

United States,' I was able to identify the bird as a Northern Sage Sparrow, *Amphispiza n. nevadensis*. Park Naturalist Raymond Gregg drove up beside me a few minutes later, and said that he had also seen the bird, and that it was the first record of the species for the Park. By an odd chance, four days later this bird was accidentally caught in an ordinary mouse-trap at about the same spot, at an elevation of 8,000 feet above sea level.

There have been a very few sight records of the species on the eastern side of the continental divide in Colorado, at Longmont, Boulder, Denver, and Littleton; but the only recorded specimen taken there was a male collected March 18, 1904, by Mr. Dille on his farm in Boulder (Auk, 26: 87, 1909). Therefore, this constitutes the second definite record for eastern Colorado, and the first for Rocky Mountain National Park. The specimen, a female, is preserved at the Colorado Museum of Natural History.—FRED MALLERY PACKARD, *National Park Service, Estes Park, Colorado*.

Three records from Autauga County, Alabama.—These observations, although long delayed, seem worthy of record, since two species are additions to the Alabama list.

EUROPEAN WOODCOCK, *Scolopax rusticola rusticola*.—On March 2, 1889, in an old field adjoining North Bear Swamp, near Autaugaville, after I had been trying for more than a week to kill a woodcock that was 'belching' and 'scaiping' on the ground, then rising and spiralling to a great height, I concealed myself near where one of the birds had alighted at twilight on three successive evenings. This time the bird alit within ten steps of me and squatted, moving its head nervously. I shot it at once, and noted the large head and the barring on the breast, like that of a male Bob-white. I had a copy of Wood's 'Natural History,' which contained a picture of the European Woodcock, and my bird looked exactly like the picture. At the time, not knowing there was more than one kind of woodcock, I supposed I had killed the American bird (*Philohela minor*). Since then, however, I have killed a dozen or more of the latter, and the contrast with my 1889 specimen became very prominent in my mind. All these had reddish-colored breasts without bars, and were smaller than the first one taken.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, *Hedymeles melanocephalus*.—On May 4, 1928, near Booth, Alabama, a male of the species in full plumage was watched for some time at a distance of forty feet. It alighted singing, faced me squarely for a few seconds, then turned its side to me and flew diagonally away, giving me a full view in bright sunshine. Notes made at the time are as follows: a narrow black band extended around the chin, taking up possibly one-fourth of the throat; the under parts appeared reddish yellow, extending far up on the throat, the line of demarcation sharply defined. Turning its side to me, I noted that the bill was like that of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, but its color was a blackish gray. The wings were black, with a band of white and a spot or two of white, also. Turning its back to me, I noticed a little white about the base of the tail. As it flew away from me I noticed the reddish yellow bordering the black head.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE, *Elanoides forficatus*.—Though formerly common, the Swallow-tailed Kite has been rare in Alabama for many years. Howell (Birds of Alabama, p. 129) recorded several individuals seen in the southern part of the State—the last a specimen shot at Hartford, Geneva County, January 26, 1921. I have lived in Autauga County for 65 years and in that period I have seen this kite only once—in March, 1889. I now wish to record the occurrence of a pair of the birds,

apparently nesting, in a patch of swampy woods near the Alabama River, about five miles southwest of Prattville. One of the birds was killed on June 8, 1939, by a misguided farmer, who, seeing the bird flying high over his house and swooping toward the ground, thought his chickens were in danger of being caught.—LEWIS S. GOLSAN, *Prattville, Alabama*.

Notes from Wisconsin.—HOLBOELL'S GREBE, *Colymbus grisegena holboelli*.—On the morning of May 19, 1937, Mr. Harold Axtell and Mr. Albert Brand, of Cornell University, stopped at Hope Lake, Jefferson County, and discovered a Holboell's Grebe. Later in the day, Prof. Arthur A. Allen, Mr. Brand and I observed the bird. It was a male and appeared to be in nearly full breeding plumage. The call was heard several times.

PIPING PLOVER, *Charadrius melodus*.—This species is rare inland from the Great Lakes. I took a male April 30, 1938. The bird, associated with other shorebirds, was on a dry mud bank in a marsh near Lake Barney, Dane County.

RICHARDSON'S OWL, *Cryptoglaux f. richardsoni*.—A mounted specimen of this species was observed in a collection at the State Game Farm, Poynette. The bird was stated to have been taken in the immediate vicinity and mounted by Mr. Karl W. Kahmann of Hayward. A letter received from Mr. Kahmann states that the mount was sold to the State Game Farm. "The bird was killed on December 26, 1933, is a male probably in the first year's plumage. It was taken near Stone Lake, Washburn County, Wisconsin, within a stone's throw of the Sawyer County line." This specimen is mentioned by C. T. Black (*Auk*, 52: 451, 1935), but it seems advisable to record its present location in order to avoid future error.—A. W. SCHORGER, *168 North Prospect Ave., Madison, Wisconsin*.

Birds that feed on Russian olive.—The enormous number of plants of the introduced Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia* L.) being used by a number of federal and state agencies throughout the Great Plains and adjacent territory in shelterbelt plantings for erosion control, and directly in wildlife plantings, makes it seem worth while to take stock of the value of this species to wildlife.

There is one published observation on the use of the Russian olive by birds. This record is for the Bohemian Waxwing (Stephens, T. C., *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.*, 24: 245-248, 1917). For additional records I am indebted to Verne E. Davison, Adrian C. Fox, and Hal Miller of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Logan Bennett and Tom Murray of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, and Neil W. Hosley, formerly of Harvard Forest, Petersham, Massachusetts. These men have made the observations credited to them below over a period of a few years in the States indicated, and have either orally or by letter communicated them to the undersigned who has been collecting such records for several years. The Section of Food Habits of the Biological Survey has also supplied two of the records.

Some of the following records lack exact dates, but all are otherwise accurate observations:—

EASTERN ROBIN, Bennett, Ames, Iowa, 1937.

WESTERN ROBIN, Miller, Pullman, Washington, fall 1937.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT, Davison, 1937 (stomach analysis showing 6.2 per cent of February food of sixteen birds in Beadle Co., N. D., to be Russian olive fruits); Miller, Pullman, Washington, 1937; Biological Survey files.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE, Hosley, unpublished report, 1935; Biological Survey files.

CEDAR WAXWING, Fox, Park River, North Dakota, May 27, 1937.

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE, Murray, Boise, Idaho, 1937; Miller, Pullman, Washington, 1937.