

Breeding of the Purple Gallinule in Illinois.—On 20 July 1963 we saw an adult Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*) accompanied by two small downy young on Lake Mermet at the Mermet Conservation Area about 12 miles northwest of Metropolis in Massac County, extreme southern Illinois. We observed the birds under exceptionally favorable conditions for over 20 minutes through 8× binoculars at ranges of 25 to 40 yards.

Lake Mermet is large, shallow, and artificially impounded. Almost its entire surface is covered by a dense growth of floating and emergent vegetation. *Nelumbo lutea* (American lotus) is by far the most dominant plant, but *Salix* sp. (willow) and *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (buttonbush) are also abundant. The birds were walking about on the large floating leaves of *N. lutea* at the edge of the dense growth of vegetation. The adult was almost constantly in the open just at the edge of the open water. The black downy young were sometimes a little farther back from the edge beneath the shelter of the aerial leaves of *N. lutea*, but were often in the open and never more than three or four feet from the adult. All three birds appeared to be feeding.

To our knowledge this observation constitutes the first record of the Purple Gallinule breeding in Illinois. Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee is the northernmost point of the regular breeding range as indicated in the A.O.U. Check-list (fifth edit., 1957). The Mermet Conservation Area is approximately 60 miles north of Reelfoot Lake. H. R. Smith and P. W. Parmalee, in *A distributional check list of the birds of Illinois* (Illinois State Mus. Pop. Sci. Ser., IV, 62 pp., 1955), list the Purple Gallinule as an accidental visitor to Illinois and cite only five records of its occurrence since 1900. This research was supported by Grant No. CC 00037-01 from the Communicable Disease Center, U. S. Public Health Service, Atlanta, Georgia, to the Center for Zoonoses Research.—G. P. WALDBAUER, *Department of Entomology and Center for Zoonoses Research, University of Illinois, Urbana*, and J. HAYES, *Southeastern Illinois College, Harrisburg*, and *Center for Zoonoses Research, University of Illinois*.

First United States record for the Slate-throated Redstart, and first specimens of various species for New Mexico.—The specimens recorded below were all taken in southeastern New Mexico between December, 1961, and December, 1962. For the eight species involved, these apparently represent the first records for New Mexico based on specimens. To the best of my knowledge, some of these species were not formerly represented even by sight records in the state. Unless otherwise noted, identification has been confirmed by Dr. Dale A. Zimmerman, Western New Mexico University, Silver City, where most of the specimens have been deposited.

Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*).—R. C. Brummett and I took an adult female on 25 August 1962, at Lake McMillan, 25 miles north of Carlsbad, Eddy County, New Mexico. It was feeding with a group of Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) on a mud flat of the lake, which was being drained at the time. There are at least six earlier sight records for the Louisiana Heron in New Mexico.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).—A female was taken at Lake McMillan on 7 May 1962. The bird was first discovered by Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Letson, who told R. C. Brummett. The latter notified the writer and assisted in securing the bird. This is evidently the first record for the species in New Mexico.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*).—I observed five Knots at Lake McMillan on 2 September 1962, and three of these were collected. Two of the birds were forwarded to Dr. James Findley at Albuquerque. The third specimen was deposited in the collection

at Western New Mexico University, Silver City. The Knot has been recorded only once before in New Mexico, according to J. S. Ligon (*New Mexico birds and where to find them*. Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1961; see p. 307.).

Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*).—One bird was taken at Avalon Reservoir, Carlsbad, on 22 September 1962. I have five sight records for this species in southeastern New Mexico, dating back to May 1958. My New Mexico observations are evenly divided between May, August, and September. Ligon (*op. cit.*: 121) gives only one sight record for the state.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*).—Mr. R. C. Brummett of Carlsbad discovered a single bird of this species at Lake McMillan on 9 September 1962. He notified me and on the following day assisted in securing the specimen, a beautiful adult female in full breeding plumage. Although Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) were nearby at the time, the Sabine's Gull foraged alone, flying low along a rocky dike on the south end of the reservoir. In November, 1957, I observed a Sabine's Gull in winter plumage at this same location (*Aud. Field Notes*, 12: 50, 1958). Ligon (*op. cit.*: 308) records only one other sight record for this species.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*).—An immature male, one of at least four observed, was taken on 3 December 1962 on the Rubert Madera Ranch, 15 miles northwest of Jal, Lea County (elevation 3,400 feet). They were first discovered on 11 October 1962, and four sight records have since been made there. As two of the later observations were made several miles from the locality of collection, it is possible that a number of birds were wintering in the area. The habitat is typical desert scrub, dominated by mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.) and a grass cover of black grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*). The only call note heard from these birds was a loud, clear *pit, pit, pit*, sometimes given as a single note only. This species was also recorded on the Madera Ranch in 1960 by R. C. Brummett and me (*Aud. Field Notes*, 16: 266, 1962). Prior to these observations Ligon (*op. cit.*: 238) recorded one sight record for New Mexico.

