

Avocets in Alabama.—On October 15, 1949, Thomas A. Imhof, James Doubles, William E. Jernigan, and Atkeson were checking on migrating shore birds on the western part of the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge, located in the Tennessee Valley of northern Alabama, includes many acres of mud flats, which are used by various species of shore birds. In the late afternoon, while the party was in the Whitesides vicinity of the refuge in Limestone County about two miles north of Decatur, Imhof noted a single Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) feeding with a flock of Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*). All members of the party observed the Avocet.

A close check failed to reveal any previous Avocet records for Alabama and it was considered advisable to collect the bird to verify the record. This was done by Ernest Byford on October 22, 1949, and the specimen is now in the Washington collection of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On November 7, 1950, John H. Sutherlin and Henry H. Grammer noted a flock of ten Avocets on a mud flat along the southeastern shore of Garth Slough, in Morgan County, ten miles east of Decatur. The birds were observed at close range and with binoculars. On November 1, 1951, Grammer and both authors observed two Avocets in the same locality.

The occurrence of the Avocet in Alabama in each of three consecutive autumns indicates that the species may be an uncommon, but possibly a regular, fall migrant in northern Alabama.—DAVID C. HULSE AND THOMAS Z. ATKESON, *Box 1643, Decatur, Alabama, April 22, 1952.*

European Tree Sparrow extending its range in United States.—The European Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) has been included in the state lists of Missouri and Illinois and recent books have described it as localized about St. Louis, with a southern migratory trend into the Horseshoe and Reelfoot Lake areas of southern Illinois and western Tennessee. In 1949, I found a pair of European Tree Sparrows nesting behind a rain pipe on the Hannibal, Missouri, high school, 100 miles north of St. Louis. In 1950, a pair was recorded nesting at Hull, Illinois, 10 miles east of Hannibal. On June 6, 1951, Doctor James W. Chapman, of Jacksonville, Illinois, and I drove around Lake Mauvaisterre south and east of Jacksonville where we located a colony of at least eight pairs of European Tree Sparrows living in holes in soft maple trees about the lake. I believe this is the easternmost and northernmost record to date. Seemingly, the species is extending its range northward.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois, June 21, 1952.*

Chestnut-collared Longspur: an addition to the Louisiana list.—On the morning of March 23, 1952, while crossing a small airfield at Gilliam, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, about 23 miles north of Shreveport, I flushed a flock of six birds. As they bounded through the air, flashing white outer tail-feathers, they uttered a double call-note unlike any with which I was familiar. I approached close enough to obtain a good view of the birds on the ground. One of the six was a male sufficiently distinctive in plumage for me to identify it as a Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). The others appeared to be females of the same species. I returned in the afternoon and, with the assistance of John P. Everett, succeeded in obtaining a specimen which is now in the collection of the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University. This species was last seen on March 30, when I noted a flock of five in the same area. This apparently was a different group as none was in the spring plumage of the male.