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*.

Several references to the ani's presence in Florida are contained in The Auk. John B. Semple noted it at Miami Beach, February 24, 1937. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., (Auk, 56: 335, 1939) reports its nesting in Miami during July, 1938.

Inquiries indicate that the ani has been present in the Clewiston area since the spring of 1944. Nests have been reported and on November 18, 1946, in Clewiston, I saw young being fed by adults. On June 29, 1947, I observed a nest and four well-fledged young at Moore Haven, a point eleven miles northwest of Clewiston. This nest was bulky and placed approximately twenty-five feet up in an avocado tree. During my stay, both parents made a number of trips carrying grasshoppers to the young. The young showed considerable attachment to the nest and repeatedly returned to it after being fed.

The anis, since coming to this area, have several times survived sub-freezing weather. The United States Sugar Corporation's records contain the following entries: December 14, 1944—28° F.; February 5, 1947—26° F.

It will be interesting in future years to note the progress this tropical bird can make in extending its range northward into colder areas.—WILLARD E. DILLEY, *Clewiston, Florida.*

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Hampshire County, Massachusetts.—If there be anything in the hypothesis which was published nearly ten years ago in 'Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts,' by A. C. Bagg and me, that the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) migrates regularly across southern New England to and from Nova Scotia, I have as yet had no confirmation whatever from that province. Fall migrants have continued to strike the coast of Massachusetts, especially Cape Cod and the tip of Cape Ann, in some numbers, and at Manomet, southeast of Plymouth, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Ernst have for nine years regularly seen them —sometimes three or four together—in late August or September. Spring records in the Boston region and Essex County have also been made in almost every recent year. But Hampshire County in the Connecticut Valley is well north of the hypothetical line of flight from New York City to Boston, and was totally without spring records until May 8, 1939, when a female in Northampton was pointed out to me by Mrs. Seth Wakeman. On April 12, 1941, a male at Arcadia Sanctuary (on the Northampton-Easthampton town-line) was closely studied by Mr. J. Elliott Bliss of Springfield; and on May 13, 1945, another one was seen there by Edwin A. Mason, Superintendent of the sanctuary, and C. Russell Mason, Secretary of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. In autumn, the Gnatcatcher flight seems to be much more scattered in both time and space, and this county has such sight-records as Oct. 16–17, 1930, and Oct. 21, 1934 (*vide* Bagg & Eliot, *op. cit.*: 458); Oct. 22–23, 1944, at Amherst (Mrs. F. C. Pray), and Oct. 14, 1946—a bird caught by Professor Seth Wakeman inside his office.

Then, on the chill, gray morning of April 9, 1947, while I happened to have my binoculars pointed skywards, across their field flew a tiny but long-tailed bird that fortunately alighted in the top of a tall elm. For a few minutes it restlessly fed there, calling four or five times, so that I could positively identify it, though not determine its sex. Then it flew out of sight eastward. The earliness of the date so astonished me, I looked up all the very early records in the Northeast that I could find. In 1929, I discovered, a Gnatcatcher was at Cruger's Island, Dutchess County, N. Y., on March 13 [? Not a misreading of May 13], and another was at Dyker Heights, Brooklyn, N. Y., on April 3. Older records were April 6, 1892, at Stratford, Connecticut, and April 7, 1910, in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, N. Y. Almost matching mine was April 10, 1945, at Leicester, Massachusetts—a bird thoroughly studied by