

country, and from all appearances settled far out in that area. I have been unable to find another record of the occurrence of the Sooty Tern in the Rio Grande valley.—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, Rye, New York.

#### SUMMER TANAGER IN MICHIGAN

On November 6, 1948, George M. Sutton and I collected a Summer Tanager (*Piranga r. rubra*) about a mile south of Pinckney, Livingston County, Michigan.

The specimen, an immature female, weighed 28.2 gms. The wing measured 91.5 mm, the tail, 69. The ovary was small and the skull was incompletely ossified. The stomach was full of fruit remains (grape?), with traces of insects. The specimen, number 116078, is now in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan.

This bird is the first record of the Summer Tanager for Michigan. However, its occurrence in Michigan is scarcely as remarkable as the date of its occurrence. Even the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) leaves Michigan long before November, usually by the middle or end of September, although Magee banded a female and noted a male nearby at Sault Ste. Marie on October 21, 1923 (Magee, 1926, *Wilson Bull.* 38 (3): 163). In central Ohio, *Piranga rubra* breeds north to Licking County; in eastern Ohio it ranges farther north; in western Ohio, it breeds only to the general region of Dayton (Hicks, 1935, *Ohio State Univ. Studies* 40 (5): 175).

Although it may be useless to speculate on the reason for the bird's visit, it seems worthwhile to record the fact that the weather during the early part of the month was stormy, and on November 5 and 6 a rather strong south wind prevailed.—HARRISON B. TORDOFF, Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

#### TEXAS HABITAT OF BOTTERI'S SPARROW AND GULF COAST RECORDS OF WINTERING SPARROWS

It is perhaps worth recording that the habitat of Botteri's Sparrow (*Aimophila botterii*) in the Brownsville, Texas, area has changed materially since the publication of Harper's article on that species (1930, *Auk*, 47, 177-185.). Harper gives a careful description of the terrain between Brownsville and Port Isabel on the coast. Overgrazing, which he specifies as not existing in the area at the time of his visit, is now all too apparent. Once the citrus groves and the richer tableland growth ends and the salt prairie to the east begins, there is no vegetation but a stubby grass with patches, along the road, of cedars, agarita and mesquite. The typical salt grass association, which appears to be the strict habitat preference of this species and which is well illustrated in his photographs, now occurs only on the very borders of the sea itself or the neighboring lagoons, both near Port Isabel and farther south at Boca Chica. It was here only that I found Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*) singing from March 11, 1946 on, and later on March 22 farther north above Corpus Christi at Rockport in similar environment. From the above evidence it seems that the summer range of Botteri's Sparrow has been seriously reduced in the Brownsville area of Texas.

The following species were collected and positively identified during this period:

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis oblitus*), a common wintering species along the sea edge from Rockport to Boca Chica, taken between March 4 and March 23.

Nevada Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis*), found at Port Isabel in tufts of grass along the beach, March 11.

Western Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus*), taken at Brownsville and at Austwell, Mar. 3-11. The upper mandible seems to become darker with the approach of the nesting season, starting with the ridge of the culmen and working downwards on each side.

Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*), was in breeding condition and also in very worn