

One of them, a male, proved to be the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta subvirgata*) which had not formerly been reported from Virginia, although it probably is a regular transient. The other bird, also a male, was identified as the recently-described James Bay Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta altera*). This is the second record of its appearance in Virginia; Wetmore lists a specimen in the U. S. National Museum taken September 18, 1893, at Four Mile Run, near Alexandria (Auk 61: 132, 1944).

Wetmore comments that the late date for these migrants is interesting, but not unusual, as their breeding grounds in the north were hardly yet open to them.—JOHN H. GREY, JR., 422 Second St., Charlottesville, Virginia.

A note on the Western Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana ericrypta* Oberholser).—Peters and Burleigh (Auk, 62: 567, 1945) claimed that a series of 12 specimens collected by them showed that Newfoundland Swamp Sparrows were *ericrypta*, rather than intermediate between this subspecies and *georgiana*, as believed by Aldrich and Nutt. The C. F. Batchelder Collection in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy possesses a series of 16 adults and eight juvenals from various localities in western and central Newfoundland. Of the adults, three birds could be lost in a series of typical "western" *ericrypta*, five resemble the lightest extreme of typical *georgiana*, and the balance are at least two-thirds *ericrypta*. While I do not recall any discussion of the juvenal plumage, and this museum possesses no topotypical juvenal *ericrypta*, the eight juvenals from Newfoundland are as distinct from *georgiana* in the same plumage as are the three extreme adults. There is, then, no question but what the Newfoundland population must be referred to *ericrypta*. I agree with Wetmore (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 88: 573, 1940) that *ericrypta* is a subspecies with well-marked characters; it is indeed surprising that it escaped detection so long.

The nineteenth supplement to the A. O. U. Check-List (Auk, 61: 464, 1944) reports *ericrypta* from Florida, apparently the only Atlantic Coast state of record as yet, but common sense suggests that it will prove to occur in every single one, when collections are examined. In the exceedingly mild and open winter of 1946-1947, Mr. Alan Morgan found two Swamp Sparrows wintering in a little ravine at Wayland, Massachusetts, where a brook, open for a few yards, produced a few square yards of sedgy spring-hole. Aware that Swamp Sparrows did not breed here, and occurred only on migration, I visited this spot on February 3, 1947, and found a Swamp Sparrow which could be approached to eight feet. Struck by its paler coloration and conspicuous white striping above, I had to retire a bit before collecting it with No. 44 dust shot. It proved to resemble those Newfoundland birds which are about two-thirds *ericrypta*. In the M. C. Z. collections I find two similar specimens, collected in Cambridge, April 26, 1889, and Concord, Massachusetts, May 10, 1886. A fourth specimen collected in Cambridge, April 18, 1888, is unequivocal *ericrypta*. All presumably represent the Newfoundland breeding population.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Smooth-billed Ani in Florida.—Early in 1943, I left Clewiston, Florida to enter military service. At that time, I had neither seen nor heard of the ani as a resident of this area. Upon my return in June, 1946, it was one of the first birds to attract my attention. I have taken no specimens but on several occasions have carefully observed the birds at short range with 7× binoculars and a 20× telescope. The ani's habit of turning its head at various angles while perched affords an excellent opportunity to study the bill in detail. No grooves could be seen and I assume it was the Smooth-billed species, *Crotophaga ani*.