

showed that Night Heron nests were not being molested seriously, and later observations indicated that many of the nests were escaping the ravages of the Crows.

The total number of Crows inhabiting the "Live Oaks" was estimated at less than 40. These apparently were breeding at the time of the nesting of the herons; one nest was found. Crows were observed to carry off eggs of the herons in their beaks and also to eat their contents at the victim's nest. Observations and broken shells examined indicated that the damage was done almost entirely by Crows. Several hundred Turkey and Black Vultures roosted at the area, but they were not seen to take part in the destruction. Blue Jays were common in the woods too, but none was observed at heron nests and two stomachs examined revealed no evidence of eggs. Mammals were probably responsible for some damage, since droppings (thought to be those of either racoon or opossum) containing heron egg shells were found in the fork of a live oak tree.

It appears, then, that Crows may be destructive to concentrated nesting colonies of Little Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets whose eggs form a readily available food supply for the young, but considerably less destructive to Night Herons whose breeding habits do not limit them to such small areas.—ROLLIN H. BAKER, *Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, College Station, Texas.*

English Sparrow with an Abnormal Bill.—After seeing a notice in the "Martinsburg Journal" of the finding of a strange bird which appeared to be "a cross between a starling and a sparrow," I went to Mr. Clowser who had kept the "hybrid" in a glass jar outside the window of his barber shop. The bird proved



Figure 1. Sickle-billed English Sparrow.

to be an adult male English Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*.

The bird was caught in the Central Theater, in Martinsburg, West Virginia, on the morning of January 16, 1940, and it was thought to have gotten into the building through a ventilator fan. Mr. Clowser took the bird to his shop, hoping that it would survive. It was fed that day and Mr. Clowser stated that the sparrow turned its head sideways while eating. The next day it died.

In the picture there is noticeable the head of a pin which was run through the orbits to hold the bird to the backboard while it was photographed. The curved length of the upper mandible measured 36 mm. The lower mandible seemed to be somewhat atrophied. Unfortunately, I was unable to obtain the bird for a more complete examination and dissection. Aside from the deformed beak it appeared to be quite normal. J. LLOYD POLAND, *Department of Botany and Zoology, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.*

Mississippi Bird Records.—I wish to thank Dr. Alexander Wetmore, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., for these subspecific identifications and for confirming my identification of the Swainson's Warbler.

Sanderling, *Crocethia alba*. A specimen was collected August 17, 1939, at Legion Lake, two miles south of Rosedale, and is probably the first one collected in this section of the state.

Northern Carolina Chickadee, *Penthestes carolinensis extimus*. This form has not heretofore been reported from the state. A bird was found dead on the highway just south of Columbus, Mississippi, April 29, 1932, and proved to be *extimus*.

Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsoni*. A bird collected July 17, 1939, a male, was this species. A pair was noted at the time. The specimen was in partial moult and probably nested in the small woods where collected. It was taken one-half mile south of Moorhead, Sunflower County.

Labrador Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius*. A bird taken January 7, 1937, a female, at Legion Lake, two miles south of Rosedale was identified as this form. I find no record of this race having been taken in the state.—M. GORDON VAIDEN, *Rosedale, Bolivar County, Mississippi.*

WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB LIBRARY

The following gifts have been received:

- Herbert Brandt—"Texas Bird Adventures."
- Ducks Unlimited—"1938-1939 Census and Record Book."
- James C. Greenway—1 reprint.
- R. A. Johnson—8 reprints.
- Leon Kelso—1 reprint.
- Margaret M. Nice—complete set of own reprints.
- Frank A. Pitelka—8 reprints.
- Dayton Stoner—1 bulletin
- E. L. Sumner, Jr.—1 reprint.
- Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission—4 pamphlets.
- W. J. Willis—50 magazines.