

gravel pit near Newton, Hamilton County, on February 14, 1931.

Eastern Field Sparrow (*Spizella p. pusilla*). Winters rarely. A female bird was collected December 5, 1931, in Union Township of Clermont County and another of the species was observed December 18, 1933, in Avondale of Cincinnati.

Eastern Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes g. gramineus*).

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia l. leucophrys*).

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

Eastern Fox Sparrow (*Passerella i. iliaca*). All four of these sparrows were to be found in numbers during the exceptionally mild winter of 1931-32 in Hamilton, Warren, and Clermont Counties. The following winter the sparrows were far fewer in numbers and the Vesper Sparrows were absent, though the observations included only Clermont and Hamilton Counties. During both winters notes for Union Township of Clermont County indicated an approximate ratio of one White-crowned Sparrow and two White-throated Sparrows for each Fox Sparrow seen. None of the four sparrows were detected during the winters of 1933-34 and 1934-35.

Eastern Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). On March 26, 1930, twelve of these birds were observed feeding about a small bare spot of a weedy hillside in Avondale of Cincinnati. The birds were very tame and permitted me to approach to within thirty feet before taking flight.—KARL H. MASLOWSKI, *Cincinnati, Ohio*.

The Present Status of the Olive-sided Flycatcher as a Breeding Bird in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.—Any studies dealing with the distribution of bird life in more or less limited areas reveal changes that are as puzzling as, apparently, they are inevitable. Even relatively common species disappear without any obvious reason, while on the other hand new species will appear and gradually become a characteristic feature of the indigenous fauna. In the case of the Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis mesoleucus*) a species is represented that at one time occurred during the summer months in the mountains of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee wherever conditions were favorable, but now is extremely scarce and rarely observed in this region. It is possible that it was never common at this extreme southern limit of its breeding range, but until recent years it was frequently noted by field ornithologists, and recorded at such widely separated spots in western North Carolina as Highlands and Roan Mountain. During a period of almost five years of intensive field work in these mountains, from January, 1930, through September, 1934, this species was looked for on every possible occasion, but seemingly it had disappeared from its former haunts, and at only one spot was one pair of these birds found. On July 10, 1932, while in the Great Smoky Mountains, the loud vigorous notes of one of these birds were heard, and a short search soon revealed it perched in the very top of a tall dead spruce at the edge of a clearing near the top of a ridge. This was within a quarter of a mile of Newfound Gap, on the Tennessee side of the line, and at an altitude of approximately 5,000 feet. Lack of time prevented any serious effort to find the nest, but judging from the action of the bird there could be little question but that it was breeding here, a fact verified the following year when a pair of these birds was found at this same spot in late June. So conspicuous a species as this one cannot easily be overlooked, so it is doubtful if many of these birds now occur in this region during the summer months, and their ultimate fate should be watched with interest.—THOMAS D. BURLEIGH, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*