The most striking thing about the specimen is the color of the crown. The anterior part is dark with a light median stripe. The central (and largest) part is rufous with dark shaft streaks, which are broad on the feathers near the side of the crown and narrow on the feathers of the central part and thus form indistinct dark lateral and light median crown stripes. The effect of the light median crown stripe is heightened by some pale markings on the central feathers of the crown. The posterior part of the crown is lighter than the central part, is between rufous and grayish buff, and is streaked with dusky like that of a first-year Chipping Sparrow; unlike that part of the Clay-colored, there is no pale central stripe.

The bird also shows its hybrid origin in the color of its bill: the maxilla is dark except laterally at the base, and the mandible is light except at the tip. (At this season, the bills of Chipping Sparrows are all black, and those of the Clay-colored Sparrows are light except at the tip.)

In the length of the wing and in tail/wing ratio, the hybrid is also intermediate between the two supposed parent species.

	Wing length	*Tail length*	*Tail/wing*
Chipping Sparrow[1]	70.3 mm.	59.1 mm.	0.845
Hybrid	66.8	61.9	0.925
Clay-colored Sparrow[1]	61.4	60.2	0.982

[1]Mean of eleven males from the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

(There is little difference between the lengths of the tails of birds of the two parent species; that of the hybrid is near the maximum size for both of these species.)

In other characters, the hybrid nature of Tinker's specimen is less striking. The ground color of the back is intermediate between the average color of that part in the parental species but can be matched by individuals of both. The dark streaks on the back are like those of most Chipping Sparrows but can be matched by those of some Clay-coloreds. The sides of the face and the ear coverts are light grayish buff, like the same areas of a Clay-colored but paler. The superciliary stripe is whiter than that of the Clay-colored and more like that of a Chipping Sparrow. The dark transocular stripe resembles that of a Clay-colored in being brownish black and in not extending anterior to the eye. There is a light "moustache" stripe like that of a Clay-colored but grayer than in most individuals of that species.

Tinker's catalogue gives little information about the specimen except that it was a male with "testes only slightly developed." This comment cannot be taken as an indication of possible sterility because the same comment was made about the Clay-colored Sparrow taken on the same day.—ROBERT W. STORER, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 26, 1954.*

A fossil thrasher from the Pleistocene of Mexico.—Through the kindness of Dr. Claude W. Hibbard, I have been able to examine the tarsometatarsus of a thrasher from the Valley of Tequixquiac, Mexico. The exact site from which it was taken was Locality 8 (Hibbard, *Univ. Nac. Autonoma Mex., Inst. Geol. Boletin,* in press) just below Puente de Gallo, along the north bank of the Barranca de Acatlan, in deposits of Becerra Superior (Late Pleistocene). The specimen, number 49-26A in the collection of the Instituto Geologia Mexicana is tentatively referred to *Toxostoma ocellatum* (Sclater).

In its configuration, the bone closely resembles the corresponding element of *Toxostoma curvirostre,* but it is larger (36.7 mm. in total length) than three tarsometatarsi of that species in the skeleton collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (34.1, 34.2, and 35.5 mm.). Engels (1940. *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.,* 42:373) gives 32.7 ± 0.15 mm. for the mean and standard error for the length of the tarsometatarsus of

this species but states (*op. cit.*:366–367) that the measurements of limb elements were "taken between proximal and distal articulating surfaces in such a way that their sums would most closely approximate total limb lengths." An attempt to approximate Engels' method of measurement yields figures approximately 1 mm. shorter than the total length, or 35.8 mm. for the fossil. The standard deviation (σ) of Engels' sample of this species is 0.90, hence the fossil is outside the range of the mean $\pm 3\sigma$, and therefore is almost certainly not *T. curvirostre*.

According to Ridgway (1907. *Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus.* 50, No. 4:191–199), the related species, *T. longirostre* and *T. ocellatum*, have tarsometatarsi which average 2.3 and 3.8 mm., respectively, longer than those of *T. curvirostre* (measurements taken from skins). Since the latter difference more closely approximates the difference between the length of the fossil and the mean of Engels' series (3.1 mm.), the fossil is tentatively referred to *T. ocellatum*, until an adequate series of skeletons of *T. ocellatum* and *T. longirostre* can be examined.—ROBERT W. STORER, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 26, 1954.*

A new nesting locality for the Common Tern.—On July 18, 1953, I visited a rock pile at the southern end of Cayuga Lake at Ithaca, New York. This rock pile was part of an old breakwater, running for a distance of about 75 feet at right angles to the wall at Cayuga Inlet, but disconnected from the latter by several feet. The pile, now a jumble of rocks and small boulders, rises only a few inches above water level. There are a couple of small patches of vegetation, but the pile is essentially an open "rock beach" with some debris washed up on it. The pile cannot be reached by walking since the nearest land, a couple of hundred feet away, is the mud flat of the southern end of Cayuga Lake. Thus this rock pile is surrounded by water; it is relatively isolated from dogs and rats, and is not often visited by humans.

As I moored my boat two Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) circled and screamed a few feet over my head, and soon one of them started diving at me. Just a few steps from my boat was a tern nest containing two warm eggs. This is the first nesting record of the Common Tern in the southern Cayuga Basin.

On July 23, I revisited the site and found another tern nest, with three warm eggs, on a second island in the same old breakwater. On July 24, Arthur A. Allen visited this little tern colony. He took pictures of the eggs and the incubating bird at the second nest and found that the two eggs of the first nest had been washed away. On July 30, a group of Cornell students found the three eggs still there and warm, but one egg, with a well-developed embryo, was badly cracked. The morning of August 4 I found an adult still incubating the two eggs.

On August 8, Arnold Wellwood visited the tern nest and found that the eggs were cold. Other students visited the spot in the next few days and also reported the eggs cold. On August 23 I went to collect the eggs but found them gone. The nest had been washed over by the waves.

Up to 1953, the nearest records for Common Tern colonies were Oneida Lake, which is on the southwest end of Henderson's Bay (Jefferson County) on Lake Ontario, and Sandy Point, near Lake Ontario. There has been strong evidence that Common Terns occasionally nest at the Montezuma Marsh, at the north end of Cayuga Lake, but as far as is known the first actual nest for the Marsh was found on June 30, 1953, by Oliver Hewitt. There has also been considerable evidence that terns have nested in recent years on an island at the north end of Cayuga Lake, but no nest has been found there.—MARY P. SHERWOOD, *Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, October 5, 1953.*