

ash-throated group was watched for some time by a group of observers comprising the third Audubon Wildlife Tour currently proceeding.

The writer, with seven other observers, was 'squeaking' up some small birds on the dyke bordering Jack's Creek Basin, when a medium-sized grayish flycatcher appeared suddenly and alighted on a small cassina (*Ilex vomitoria*) bush about 30 feet distant. Glasses were turned on it at once, and that it was something new was evident by the surprised exclamations which were uttered on all sides! It remained there in bright sunlight for several minutes, affording a perfect opportunity for detailed study. The writer's glasses are 9 X and the bird might almost as well have been in the hand as far as details were concerned.

It appeared somewhat larger than a Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) and more slender; the head and back were distinctly olive brownish; two whitish wing-bars were present; the belly was yellowish and the wing edgings were rusty; the throat was decidedly gray. While, of course, unequivocal identification cannot be claimed for members of this group in the field, every indication pointed to the conclusion that the bird was an Olivaceous Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer olivascens*, and it is this writer's belief that such is correct. Since Bull's Island is part of the Cape Romain Federal Bird Refuge, collection of the specimen was out of the question. The record is the first for the state.

While some may question the advisability of putting such a sight record as this in scientific print, it is done herewith because of the somewhat parallel case of a bird of this group being actually secured a year ago in the Pensacola, Florida, region, when Mr. F. M. Weston observed and recorded the Ash-throated Flycatcher (*M. cinerascens cinerascens*) on the Christmas Census in that area. Charleston is considerably to the eastward of Pensacola, but since the range of *cinerascens* is more western than that of *olivascens*, the difference is reduced to a parallel! Here are two far-western flycatchers observed in the east a year apart and there is a possibility that others are yet to be made known.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Southern Representative National Audubon Society, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Gyr Falcon in South Dakota.—Due to the fact that this bird is rare in South Dakota as a winter resident it may be of interest to note the following records.

A female was taken by Mr. Walter C. Thietje, October 22, 1945, near Red Lake, Brule County. At the time there was a concentration of ducks on the lake, mostly Gadwalls and Pintails, but the contents of the stomach of the Gyr Falcon showed the remains of pheasants. This was during the period of open hunting season and wounded pheasants would be easy food for hawks. On November 2, 1945, another female Gyr Falcon while flying over the same lake was taken by Mr. Thietje. The stomach of this bird was empty. These Gyr Falcons were collected by Mr. Thietje for the University of Iowa Museum and are now mounted for their Natural History Museum at Iowa City, Iowa.

A pair was taken in Sanborn County in 1905 and mounted by the late F. A. Patton. These birds are now in the Museum of the University of South Dakota, Vermillion.

Another single specimen, now mounted, was taken in the state and is now in a private collection.—W. H. OVER, *Director, University Museum, Vermillion, South Dakota.*

Notes on summer resident Wilson's Snipes in Columbiana County, Ohio.—Although I had found the Wilson's Snipe (*Capella gallinago delicata*) in Columbiana County, Ohio, in several summer seasons, I was long reluctant to consider it a nesting species because of its known propensity to linger south of its breeding

range. The discovery of a nest within the city limits of Salem on April 27, 1938, however, warrants the publication of notes on its summer occurrence. Prior to the discovery of its nesting, the species had been found eight times in five seasons at four localities on dates subsequent to the last regular migratory occurrences of the bird. Those regular final dates for seventeen migration seasons in Columbiana County have varied from April 24, 1937, to May 20, 1933, with a median of May 7, 1938 and 1944 (Paul A. Stewart). Apparently there has been but one previously published record of the nesting of Wilson's Snipe in Ohio (Hicks, *Wilson Bulletin*, 45: 181-182, 1933), although the presence of the species in summer had been matters of record for all the eastern tier of Ohio counties save Columbiana, in Portage County (Hicks, *Ohio State University Studies*, 40: 152, 1935), and at Fremont, Sandusky County (Bent, *Life Histories of North American Shore Birds*, 1: 94, 1927). Kirtland (2nd Annual Report on the Geological Survey of Ohio, 157-200, 1838) makes no mention of Wilson's Snipe as an Ohio breeding bird, and Wheaton (Report of the Geological Survey of Ohio, 4: 469, 1882) says that it is an "occasional summer resident in Northern Ohio, though no authentic instances of its breeding have been recorded." My records of summer occurrences of snipe in Columbiana County are as follows: July 20, 1931, one bird flushed from the extensive bur-reed marsh at Guilford Lake, Hanover and Center townships; June 20, 1932, one bird seen at almost the same spot; June 29, 1933, four full-grown birds walking together along the sedgy edge of Beaver Lake, Unity township, suggesting a group still held together by family ties; July 13, 1933, one bird seen again in the marsh at Guilford Lake; May 24, 1936, one bird in the air, "winnowing," at a marsh near New Chambersburg, West township; June 19, 1936, a single bird flushed from the edge of the pond at Watercress Marsh, Butler township, the last remnant of the once numerous glacial lakes of the area; July 6, 1937, another bird seen at the Guilford Lake situation. In addition to my records, Stewart saw one bird on May 28, 1933, at Guilford Lake, 300 yards from the point where four of my observations have been made. All of these areas had been combed numerous times in search of nests of the snipe, but without success.