State-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*).—I took an adult female on 16 April 1962 at Stevens Tank on the San Simon Ranch, approximately 25 miles northwest of Jal, Lea County, in extreme southeastern New Mexico. This is a large dirt stock tank nearly surrounded by large willow trees (*Salix* sp.), which make it an attractive oasis in an otherwise treeless mesquite-grassland habitat. The bird was associated with a number of Wilson's Warblers (*Wilsonia pusilla*) and a few Audubon's Warblers (*Dendroica auduboni*), and was feeding on flying insects when taken. Measurements are: tail, 66 mm; wing, 62 mm. So far as I know, this is the first record for the species in the United States.

Myioborus miniatus is "very common in the Transition Zone" of southern Chihuahua, according to A. J. van Rossem (*A distributional survey of the birds of Sonora. Louisiana State Univ., Mus. Zool., Occas. Papers no. 21, 1945; see p. 233.*). The Transition Zone in southern Chihuahua would be roughly 400 miles from the San Simon Ranch. The nearest areas in New Mexico in this zone are in the Guadalupe Mountains, 75 miles west of the San Simon Ranch. The nearest New Mexican breeding range for the Painted Redstart (*Setophaga picta*), a species possibly congeneric with *Myioborus miniatus* (see K. C. Parkes, *Wilson Bull.*, 73: 378, 1961) is in the San Mateo Mountains near Magdalena, Socorro County, some 240 miles northwest of the San Simon Ranch.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*).—On 23 December 1961, R. C. Brummett and I observed six Field Sparrows on the Madera Ranch, 13 miles west of Jal, Lea County. There, on the following day, I secured a single bird, the only one seen. The specimen

was identified by Zimmerman as *Spizella pusilla arenacea*, the western race (tail, 71 mm; wing, 68 mm; skull completely ossified). This is the first record for this species in New Mexico. On 26 December, Mr. Karl Gilbert and I observed a single Field Sparrow while conducting the Carlsbad Caverns Christmas bird count (*Aud. Field Notes*, 16: 215, 1962). A much earlier observation of four Field Sparrows had been made by Harris on 21 December 1958, but at the time the significance of the observation was not realized, and no attempt was made to collect the birds. Since obtaining the bird on the Madera Ranch, I have made four more observations of Field Sparrows, one in Carlsbad Caverns National Park and three on the Madera Ranch. Another Field Sparrow was caught by Marylou Travis in Los Alamos, New Mexico (elevation 7,300 feet), some 250 miles northwest of Carlsbad, on 13 January 1962. The bird was feeding with a mixed flock of juncos in a banding trap following a severe snow storm. It was preserved by William Huey and presented to the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, where identification was verified by Dr. James S. Findley. Measurements are: tail, 66 mm; wing, 63.5 mm; tarsus, 17.5 mm. The pileum of both specimens had a pronounced gray median stripe. From these records it seems likely that the Field Sparrow is a regular winter visitor to New Mexico.

I am much indebted to Dr. Zimmerman for the identification of skins and for many helpful suggestions regarding preparation of the manuscript.—BRUCE K. HARRIS, *New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Silver City, New Mexico.*

First records of the White-tailed Kite for El Salvador and Alabama.—On 30 April 1963, while my grandson James H. Brennan, III (of Dothan, Alabama), and I were collecting birds near the village of Barra de Santiago, El Salvador, I observed an almost entirely white hawk sitting on a post 100 feet from the roadside. I was able to approach to a distance of about 50 feet before it took flight affording an excellent view. I secured the specimen, an adult female (tail, 184 mm) referable to the North American race (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*) of the White-tailed Kite and so identified by Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr. This northern subspecies had previously been reported south only to Guatemala and British Honduras (Friedmann, *U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 50: 72, 1950). The specimen is now no. 31066 in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology.

The experience thus gained convinced me absolutely of the validity of an earlier sight record that I had previously been reluctant to report because of my unfamiliarity with the species.

On 29 September 1962, at 0830 hours, on State Highway 22, I drove across the Cahaba River in Dallas County, Alabama, about eight miles southwest of Selma. Over a field adjacent to the east bank of the river, I observed from about 100 yards away a snowy white hawk approximately 150 feet up, soaring in lazy circles about 150 feet in diameter. Through 7 × 35 binoculars I watched the bird for about six minutes until it disappeared to the west. It struck me immediately as being a kite, for several times it performed the "tumbling act," which I had seen Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) do dozens of times, 1940–1948, while I resided near Eagle Lake, Mississippi, northwest of Vicksburg. I noted every mark of the bird and had little doubt then that I was looking at the first White-tailed Kite observed in Alabama. It is most interesting that another observation of a lone White-tailed Kite was reported (E. A. Williams, *Oriole*, 27: 52, 1962) as made only 18 days later (17 October 1962) and about 250 miles distant at Brasstown Bald, a mountain in extreme north-eastern Georgia.—MERRIAM L. MILES, *Sutton Place, Orville, Alabama.*