

Sage Thrasher in southeastern Texas.—On October 17, 1945, while I was driving a car at Cove, Chambers County, Texas, I saw a dark bird with a white tail-band fly from one bush to another beside the road. I stopped the car and got out, and saw, about fifteen feet from me, a very small and light-backed thrasher with a shorter tail than a Brown Thrasher's. Presently the bird flew past me and alighted on a fence about fifty feet away. The white on its tail showed plainly. I walked up to within fifteen feet of it once more, whereupon it flew away to a distance of about fifty feet, where I again observed it carefully. Its back was lighter and duller than a Brown Thrasher's, and its wing bars less distinct. There could be no doubt that it was a Sage Thrasher. Dr. Harry C. Oberholser states that, except for five individuals seen in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, on January 2, 1926, the bird I saw supplies the easternmost record of the species.—A. K. MCKAY, *Cove, Texas.*

Jaçana taken at sea.—I received from my son William, who is in the Merchant Marine, a nice skin of a Jaçana (*Jacana spinosa*). The exhausted bird landed on his ship on August 11, 1945, off the coast of Dutch Guiana, latitude 6° 40' N. and longitude 55° 46' W., 42 miles from the nearest land. The weather was not abnormal at the time. Since this species is not known to migrate, its occurrence at sea must be considered accidental.—A. W. SCHORGER, *168 N. Prospect Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.*

The Florida Blue Jay at Sarasota, Florida.—This subspecies (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*) was common at Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida, during the late winter seasons of 1943 and 1944. Two were closely observed on our bedroom window feeding shelf February 9, 1943, and two to four came there regularly until mid-April; then one appeared on February 1 and two were recorded March 22, 1944. My later notes read: "Daily now." None came to feed in 1945. This bird was seen regularly at three to six feet. It appeared larger, brighter blue, and lighter colored below than Semple's Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata semplei*), the supposed resident subspecies in this locality. In life the latter is darker grayish blue above and the sides of breast a trifle deeper smoky shade. This does not agree exactly with the book description which perhaps was made from dead birds or dried skins.

The above records seem to extend the known range of *C. cristata* (= "*florincola*") southward, and indicate that the two subspecies spend some of the winter and spring months, at least, in the same habitat. Sarasota is about eighty miles south of Tarpon Springs in a direct line, and Hillsborough and Sarasota counties are separated by Manatee County. The 1931 A. O. U. Check-List gives the range of the Florida Blue Jay as northern Florida and that of *semplei* as the central and southern parts of the state. Mr. Arthur H. Howell, in his work on Florida birds, indicates the separating line of the two subspecies as Hillsborough County west and Osceola County east, or about south of the towns of Tarpon Springs on the Gulf Coast and Melbourne on the Atlantic side, and thence southward to Key West. I notice that he examined specimens of *semplei* from Tarpon Springs.

Perhaps the more northern form observed here was making a migratory movement southward but lingered into the spring on account of finding a bountiful supply of good food. The jays seem to be especially fond of raw cut peanuts. I think it would be difficult to distinguish *cristata* from *semplei* in trees or bushes at an ordinary distance unless the two kinds happened to be near together and in good light. The latter is common here and both forms seem to remain paired during the winter season. At present—December, 1945—two Semple's Blue Jays, presumably a pair, come regularly to feed together. They arrive at the shelf about one hour after daylight,

having no competition at this time. Later, when the grackles, woodpeckers, and other birds commence to feed, the jays come at the break of dawn. We often have as many as eight of the last at one time. The larger jays seem to realize their physical superiority, frequently driving the smaller form away from the food.

My wife was able to separate the two subspecies, as she would often tell me which and how many of each were on the shelf eating when I was unable to watch them. I have studied the skins of both varieties.

We went north May 7, 1943 and May 12, 1944. After these dates, three jay's nests were built in our small back yard citrus grove. I assume these nests were constructed by *semplei* but it would be interesting to have the proof.—CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, 236 Oak St., Sarasota, Florida.

A spring record for the Arkansas Kingbird in southern Mississippi.—On May 6, 1945, while I was passing a partially overgrown field three miles north of Gulfport, an Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) was observed in the top of a large bush a short distance from the road. After verifying its identity with my binoculars I left the car with my gun, anticipating no difficulty in collecting it, but the bird immediately flew, circled overhead, and then was almost at once out of sight, flying slightly south by west. During eight years of intensive field work on the Mississippi Gulf Coast I found the Arkansas Kingbird of casual occurrence as a fall transient (Occas. Papers Mus. Zool., La. State Univ., 20: 399, 1944), but this is the first instance in which I have noted this species in the spring. This is apparently also the first spring record for the state.—THOS. D. BURLING, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia.*

Lark Bunting records for Ohio.—On August 6, 1945, Clyde Wheeler and the writer were inspecting legume seedings in Henry County, Ohio. About five miles northwest of Deshler, we got a momentary glimpse of two Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). Returning the next day with collecting equipment, we could find no trace of them. After searching nine hours, we finally located the birds in a small aspen thicket on an adjoining farm. The bird collected, a second-year male, is now in the Ohio State Museum collection. It was in worn plumage with molting of some of the head feathers in progress. The testes were so small the bird could hardly have bred in 1945. The secondaries and all but the four outer (black) primaries and their coverts, as well as the central pair of tail feathers, were brown.

The taking of this specimen was preceded by several sight records in the same general area. Robert H. McCormick and the writer spent the night of July 27, 1930, at Napoleon, in Henry County, while making Ohio wild life surveys. The next morning, while on an early bird trip along the Maumee River just east of town, we saw a flock of seven dark birds with white wings. Notes taken at the time well describe the Lark Bunting.

During August, 1934, following one of the dust storms which swept through the East as an effect of the drouth cycle, a farmer living in Plain Church Township, Wood County, reported "bobolinks with white in the wrong place" which behaved strangely. These birds remained several days but were gone before I could locate them for positive identification.

In early August, 1937, a farm boy living in eastern Henry County, who had observed flocks of Snow Buntings at a distance the previous winter while assisting the writer in game-bird censuses, wrote of seeing "some more of those white-winged birds." On August 9, 1937, when I was able to visit his home in northern Jerusalem Township, three Lark Buntings were found. "Several times as many" were reported