

Method of searching for food by the Swainson's Warbler.—The Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) is primarily a ground feeder, foraging in a manner generally different from that of other ground-feeding parulids. In searching for food, usually in dry leaf litter, its gait is described by Brewster (Auk, 2:65–80, 1885) as "distinctly a walk." Norris (Contrib. Charleston (S.C.) Mus., 9:78, 1963) also observed that it walked, and that its "gait was rather rapid and jerky, suggestive of that of the starling." He further stated that the Swainson's Warbler may hop "when traversing leaf litter." During 40 hours of observation of the ground locomotion of this species, I would prefer to describe it as hopping some of the time, though mostly it moves in a rather rapid step that is sort of a cross between a walk and a hop, suggesting a canter.

Insects, the Swainson's principal food, are located as the bird pokes its bill under a leaf, pushing it upwards, searching the ground beneath it, or examining its underside. A leaf may be held up momentarily and tilted at an angle as the bird inspects the underside; and if a leaf is curled, it is opened as the bird inserts and spreads apart its mandibles. Sometimes, as the bird moves rapidly forward, lifting or shoving leaves upward, most of its body disappears beneath a pile of leaves.

The Swainson's Warbler occasionally obtains food from the surface of the leaf litter or the top of a log, or by probing like a Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) (see Norris, op. cit.) in clusters of dead leaves in subterminal and terminal parts of bush or tree branches, or in the axil of a cane (*Arundinaria*) plant a few feet above the ground. It is similarly attracted to a cluster of debris washed up against the base of a group of sapling stems following the flooding of the bottomland forest. Occasionally I have observed the Swainson's Warbler leave a perch in pursuit of a flying insect.

The bill of the Swainson's Warbler is larger and more sharply pointed than the bills of the Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), and Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*), ground feeding parulids that obtain their food primarily from the surface of the leaf litter and from other components of the forest floor.

The Kentucky Warbler hops along flushing insects, picking them off stems and from leaves of low-growing vegetation, and probing into crevices among leaves and sticks. The Ovenbird, a walker, feeds similarly but more in the open, as does the waterthrush, also a walker, which feeds about wet leaf litter along streams and in shallow pools. The waterthrush does some leaf flipping in contrast to the leaf-shoving and tilting of the Swainson's Warbler.—BROOKE MEANLEY, U.S. Department of the Interior, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland 20810, 8 July 1969.

Rufous-crowned Tanagers feeding on fruitbowl.—Hundley and Mason (Wilson Bull., 77:408, 1965) mention a number of bird species feeding on fruitbowl in the West Indies. On 14 November 1950 I observed a couple of Rufous-crowned Tanagers (*Tangara cayana*) feeding on fruitbowl on a dish in the dining room of a hotel in Georgetown, Guyana. This behavior came as a surprise to me as in neighboring Surinam this species is not a town dweller but is confined to the sandy savannas as stated in my "Birds of Surinam" (1968. Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh).—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Wolfskuilstraat 16, Ommen, Holland, 29 March 1969.*