

sordida sordida (Swainson).—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California.*

Breeding range of the Ohio House Wren.—On July 4, 1938, I collected a House Wren on Meadow Mountain, four miles south of Bittering, Maryland, that proves to be *Troglodytes aëdon baldwini*, marking an extension of the previously known breeding range of this bird into that State. Probably this will prove to be the breeding form of the mountain area of western Maryland above two thousand feet elevation. Another Ohio House Wren was collected on the Blackwater River, eight miles south of Davis, West Virginia, on July 3, a region where this form was expected in view of an earlier specimen from Flanagans Hill in the Canaan Valley, a little farther south in the same county.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

The authority for the name of the Long-tailed Chat.—Hellmayr (*Cat. Birds Amer.*, 8: 447, 1935) has correctly shown that the name *Icteria virens auricollis* must supplant *I. v. longicauda* Lawrence as the name of the Long-tailed Chat. However, he gives Bonaparte as the authority, a procedure which is in error. As the present writer showed some years ago, the name should be credited to Lichtenstein and not to Bonaparte. Details of the citation in Lichtenstein will be found in 'Transactions' of the San Diego Society of Natural History, 7: 353-354, May 31, 1934. It may seem superfluous to repeat this citation but the frequent use of Bonaparte as the founder of the name *auricollis* by several recent authors has prompted the correction.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California.*

Southern Robin breeding in coastal South Carolina.—For several years there has been a noticeable extension in the range of the Southern Robin (*Turdus migratorius achrusterus*) from the Piedmont sections where it breeds abundantly, toward the coast region. It has passed the Fall Line which runs roughly, midway across the State, and a season or two ago, appeared as a nesting bird at Ellore, Orangeburg County, about seventy-five miles from the coast. This was the nearest breeding record to the coast yet known. During this past season, however, it has appeared almost on the coast itself.

On July 21, 1938, an adult was seen feeding young birds in the yard of Mrs. J. F. Bischoff of Summerville, South Carolina, a small town about twenty-five miles inland from Charleston. Mrs. Bischoff is a careful observer of birds, and she and her son watched the Robin feeding the young. Knowing its importance, she has communicated the record. This brings the bird virtually to the coast, certainly in the coastal strip, and extends the nesting range by nearly fifty miles from the previous seventy-five-mile distance from salt water.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Assoc. Audubon Societies, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Alta Mira Oriole in Texas—an addition to the A. O. U. 'Check-list.'—During the course of field work in southeastern Texas early in January, 1938, I spent several days at Brownsville, and while there took advantage of the opportunity to acquire at least a slight familiarity with the winter bird-life of the lower Rio Grande Valley. Among the birds collected then was a female oriole that, because of its large size and rather vivid plumage, suggested at once a bird of tropical origin. This specimen was later examined by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., and identified as the Alta Mira Oriole (*Icterus gularis tamaulipensis*), a bird ranging from Vera Cruz and Puebla to Tamaulipas,

and for which there is no previous record for the United States. The day it was collected, January 7, 1938, it was found feeding with a flock of Green Jays (*Xanthoura luxuosa glaucescens*) in rather thick woods a few miles north of Brownsville; it was restless and wary, and was approached only with difficulty.—THOMAS D. BURLEIGH, *U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, Gulfport, Mississippi.*

Summer Tanager in Nova Scotia.—Early in April, 1937, a report reached me from the west end of Wolfville to the effect that a "strange reddish bird" was seen about the home of my informant. Believing it to be nothing more unusual than a male Purple Finch, I dismissed the incident from my mind. On April 17, however, a similar report was received by telephone from the same vicinity and upon investigation I had the pleasure of seeing, for the first time, a beautiful male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) in life. I followed it about for half an hour or longer, as it flew leisurely from tree to tree, apparently in search of food. Its bright plumage stood out most vividly among the leafless branches and attracted the attention of a number of passers-by. On one occasion I saw it drop suddenly to the ground, where it pounced upon some large dark-colored beetle which it quickly carried to a limb upon the broad surface of which it was seen to peck viciously at its helpless victim. The bird stayed about that immediate locality for the remainder of the month, surviving a number of freezing nights and at least one snowfall of sufficient violence to leave the ground white for several days. This record is the third definite one for this species in Nova Scotia that my files contain. The others are: April 20, 1913, a male picked up dead in Yarmouth County; and October 10, 1929, a male picked up at Annapolis Royal in an emaciated condition. According to Mr. P. A. Taverner there are several old records for Nova Scotia scattered over many years, two of which were at Seal Island, Yarmouth County, prior to 1888.—R. W. TUFTS, *Wolfville, Nova Scotia.*

Two apparently overlooked names for North American birds.—Because of their publication in a work on cagebirds (Russ, Karl, 'Die fremdländischen Stubenvögel,' 1: 710 pp., 14 col. pls., 1879) two names proposed for towhees (*Pipilo*) have apparently escaped attention of American systematists. One is *Fringilla scapularis* Russ new name for *Fringilla oregona* Bell (*Pipilo arctica* Audubon, not of Swainson). Of this Russ says, "Since in previous descriptions of finches both of these synonyms are to be found I am compelled to select another Latin name" (p. 481). The second new name is *Fringilla bairdi* Russ for *Pyrgita arctica* Swainson (*Pipilo arcticus* Baird). In this instance Russ explains, "As several of the Ammersperlingen [*Fringilla* in broad sense] bear the synonym *arctica*, I give this species a new Latin name. In quest of a designation, first the elder author, Swainson, was considered but a *Fringilla swainsoni* already existing, I went on to the second author, Baird."

Localities mentioned in connection with the names are: for *scapularis*, "the Oregon and Washington region" and for *bairdi* "high plains of the upper Missouri." The first of these names pertains to *Pipilo maculatus oregonus* Bell (1852) of the present A. O. U. 'Check-list' and the second to *Pipilo maculatus arcticus* Swainson (1831).

Russ's 'compulsion' for making the new names arose from his very comprehensive treatment of genera. As he included so many forms in the genus *Fringilla*, it was no wonder that a few apparent homonyms came to light. According to present practice his names are unnecessary. In the genus *Pipilo* they are well antedated for the subspecies to which they refer and are straight synonyms of the currently used names.