Despite the fact that the marsh in Salem lies only a quarter of a mile from my former home, and despite its being the place where Wilson's Snipe has within my experience always been most numerous during the spring migration season, I had never searched there for a nest, nor, for many years, had I even visited the area following the close of the migration season, simply because it apparently was not an interesting ecological unit. Before drainage operations were begun early in 1938, the place was largely wet, unpastured meadow, with occasional clumps of cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and scattered willow bushes (*Salix* sp.). My field notes, however, should have suggested intensive search for the nest of Wilson's Snipe. On May 1, 1930, for instance, my notes reveal the observation of a snipe "sitting on a fence post, appearing to imitate the song of the flicker." This is the only occasion on which I have witnessed the perching of the species, a performance which doubtless is an adventitious act of tumescence. The only mention of similar action which I have seen recorded is by Wheaton (*op. cit.*: 470), who says, "Occasionally they alight on trees or fences." Also, for April 18, 1933, I find, "When the birds come to earth, they dive from a considerable height on set pinions to within a few feet of the ground. Again, when they flush from the ground, they make a continuous vocal sound which is not unmusical." Sutton (*Wilson Bulletin*, 35: 197, 1923) has described flight similar to this observed when he was within a few feet of the nest.

For a number of years I had been accustomed to take groups of my pupils to the marsh late in April to witness the winnowing of the snipe, and the finding of the nest

in 1938 occurred on such a trip. No snipe was to be heard on this morning, and only one bird was to be seen. But as one of the boys stepped across a small drainage ditch, a few moments after the lone bird had flushed from the ground, he planted his foot beside a nest containing four eggs which I immediately recognized as belonging to none of the four species of shore birds commonly nesting in the region. My field notes read: "The ground color of the eggs is olive, with most of the chocolate markings centered about the large end. They are sharply pyriform, a bit more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in length. The nest is built of grasses, on the ground, on earth thrown up from the ditch." It was no more than five feet from a clump of willow bushes. The eggs apparently were quite fresh, with no nest-soil on them. On May 5, however, when I returned to photograph the eggs, no trace of eggs, nest, or snipe was to be found. On the evening of May 3, in a portion of the same marsh three-fourths of a mile distant but which is now separated from the nest site by a built-up portion of the city, I had heard one bird winnowing. The last Wilson's Snipe which I saw in the spring of 1938 was observed on May 7 at Guilford Lake. A mental comparison, a short time later, of a series of Wilson's Snipe and other shore-bird eggs in the collection of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, confirmed my identification of the eggs. In the seven seasons since 1938, I have been in Salem only two, in 1940 and 1942. The character of the marsh had been altered by drainage operations so that there appeared little possibility in those years of the nesting of Wilson's Snipe on the site of the 1938 nest. Drainage has now been abandoned, and a skating pond which had been dug in 1939 has already become a cattail marsh, and the site may once again be favorable for the nesting of snipe. It is altogether probable that the species has nested in the other localities in which I have found it in summer. The nest-site and all other areas in which the species has been noted in summer are the remains of glacial lakes. The marshes at Guilford Lake and New Chambersburg are each within five miles of the boundary of the Wisconsin glaciers, south of which, in Columbiana County, there is little likelihood of the nesting of Wilson's Snipe, for the steep gradient of the streams flowing into the Ohio river prevented the formation of outwash lakes and their residual marshes such as occur in the unglaciated areas southwest of Columbiana County in Carroll County, where nests of Wilson's Snipe should also be searched for.—WILLIAM C. BAKER, *Department of English, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.*

First record of Harris's Sparrow in Connecticut.—On December 11, 1945, Mrs. Samuel D. Bogan first noticed a strange bird at her feeding tray in Spring Glen, Hamden, Connecticut. Peterson's 'Field Guide' helped her to identify it as a Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*. Through her kindness I was privileged to study it at a distance of three feet on several occasions during the week, and to compare it as readily with skins as though it were actually in hand. Several competent observers, including Mr. Robert S. Judd, who years ago collected in North Dakota an adult now in the Peabody Museum of Natural History collection, confirmed our determination.

This sparrow was in typical first winter plumage and apparently in excellent condition. Mixed bird seed proved so attractive that the bird frequently drove English Sparrows from the tray attached to the window ledge, to sit alone at leisure feeding for several minutes. Its fearless attitude suggested previous association with humanity, but no leg band confirmed this conception.

The bird frequented the shrubs and trees of the dooryard, feeding at the Bogan tray several times each day. On the afternoon of December 17, I had been taking motion pictures of it between 3:00 and 4:10 P. M. After its final extended feeding