

How the birds happened to be here is a mystery. This is far out of their range and a logical theory is that they were blown from their usual course by the dust storms of early spring, but to find a pair, evidently mated, seems to call for a better explanation. That they were still here on April 7, seems to point to the conclusion that they might have remained to nest.

Taverner in his 'Birds of Western Canada,' 1926, states that the Mountain Bluebird is extending its range and is found quite commonly as far east as central Manitoba.

The birds are on display in the museum of the State Teachers' College at St. Cloud, Minnesota.—NESTOR M. HIEMENZ, RICHARD D. VOTH, GEORGE W. FRIEDRICH, *State Teachers' College, St. Cloud, Minn.*

The Correct Name of the Spotted Flycatcher.—Since the rediscovery of the 'Adumbratiuncula' of Vroeg's Catalogue, 1764, Pallas's name *Motacilla striata*, proposed on page 3 of that work, has been in use for the Spotted Flycatcher. The combination *Muscicapa striata* (Pallas) Richmond, 1905,¹ however, is rendered invalid by the much earlier *Muscicapa striata* Forster, 1772,² which refers to the Black-poll Warbler. On this account the Spotted Flycatcher must again be known as *Muscicapa griseola* Linnaeus, 1766,³ which is the first available name. I am indebted to Mr. James L. Peters for advice on the nomenclatural point involved.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

The Occurrence of Sprague's Pipit in Michigan.—On June 21, 1935, while driving northeast from Lovells, Michigan, Louis W. Campbell, Bernard R. Campbell, and Milton B. Trautman noted a striking bird song which they could not recognize. In spite of a steady drizzle of rain they spent two hours trying to get a glimpse of the singing bird but were unsuccessful. On June 25 Trautman and Josselyn Van Tyne returned to the spot to continue the search.

On reaching the place we immediately heard the bird singing and, the weather being clear, we soon saw the bird singing high in the air. Two and a half hours of vain pursuit were ended by approaching darkness. Returning at five-thirty the next morning we continued our efforts to collect the bird and six hours later finally succeeded. It proved to be an adult male Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spraguei*) in breeding condition. It is now No. 84587 in the bird collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

On the three days it was observed the bird occupied a territory about a quarter of a mile square of barren "jack pine plain," sparsely covered with coarse grasses, sweet fern, and a few small pine and oak saplings. The territory adjoined the east side of the Lovells-Lewiston road, a mile and a half northeast of Lovells in Crawford County.

A remarkable characteristic of this bird was the persistence with which it sang. Some fifty song flights were noted during the three days it was observed. The shortest of these flights lasted about seven minutes and the longest was over thirty minutes in duration. The song was repeated at very regular intervals, averaging about six complete songs per minute. The greatest number of songs counted in one flight was one hundred fifty-eight. The best description we have seen of the flight song of Sprague's Pipit is that by W. J. Breckenridge in T. S. Roberts' 'Birds of Minnesota' (vol. 2, pp. 153, 1932). However, contrary to Dr. Roberts' opinion,

¹ Smiths. Misc. Coll., 47, pt. 3, p. 345.

² Philos. Trans., 62, art. 29, p. 406.

³ Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1, p. 328.

we feel very sure that the singing bird often rose to a height of at least 800 feet. We endeavored to check this as carefully as possible by measuring horizontal distances at which the bird was watched and comparing these with vertical distances.

At the end of a song period the bird would drop almost vertically to the ground, or, more often, it would swoop down only to pursue some passing Vesper Sparrow or Prairie Horned Lark. Frequently these pursuits were long and determined.

As Elliott Coues stated (*Birds of the Northwest*, 1874, pp. 43) the species is very difficult to locate or approach when it is on the ground. When approached it flushes at a considerable distance and darts off with a rapid, undulating flight.

It has been asserted several times that Sprague's Pipit sings only on the wing. For example, Aretas A. Saunders (Auk, 39, 1922, p. 175) says, "I have never known Sprague's Pipit to sing in any other manner than on the wing." On several occasions, however, we heard this Pipit sing from the ground and once we watched it sing from the top of a small telephone pole. These songs, while identical in pattern with the flight songs, were much less loud and clear.

Although this Pipit had clearly established a breeding territory and was vigorously defending it, we found no evidence of a mate. The occurrence of a stray male defending its territory does not necessarily constitute a breeding record, even though it would be easy and natural to assume so. We have noted a number of similar cases. For instance, on June 14, 1934, we observed a Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) established and singing at the Edwin S. George Reserve near Pinckney, Michigan, at least a hundred miles south of its nearest known breeding area. This Sparrow persisted in singing for about two weeks when it apparently became discouraged and left. In spite of much effort spent in searching, we could find neither female nor nest. Doubtless this bird too, was unable to find a mate.

This capture of Sprague's Pipit constitutes the first record of the occurrence of the species in Michigan.—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN AND JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoölogy, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

Philadelphia Vireo on Long Island, N. Y.—On May 25, 1935, I observed a Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) at Bayside, Long Island, N. Y., I realized the excessive rarity of the bird on Long Island and was particularly careful in my identification. The bird was working its way through the tops of a group of American chestnut saplings, much as does the Red-eyed Vireo.—HERMAN BOHN, 3329 171st St., Flushing, N. Y.

Swainson's Warbler in the North Carolina Mountains.—On May 8, 1934, while observing the spring migration of Warblers just outside Tryon, N. C., I was surprised to find a Swainson's Warbler in open woods on a ridge about 100 yards from the nearest water, a small spring. The next day I saw it again in the same woods, but, as I had been taught to believe that "water, tangled thickets, patches of cain and rank growth of semi-aquatic plants" were indispensable to its existence, I hesitated recording this sight record.

However, on my trip to Tryon this spring I found a pair of these birds in the same woods only a few hundred yards from where I had seen one last year. One bird was noticeably larger and attentive to the smaller, but I do not think they were nesting. One bird sang infrequently this year from the ground and in the bushes, and my notes show that these birds were seen by me every day for six days, May 9 to 14. I studied them for hours and was able to get within thirty feet and watch them through 8x glasses as they hunted among the leaves. Parts of the hill have thick growths of mountain laurel, but these warblers did not confine themselves to the thickets but were often in the open woods and were easily observed.