

**Aerial feeding by the English Sparrow.**—On September 27, 1953, at 4:45 p.m., I was on the roof of Bradley Hall on the campus of Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, inspecting the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) roost in the ivy covering the south and west walls. At this time at least six sparrows were observed feeding on flying insects, considerable numbers of which were in evidence several feet directly above the roof. One female sparrow perched quietly on top of the west wall, peered upward at the insects for ten seconds, then suddenly sallied upward at a 75 degree angle to a height of at least ten feet, seized an insect in its bill, and returned to the roof. This individual repeated the feeding maneuver to heights of three and four feet. The entire performance was very reminiscent of the feeding habits of flycatchers. One sparrow, flying leisurely over the roof, suddenly sallied upward six feet from its line of flight, apparently secured an insect, and then continued in its original direction.—OLIVER S. OWEN, *Department of Biology, Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, November 1, 1953.*

**Aerial feeding by White-crowned Sparrows.**—On Oct. 24, 1953, at the Impounding Reservoir near Des Moines, Iowa, I was watching a group of immature White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) in several young elm trees which were overgrown by a wild grape vine. Because of the mild weather, the grapes had not become withered and dried and the birds were eating these. Suddenly I noticed that several of the sparrows in the top of the tangle of vine were occasionally springing 15 or 18 inches in the air, returning to their former positions. Upon looking more closely with my binoculars I saw a swarm of gnats or other small insects hovering over the vine; the birds were catching, or attempting to catch, these. This was a feeding procedure which I had not seen before and which I do not find described in the literature.—WOODWARD H. BROWN, *4815 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, October 28, 1953.*

**A hybrid between the Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows.**—Hybrids between species of emberizine finches are rare; aside from crosses within the genus *Junco*, Cockrum (1952. *Wilson Bull.*, 64:150) lists but three such hybrids from North America. Of the three, one involves the genus *Spizella*, a record by Suchetet (1897. "Des hybrides à l'état Sauvage." I. Paris, J. B. Baillièrre et Fils) of a hybrid between the Clay-colored and Brewer sparrows (*Spizella pallida* and *S. breweri*). I have been unable to find this book, and it is possible that the "hybrid" was a specimen of *Spizella breweri taverneri*, which was described subsequent to Suchetet's work.

The scarcity of hybrids between species of the genus *Spizella* is perhaps surprising because two or more species of the genus nest in similar or adjacent habitats over wide areas. Chipping and Field sparrows (*Spizella passerina* and *S. pusilla*) are found nesting in the same field-borders and hedgerows throughout much of the northeastern United States; and in parts of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, the Clay-colored Sparrow may be found in the same areas as the Chipping and Field sparrows.

Lovells, Crawford County, Michigan, is in the region where the three spizellas are all found as breeding birds. Here, Almerin D. Tinker collected two sparrows on May 29, 1932. One, a Clay-colored (number 510 in Tinker's field catalogue), was skinned by Norman A. Wood, and the other, number 511, by Tinker, himself. The latter skin appears to be a hybrid between the Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows. (It is interesting to speculate on what might have happened if Wood had prepared the hybrid and Tinker, the other bird; under those circumstances, I doubt that the hybrid would have remained undetected for 21 years. It is also interesting to note that when the hybrid was catalogued as number 115,640 in the collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, it was listed as a Chipping Sparrow.)