a shallow creek bottom, October 19, 1930.

Coturnicops noveboracensis. YELLOW RAIL.—While combing the shallow marsh-land at Waukegan, Ill., in company with Mr. J. S. White, an adult female Yellow Rail, which was reluctant in flushing, was collected among the short weeds on a sandy slope bordering the marsh. An examination of the stomach contents revealed that the bird had been feeding upon a variety of weed seed and various insects, including a large grasshopper which could, only partially, enter the stomach.—A. J. FRANZEN, *Field Museum Nat. Hist., Chicago, Ill.*

Notes from Central Illinois.—The captures of the following birds in central Illinois seem to be worthy of record. Mr. Leland A. Quindry of Chicago showed me skins of the last two species listed and has kindly allowed me to incorporate their data in this note.

Aquila chrysaetos canadensis. GOLDEN EAGLE.—A few years ago I saw in a Chicago taxidermist's shop a fine female which was shot near Lacon, Marshal County, Illinois, November 9, 1928, by a farm hand of a Mr. Hitchcock. It was said to have taken two of Mr. Hitchcock's chickens daily for six days previous to its capture.

Vireo bellii bellii.¹ BELL'S VIREO.—I secured the male of a pair in Champaign County, June 2, 1933. It is now in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

Passer montanus montanus. EUROPEAN TREE SPARROW.—A female with enlarged ovary was obtained by me in English Township, near Fieldon, Jersey County, on April 8, 1928. The specimen is now in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley. Although Gault² has listed this species from four Illinois counties, he does not say whether it was collected.

Ammodramus savannarum australis. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—Quindry took a male at Champaign on the remarkable date of January 9, 1932.

Aimophila aestivalis bachmanii.¹ BACHMAN'S SPARROW.—A male was secured by Quindry on April 2, 1932, near Champaign.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

Type Localities of Townsend's "Columbia River" Birds.—Although Audubon gave the type locality of the Black Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus bachmani*) as the "mouth of the Columbia river," and it so appears in the A. O. U. 'Check-List', Townsend distinctly stated in his 'Narrative' (p. 349) that his specimen was shot near Puget Sound by his friend Dr. William Fraser Tolmie of the Hudson Bay Company, and presented to him. He was anxious to give to it the name of its discoverer, but he was overruled by Audubon, who preferred to honor his own friend. In view of Townsend's disappointment, it is probable that he took a

¹ Double "i" used at author's request—Ed.

² Check List of Birds of Illinois, 1922, p. 63.

peculiar satisfaction in naming Tolmie's Warbler after Audubon had mistaken it for another species.

Townsend can scarcely be censured for failing to localize many of his types more definitely than "Columbia River," since the country was unsettled by the whites and few localities named; but now there can be little excuse for the stereotyped "Columbia river—Fort Vancouver," as the type locality for more than a dozen species described by him or by Audubon for him; especially when the forested area and definite dates or even approximate time of the year, are mentioned. It should be well known that during the most of the autumn of 1834 and the spring and summer of 1835, Townsend made the brig "May Dacre" his headquarters and that many of his types were undoubtedly taken in the immediate vicinity. This vessel was moored bow and stern to a natural wharf of basalt known as Warriors' Point, near the lower mouth of the Multnomah or Willamette river, Oregon, from which Wyeth transferred his stores to Fort William.—FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

Letters Concerning Wallace, Newton and Tristram.—It was my pleasure sometime since to pick up from a New York book-dealer two volumes bearing the book plate of Canon Tristram. They were presentation copies of Wallace's 'Geographical Distribution of Animals' given by the author to Tristram. They had not been cut completely, and in them were two letters to the noted former owner that may be of interest to ornithologists. The first was from Alfred Russell Wallace, the second from Alfred Newton. That from Wallace follows:

The Dells, Grays, Essex.
January 13th. 1874

My dear Tristram

If you should happen to be in Europe I hope you will be able to spare me half an hour to look over the enclosed rough list of genera of SYLVIIDAE and put it a little into shape.

I am trying at a book on Geog. Distributions of *Animals*. As it is a large subject, I treat mainly of *Families*,—& of course I want to know what are the limits of each *family*, & what genera most naturally go in it. Now taking the following families to be *Families*, and to be near each other: Turdidae, Sylviidae, Muscicapidae & keeping Motacillidae quite apart, the question arises what are the limits of *Sylviidae?*, & I believe you can answer this question as well as any man. I therefore turn beseechingly to you.

I have put down on the accompanying paper,—1st. all the genera of Sylviidae in Jerdon's '*Birds of India*' (omitting Motacillinae) 2nd. some additional European genera. 3rd. Additional African genera, from Sharpe's Catalogue, 4th. Australian genera said by Jerdon to be probably *Sylviidae*.

Now you would greatly oblige me by,—1st. crossing out all genera which are not *Sylviidae* & saying *what* they are: 2nd. bracketing together