

tained the following food material: 21 small seeds; the soft bodies of two small snails with pieces of shell still attached; and seven dipterous larvae approximately 15 mm. in length, one not too disintegrated to be recognizable as *Stratiomyia* sp. The Yellow Rail specimen is now preserved as a skin in the Carleton College collection.

In our many years of field experience, this is the first time either of us has seen a Yellow Rail in full flight. Sutton found it to be common locally in the Last Mountain Lake district of Saskatchewan in the summer of 1932, but saw it only twice in that region—once when a bird jumped from the grass but dropped back without fully spreading its wings; again when his companion, Albert C. Lloyd, fell on one and captured it alive. The Yellow Rail has been recorded several times in Minnesota but not heretofore in Rice County, and the migration date is thought to be of interest.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*, AND OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR., *Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota*.

A specimen of the Western Yellow-throat from Michigan.—On November 29, 1942, I collected an immature female Yellow-throat on North Cape, three miles southeast of Erie, Michigan. My friend, Louis W. Campbell, who found the bird, had seen it first in the same clump of brush near the shore of Lake Erie on November 14. It was snowing and there was already three inches of snow on the ground when I collected the warbler. The bird proved to be very fat and weighed 12.1 grams. I identified the specimen as *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. Ludlow Griscom and Alden H. Miller have kindly compared it with the series in their museums and independently reached the same conclusion. The date of this occurrence is a month later than any recorded for a Yellow-throat in Michigan. There is no previous authentic record for this subspecies in Michigan (see N. A. Wood, *Wilson Bulletin*, 46: 118, 1934).—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

Notes from South Carolina.—The period from October 5 to 15, 1943, was spent in observation of the extraordinarily rich bird life on Bull's Island in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. Certain species were noted which are very unusual, or previously unknown, in South Carolina.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Ajaia ajaja*).—One adult was found by Bull and Eisenmann on Summerhouse Pond (fresh water) on October 5, and was seen daily thereafter up to and including October 14, always in the company of the Wood Ibises. When the bird was called to the attention of Mr. W. L. Hills, the resident warden, he recollected having seen a pink bird flying over the same pond on September 29, which he had not definitely identified at the time because he did not then have his binoculars. To Mr. E. B. Chamberlain of the Charleston Museum, we are indebted for the following information as to the Spoonbill's status in South Carolina. Even in the early nineteenth century it was at most of casual occurrence in that state. Audubon quotes John Bachman as saying that he had observed only three individuals in the course of twenty years. During the latter part of the last century there were three or four birds noted, the last of which was a specimen taken in the autumn of 1885 near Yemassee (Wayne, 'Birds of South Carolina': 25, 1910). The only previous report for the twentieth century was a bird seen on September 12, 1935, in a marsh on Seewee Bay, on the mainland nearly opposite Bull's Island (*Auk*, 53: 75, 1936).

ARKANSAS KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*).—On October 13, Eisenmann and Ko-

morowski noted an individual of this species which flew in and perched on a small live oak on the check-bank of Summerhouse Pond. Until recently this species was totally unknown in South Carolina. Mr. Chamberlain states it was first recorded on December 16, 1913 (Auk, 31: 248, 1914), and not noted again until November 1, 1937, when a bird was seen on Bull's Island (Auk, 55: 536, 1938). Since then there have been reports in 1938, 1939, and 1941.

LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*).—On October 12, Eisenmann and Komorowski observed a bird preening on the same live oak where the Arkansas Kingbird was seen next day. The tree was about twelve feet high and adjacent to extensive growth of foxtail grass. Though the bird was in immature plumage, it was immediately recognized as a Lark Sparrow from its characteristic head pattern and from the tail, which was graduated and black except for the brown central feathers and which had the white tips extending up the sides of the outer feathers. A check of available literature that night indicated that the species was unrecorded in South Carolina. The next day, while we were watching the Arkansas Kingbird, the Lark Sparrow flew to the same tree and we were able to verify our observation. Again on October 14 and 15, the bird was seen in the same live oak, flying in for a few minutes of preening. We were able to point out the bird to Mr. Hills. Although the Lark Sparrow has not been previously noted in South Carolina (Chamberlain, Seasonal List of South Carolina Birds, 1936), its occurrence is not surprising since it is of casual occurrence in many parts of the Atlantic seaboard and has been taken in North Carolina and Florida (A. O. U. Check-List, fourth ed.: 341, 1931).—JOHN L. BULL, JR., *New Rochelle, N. Y.*; EUGENE EISENMANN, *New York, N. Y.*; AND GEORGE KOMOROWSKI, *New York, N. Y.*

Red-breasted Merganser devoured by angler fish.—Twenty-six hours after its capture, five miles east-southeast of Watch Hill, Rhode Island, on November 21, 1943, a 47-pound angler or goosefish (*Lophius piscatorius*) was dissected in the laboratory of the Bingham Oceanographic Foundation in the Peabody Museum of Natural History. Amongst a mass of fishes found in its stomach was an adult Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). The only evidence of digestive action was a slight disintegration of the eyelids. The feet were in perfect condition, and the bird was made up as an excellent skin.

One may assume that the fish was caught very soon after it swallowed the merganser. Nevertheless, even in a dead fish, digestion might have been expected to disintegrate the epidermis of legs and feet during the 26-hour period. Undoubtedly the copious mucus which matted the feathers together thereby provided additional protection to the general surface of the skin.

Unless entrapped during the descent or ascent of the net, the fish was caught while on the bottom in 19 meters of water, at which depth the 80-foot otter trawl was dragged for two hours. The fresh condition of the bird suggests that the angler was captured toward the end of the period. Still it is possible that the fish, known to swim at times close to the surface, may have taken the bird there and immediately sounded, to be itself entrapped. Another possibility is conceivable—namely, that the fish had been caught at the bottom, but snapped up the merganser when the trawl engulfed the latter nearer the surface at the end of the haul.

Bigelow and Welsh (Bull., U. S. Bu. Fish., 40, Pt. 1: 527, 1925) record from the stomachs of these anglers the following birds: loons, grebes, cormorants, widgeons, scaups, scoters, mergansers, Herring Gulls, Razor-billed Auks, and guillemots. A