

away, at the base of a bushy slope. To us its behavior seemed like that of a Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) as it investigated the leaves, twigs, and other debris beneath the thick brush. We had a chance to observe it for about fifteen minutes when a passing truck frightened it into flight. No one could find it again.

The weather on May 5 and 6 was mild and rainy. On the 6th there was considerable fog. Weather reports described winds of hurricane force in the Midwest on May 5. The area affected by a large cyclonic low the night before included southern Indiana and West Virginia, a part of the northern edge of the Swainson's Warbler's breeding range.—IRWIN M. ALPERIN, *Linnaean Society of New York, 2845 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn 35, New York, January 1, 1951.*

Clay-colored Sparrow in Massachusetts.—The Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pal-lida*) was added to the list of birds known from Massachusetts when two specimens were collected by Oliver L. Austin, Jr., on September 20, 1930. Since that time, two more Clay-colored Sparrows have been collected and twelve have been banded. All of these records are listed below. Eleven sight records, from 1940 to 1951, have not been included below because the difficulty of identifying fall Clay-colored Sparrows makes sight records unreliable. These sight records were published in *Records of New England Birds*. I am indebted to Oliver L. Austin, Jr., Dorothy E. Snyder, Curator of Natural History at the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, and Aaron M. Bagg for their help in gathering the records presented here.

SPECIMENS

September 20, 1930. Two adult males collected by Oliver L. Austin, Jr. (1931. *Auk*, 48:126-127), at North Eastham. Specimens now Nos. 17837 and 17838 in the Boston Museum of Science. Identification checked in 1951, by James L. Peters, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

March 24, 1950. An immature, sex unknown, was taken by James Baird at Amherst. The bird was first observed at Amherst by Robert Smart at his feeder on January 17, 1950. The identification was confirmed by J. L. Peters. It is now No. 231 in the collection of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

September 20, 1950. One immature male taken by Oscar M. Root at North Andover. The specimen, identified by J. L. Peters, is now in the Peabody Museum, Salem.

BIRDS BANDED

The first 11 of the following 12 birds listed were banded at the Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham.

October 11, 1930. One adult, C80003, by O. L. Austin, Jr. Repeated October 11 and 12 (twice), 1930 (Austin, *loc. cit.*).

November 3, 1930. One immature, C80542, by O. L. Austin, Jr. Repeated November 3, 4, and 5, 1930 (Austin, *loc. cit.*).

September 29, 1934. One immature, L64783, by O. L. Austin, Jr. and Seth H. Low. Repeated October 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, and 16, 1934.

October 3, 1934. One adult, L64913, by O. L. Austin, Jr. and S. H. Low. Repeated October 4, 5, 7, and 8, 1934.

October 3, 1934. One immature, L64918, by S. H. Low. Repeated October 3 and 4, 1934.

October 17, 1934. One adult, 34-81301, by S. H. Low. Repeated October 17, 1934.

October 19, 1936. One, 37-24055, by L. J. Brewer. Repeated October 21, 1936.

October 20, 1936. One, 37-24059, by L. J. Brewer.

October 18, 1940. One, 239-6821, by L. J. Brewer. Repeated October 23, 24, and November 19, 1940.

September 20, 1941. Two, 140-20987 and 140-20992, by L. J. Brewer.

November 21, 1940. One immature, 139-56997, by George J. Wallace, at Lenox.

The Clay-colored Sparrow has been known to be a summer resident in southern Ontario since 1924. In 1950, it was found breeding there by T. Swift, D. Scovell, and D. West (Baillie, James L., 1950. *Audubon Field Notes*, 4:274). Perhaps the birds recorded in Massachusetts in fall are migrants or wanderers from the southern Ontario population. Because of the difficulty of identifying the Clay-colored Sparrow in fall plumage in the field, it may be more regular in autumn in Massachusetts than the records given above would indicate.—OSCAR M. ROOT, *Brooks School, North Andover, Massachusetts, March 15, 1952.*

Notes on nesting Traill's Flycatcher in eastern Arkansas.—During the summer of 1951 I had the opportunity to observe the nesting of Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) in the Grand Prairie region of central-eastern Arkansas. It may be recalled that it was along the prairies of the Arkansas River that Audubon collected the type specimen of Traill's Flycatcher (see discussion by Aldrich, 1951. *Wilson Bulletin*, 63:193-194); in fact the type specimen was actually taken at the Fort of Arkansas on April 17, 1822 (Arthur, 1937. "Audubon: An Intimate Life of the American Woodsman," p. 251). The Fort of Arkansas, located about 50 miles south of Stuttgart, was better known in Audubon's time as it is today, as Arkansas Post, and was the territorial capital of the state at the time of Audubon's first visit there. Audubon reported in his "Ornithological Biography" (Edinburg, 1831:236) that although he was unable to discover the nest in that area, he suspected that the species nested there. A female collected by him contained five eggs "about the size of green peas" in the ovary. While it does seem unusual that the species would be nesting as early as April in this area, in early summer it is a common breeding bird wherever suitable habitat occurs on the prairie.

Arthur H. Howell (1911. *U. S. Biol. Surv. Bull.* 38:54), collecting near Stuttgart in May, 1910, found Traill's Flycatcher "fairly common, living in orchards, dooryards, and about small clumps of trees on the prairie."

The northern boundary of the Grand Prairie is somewhat tangent to a line drawn from Memphis, Tennessee, to Little Rock, Arkansas, while its southern boundary borders the Arkansas River. It is the major rice producing area of the state, with the city of Stuttgart in its center. Ecologically it is a true prairie land and was the home of the Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) before the introduction of rice in the early 1900's.

Traill's Flycatchers observed by Howell were probably representative of the local breeding population; however, the first definite evidence of breeding from this area is based on the writer's record of two fledglings just out of the nest and being fed by a parent bird on July 18, 1951. Other nesting records from the state are reported by Baerg (1951. "Birds of Arkansas," *Univ. Arkansas Coll. Agric. Bull.* 258:98-99).

Traill's Flycatcher nests mainly in two habitat types on the Grand Prairie: (1) slashy thickets bordering drainage areas, and (2) "islands" of scrub vegetation, usually small trees, out on the prairie. The area selected for nesting studies in 1951 was an 18-acre thicket of haw (*Crataegus*) and persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) with openings, all surrounded by rice and lespedeza fields.