

aware, formerly held this record.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Nelson's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus nelsoni*) at Waukegan, Ill.**—While the type specimen of Nelson's Sparrow was taken in Cook Co., Ill., and a number of others have been secured in the same vicinity, it seems from all accounts to be much scarcer in recent years so that the capture of a specimen at Waukegan, Lake Co., Illinois, on October 13, 1929, seems worthy of record.—JAMES S. WHITE, *1114 Ardmore Ave., Chicago, Ill.*

**Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) in South Carolina.**—On October 27, 1929, the writer secured a specimen of the Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*), on a rice field bank bordering the Cooper River near Huger P. O., Berkeley County. The bird was on the ground and showed remarkable tameness; one foot was diseased, the middle toe being greatly enlarged. The bird was a male.

Mr. J. H. Riley, to whom the specimen was submitted tells me that there are apparently no previous records from the Atlantic seaboard. This is an addition to the fauna of South Carolina.—E. VON S. DINGLE, *Huger, S. C.*

**Note on the Eastern Song Sparrows.**—When Ridgway worked up the Song Sparrows for his 'Birds of North and Middle America' he recognized but one form, *Melospiza melodia melodia*, in the eastern United States. It has been known for some time, however, that this form, as currently accepted, is not constant throughout its extensive range, and no less than three names have been proposed for these variants. I have had occasion to go into this matter with some care in connection with my work on the birds of the Labrador Peninsula, and my conclusions may be briefly summarized as follows. True *melodia* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, accepted as type-locality) occupies the Atlantic watershed, reaching Newfoundland, Quebec, and Lake Ontario. *Melospiza melodia acadica* Thayer and Bangs is the same as *melodia*, in my opinion. The range of *Melospiza melodia atlantica* Todd is strictly littoral, and probably extends as far north as the eastern end of Long Island. West of the mountains is a recognizably different race, which is *Melospiza melodia beata* Bangs, the type of which was an accidental visitor to peninsular Florida. The westward range of *beata* remains to be worked out; it seems however, to be the form of the southern Alleghanies.

This note is published in advance at the request of the A. O. U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. A full discussion will appear in my report on the bird life of the Labrador Peninsula.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

**Blue Grosbeak on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.**—On October 13, 1929, a Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca c. caerulea*) visited my banding station

at North Eastham. Inasmuch as the only previous definite record for Massachusetts is a male shot by Gordon Plummer at Brookline, May 29, 1880 (Allen, J. A., Bull. Nut. Orn. Club. Vol. V, 1880, p. 184), I collected the bird, which proved to be an immature male. The specimen is now in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History.—O. L. AUSTIN, JR., *Orleans, Mass.*

**A Deformed English Sparrow.**—On August 9, 1928, a wounded freak immature English Sparrow (*Passer d. domesticus*) was found by a gardener in Hamtramck park. The bird must have been struck by something, for there was a wound at the base of the skull, on the right side, where a patch of feathers about a quarter of an inch in diameter was missing.

It was in good immature plumage, quite fat, and seemingly in good health, and appeared not to have been hampered much by its deformity which consisted of the major parts of two additional legs joined together.

This extra deformed leg, which was immobile, came out on the right side, and crossed the rear end of the body at about a sixty degree angle inclined upward, and to the left. The backbone and rear part of the body were bent to the left, due to the deformity, and therefore the under parts were not soiled by the excreta. The deformity was feathered about normally. The knee was exposed and quite blood-shot, and may have been injured by the bird falling on it when wounded.—W. BRYANT TYBRELL, *Cranbrook Museum, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.*

**Decrease of English Sparrow.**—The English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*), as indicated by the number captured, has rapidly decreased in Lakewood, Ohio, since 1925, 31 adults being trapped in 1929 as compared with 152 trapped in 1925, or a decrease of 80 per cent. The cause apparently has been the decrease in horse drawn vehicles and the consequent lack of horse droppings in the streets. Where all deliveries were formerly made with the horse there is at present one horse drawn vehicle only coming near my feeding station daily. The surviving Sparrows are obviously those capable of adapting themselves to new food habits, though observations indicate an infiltration in the fall of young birds of this species from farm districts where a larger proportion survive. In Lakewood the English Sparrow has ceased to be a factor in the decrease of our native birds. In fact the coincident increase of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows and other small birds in open spaces in Lakewood and Cleveland is quite noticeable. The writer recently has found several instances where enthusiastic amateurs, in an effort to protect our native birds, have innocently been mistaking female White-crowned Sparrows, particularly the immature birds, for the alien English Sparrow. It would seem that in localities where this species is reduced about ninety per cent, further reduction with incidental danger to the native species, is not advisable. Of 182 adult and immature English Sparrows banded in