

Short-billed Marsh Wren in the Valley of Virginia.—The Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*) is apparently very rare in Virginia. Only three specimens have been taken in the Washington, D. C. region, none of them from Virginia. The only recent record from western Virginia that I have been able to find is from Montgomery County (E. A. Smyth, *The Auk*, XXIX, p. 526). Consequently I was surprised to find it not uncommon in one locality near Lexington, Virginia, in May, 1935. In a wet rye field near Cameron's Pond I found one on May 9; four on May 15; and two on May 20. I had very close views each time and noted the small size, streaks on the top of the head and absence of decided line over the eye. I am quite familiar with the Long-billed Marsh Wren. The birds were singing continually.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia*.

Hermit Thrushes Nesting in West Virginia.—On June 23, 1935, students and staff members of the Oglebay Park, Wheeling, W. Va., Nature Training School, while on their annual camping trip in the mountainous part of West Virginia, found two nests of the Eastern Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata faxoni*). Both were on an old fern-covered road bank in deep red spruce and northern hardwood forest, near Cheat Bridge, Randolph County, West Virginia, at elevations approximating 3,700 feet and 3,800 feet; and both contained young birds. The nests were photographed.

Indicative of the character of the Cheat Bridge region is the finding of the nests, by this group, of the Olive-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*), Veery (*Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*), Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*), and other northern forms. The Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa satrapa*), which seems to skip over a considerable territory in the southward extension of its nesting range, was found feeding young on Barton Knob, near Cheat Bridge, on June 25, 1935. The Eastern Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*), whose nesting range is given in the Fourth Edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' as extending southward to the mountains of Maryland, was found to be a common species in the vicinity of Cheat Bridge.—A. B. BROOKS, *Oglebay Park, W. Va.*

Mountain Bluebirds in Minnesota.—On April 5, 1935, along the east bank of the Mississippi River in Sherburne County about five miles south of St. Cloud, Hiemenz came upon a pair of Mountain Bluebirds (*Sialia currucoides*). He followed the male to get a closer view and then he also saw the female which was totally unlike the female Eastern Bluebird. The male was cerulean on the back, head, and wings. The wing tips were black which contrasted sharply with the blue when he sat with folded wings. The throat and breast were a grayish blue and the belly, white. The female was grayish brown on back and head. The throat was grayish buff and the belly, white. The rump was light azure blue and the wings showed light blue when in flight. The birds seemed much at home, their actions approximating those of the Eastern Bluebirds. They stayed close together and allowed a close approach, but were unusually silent, the only note uttered being a call note similar to, but perhaps a trifle harsher, than that of the Eastern Bluebird. He watched the birds for almost an hour and at last reluctantly left them after he was certain of their identity. As far as is known, this is the first record of this species having ever been encountered in Minnesota.

On April 7, 1935, Hiemenz with Friedrich and Voth set out to relocate the Mountain Bluebirds. The chances of finding them seemed very slight and we were really surprised when we came upon the pair about half a mile from where they had previously been seen. They were in a patch of scrub Bur Oaks. The male was very wary and would not allow a close approach but at last was collected with the female.

How the birds happened to be here is a mystery. This is far out of their range and a logical theory is that they were blown from their usual course by the dust storms of early spring, but to find a pair, evidently mated, seems to call for a better explanation. That they were still here on April 7, seems to point to the conclusion that they might have remained to nest.

Taverner in his 'Birds of Western Canada,' 1926, states that the Mountain Bluebird is extending its range and is found quite commonly as far east as central Manitoba.

The birds are on display in the museum of the State Teachers' College at St. Cloud, Minnesota.—NESTOR M. HIEMENZ, RICHARD D. VOTH, GEORGE W. FRIEDRICH, *State Teachers' College, St. Cloud, Minn.*

The Correct Name of the Spotted Flycatcher.—Since the rediscovery of the 'Adumbratiuncula' of Vroeg's Catalogue, 1764, Pallas's name *Motacilla striata*, proposed on page 3 of that work, has been in use for the Spotted Flycatcher. The combination *Muscicapa striata* (Pallas) Richmond, 1905,¹ however, is rendered invalid by the much earlier *Muscicapa striata* Forster, 1772,² which refers to the Black-poll Warbler. On this account the Spotted Flycatcher must again be known as *Muscicapa griseola* Linnaeus, 1766,³ which is the first available name. I am indebted to Mr. James L. Peters for advice on the nomenclatural point involved.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

The Occurrence of Sprague's Pipit in Michigan.—On June 21, 1935, while driving northeast from Lovells, Michigan, Louis W. Campbell, Bernard R. Campbell, and Milton B. Trautman noted a striking bird song which they could not recognize. In spite of a steady drizzle of rain they spent two hours trying to get a glimpse of the singing bird but were unsuccessful. On June 25 Trautman and Josselyn Van Tyne returned to the spot to continue the search.

On reaching the place we immediately heard the bird singing and, the weather being clear, we soon saw the bird singing high in the air. Two and a half hours of vain pursuit were ended by approaching darkness. Returning at five-thirty the next morning we continued our efforts to collect the bird and six hours later finally succeeded. It proved to be an adult male Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spraguei*) in breeding condition. It is now No. 84587 in the bird collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

On the three days it was observed the bird occupied a territory about a quarter of a mile square of barren "jack pine plain," sparsely covered with coarse grasses, sweet fern, and a few small pine and oak saplings. The territory adjoined the east side of the Lovells-Lewiston road, a mile and a half northeast of Lovells in Crawford County.

A remarkable characteristic of this bird was the persistence with which it sang. Some fifty song flights were noted during the three days it was observed. The shortest of these flights lasted about seven minutes and the longest was over thirty minutes in duration. The song was repeated at very regular intervals, averaging about six complete songs per minute. The greatest number of songs counted in one flight was one hundred fifty-eight. The best description we have seen of the flight song of Sprague's Pipit is that by W. J. Breckenridge in T. S. Roberts' 'Birds of Minnesota' (vol. 2, pp. 153, 1932). However, contrary to Dr. Roberts' opinion,

¹ Smiths. Misc. Coll., 47, pt. 3, p. 345.

² Philos. Trans., 62, art. 29, p. 406.

³ Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1, p. 328.