

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.

I saw the first pair of summer resident Traill's Flycatchers in the study area on May 10, on which date they had already established territory. By June 1, 17 pairs had established territories on the 18-acre tract of thickets. On May 28, I found three nests ready for eggs, and on May 31, one of these three nests held two eggs. In all, I found 15 nests in the territories of nine pairs of flycatchers. This indicates that individual pairs of Traill's Flycatchers in this study area were either reneesting or attempting to raise a second brood in a new nest after successfully completing the first hatch. In one individual territory this second or later constructed nest was only 23 feet from the first nest. The average clutch for the 15 nests was 3.0 eggs, and the maximum number of eggs found in any nest was 4. The average number of young fledged per nest was 2.2, and at least one bird was fledged from each of 11 nests.

The locations of the 15 nests were as follows: 13 in haw trees, 1 in a persimmon, and 1 in a dogwood (*Cornus*). The "Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) type" of nest was placed at an average of 7.5 feet from the ground. Fifteen of the 17 territories were located on the edge of the study area (18-acre tract of thickets), ten nests being on its western side. The nests of three pairs, each on individual territories, were located in a single acre of the 18-acre study area. Two pairs of young still in the "stub-tail" stage were noted near their nests on August 10.—BROOKE MEANLEY, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Stuttgart, Arkansas, October 15, 1951.*

Notes on Mexican bird distribution.—A comparison of the data contained in a "Distributional Check-List of the Birds of Mexico" (Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore, 1950. *Pacific Coast Avifauna*, No. 29, Part 1), with my field notes on Mexican birds revealed that some of my observations extend the known ranges, as given in the Avifauna.

I submitted a list of probable species range extensions to Mr. L. Irby Davis for review. He informed me that most of the ranges, though unpublished, have been known for some time to many persons studying Mexican birds, but that four of the records (Wood Duck, Whooping Crane, Bonaparte Gull, and Black-billed Cuckoo) should be of interest to many field workers. These four records probably are the major contributions among the following data.

Black-bellied Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*).—Six were flying up the Río Naranjo at El Salto, San Luis Potosí, early on the morning of February 25, 1951. They returned downstream about one hour later. The elevation here is about 1500 feet above sea level. On March 5, 1951, one was standing beside a small reservoir in southern Coahuila along the railroad between Saltillo in Coahuila and Avalos in Zacatecas.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*).—One pair on the Río Naranjo, downstream from El Salto, San Luis Potosí, at an elevation of about 1300 feet, February 24, 1951.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*).—One female was on a roadside pond 73 miles southwest of Matamoras, Tamaulipas, along the highway to Victoria, February 23, 1951.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*).—On March 6, 1951, one was flying over an ore mill tailing dump which contained water at Terminal, northern Zacatecas. Local hunters stated that Canvasbacks were sometimes shot during the hunting season in this area, although the Green-winged Teal was the most common duck.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*).—In Hidalgo, north of Jacala, one was found at an elevation of about 5000 feet, February 28, 1951; in Chihuahua, there were several between Hidalgo Parral and Chihuahua, March 9, 1951.

Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*).—One northeast of Saltillo, at Ramos Arizpe, Coahuila, March 4, 1951.