

capture this morning we found the patient entirely cured and no further pressure was noted. For the next nine days this bird alone remained, feeding in the traps nearly all the time. On March 13 after five visits to the traps, our bird departed; it had been taken 175 times in 52 days.—RAYMOND J. MIDDLETON, *Norristown, Pa.*

Apparent Song Imitation by Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*.—According to Saunders, "in late summer" the Field Sparrow often varies the normal pattern of its song by repeating the usual phrase several times without pause, and by beginning and ending with a trill ('A Guide to Bird Songs,' 1935: 266). Sixty or 70 years ago, however, a Field Sparrow song in reverse sounded so unfamiliar to Bradford Torrey that he was unable to identify the singer until he had seen it ('Birds in the Bush,' 1891: 40).

On June 22, 1949, two of the most experienced bird observers in the Washington, D. C., area were similarly perplexed by a Field Sparrow which they came to hear at my invitation, in a suburban park near my home in Silver Spring, Maryland. This bird had first attracted my attention in mid-May by its remarkable singing which frequently featured the usual Field Sparrow song in reverse, together with the longer variations noted by Saunders. My friends, like Torrey, were so puzzled by the strange vocal performance that they were unwilling to identify the bird by its song alone.

During my early observations two or three other Field Sparrows in the same vicinity continued to sing the usual Field Sparrow songs, beginning with a series of long notes and ending with a trill. Several times toward the end of June, however, the song in reverse seemed to me to be coming from two birds. This was confirmed on June 29. These birds were not late summer singers. Saunders' statement does not contradict that such singing is unusual for May and June, and the inability of my friends to recognize the song corroborates its rarity in the Washington area. It seems to me that the circumstances justify considering the phenomenon an example of unusual song imitation. Saunders has reported that he has frequently found two Field Sparrows in the same area singing exactly or approximately the same song within the normal song pattern (Auk, 39: 398-99, 1922).—FRANK C. CROSS, 9413 Second Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Western Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza g. ericrypta*, in New Mexico.—On December 9, 1948, the writer collected a Western Swamp Sparrow from a flock of six individuals which were feeding in a flooded weed patch on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, approximately five miles south of San Antonio, New Mexico. The specimen proved to be a female and the skin has been deposited, with accession number 396220, in the Fish and Wildlife Service Unit in the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. The writer wishes to thank Dr. Allan J. Duvall who kindly identified the specimen and checked the files for records of this species in the southwestern States.

The first record for the species was obtained on the Refuge December 3, followed by observations on December 8, 9, 24, 1948, January 1, 7, 12, 28, and February 4 and 18, 1949. The January 1 record was made at McAlister Lake approximately six miles northeast of Socorro, and the January 12 record was obtained from the cat-tail marshes on the north side of San Marcial Lake approximately 20 miles south of San Antonio.

So far as known to the writer, there is no previous published record of this species in New Mexico, although considerable winter field work has been done in the state, especially along the Rio Grande. There is a possibility of the species having been

overlooked on account of its secretive habits and association with other sparrows, or the species may have invaded this area in recent years and now occurs regularly in small numbers wherever suitable winter habitat is found. That the species is a regular winter resident along the middle Rio Grande is confirmed by observations on December 6 and 9, 1949, on the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge. These records suggest that the Western Swamp Sparrow is a regular winter visitor in small numbers along the 35-mile course of the Rio Grande between Lemitar and San Marcial.

With this discovery, New Mexico becomes the last one of the southwestern States to report the occurrence of the Western Swamp Sparrow within its borders.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Antonio, New Mexico.*

An Early Reference to "Territory."—As a footnote to Mrs. Nice's "The Theory of Territorialism and Its Development" (Fifty Years' Progress of American Ornithology 1883-1933, 1933: 89-100), it might be suggested that Frederic H. Kennard deserves mention in the historical background of territorialism by virtue of his paper, "The Habits and Individualities of the Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) in the Vicinity of Brookline, Mass.," (*Auk*, 11: 197-210, 1894). While he did not anticipate modern concepts of the theory, Kennard did use the word *territory* several times to indicate that particular, limited area in which a pair of hawks confines itself for hunting and breeding. Kennard remarked: "Thus it is that each pair of these birds seems to hunt over its own area exclusively, and by a tacit understanding, never seems to trespass upon that of its neighbor." Again, he says: "Once laying claim to any territory they are exclusive to a degree. This exclusiveness, however, seems to apply to their own species merely, for other Hawks are allowed to hunt in their territory at will." Kennard's use of the word *territory* may be coincidental; it is, nevertheless, suggestive.—AARON M. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.*

Autumnal Trans-Gulf Migrants and a New Record for the Yucatan Peninsula.—In connection with the recent discussions of migrations across the Gulf of Mexico, the following autumnal records should prove of interest.

An American friend has kindly sent me specimens of a young male *Parula americana pusilla* and a female *Wilsonia canadensis* which he collected on August 30, 1949, while on a fishing boat about 30 kilometers off the village of Santa Clara, on the northern coast of Yucatan.

Both birds were exhausted and landed on the boat. The Parula Warbler was caught by hand and the Canada Warbler in a net.

In addition to the birds collected, he reported that there was at least one group of three warblers and another group of eight or nine which passed over about 100 feet above the water. As closely as he could ascertain without a compass, the birds were coming from due north while a brisk northeasterly breeze somewhat aided their flight.

The Parula Warbler is a common winter visitor on the Peninsula, but the Canada Warbler has never been reported from there. While Canada Warblers are not unexpected, they must be rather uncommon. Perhaps they are only transients on the Peninsula in the fall since, during extensive field work from October, 1948, to August, 1949, I failed to observe this bird in either the state of Yucatan or in the territory of Quintana Roo. During the spring migration I took particular care to collect northern migrants.

At noon on September 3, 1949, the observer was again out in a boat and saw a flock of about 50 Caprimulgidae, presumably nighthawks, flying towards Santa Clara.