

determine whether these birds breed here this coming summer.—HAROLD J. BRODRICK, *Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico*.

White-crowned Sparrow at Pensacola, Florida.—On October 16, 1938, an immature White-crowned Sparrow was watched for some time at Kupfrian's Park, an old race-course on the outskirts of Pensacola, and finally was collected. The specimen was presented to the U. S. Biological Survey, where it was subspecifically identified and referred to the eastern form, *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*. As far as I can find out, this is the only specimen of this species ever taken in Florida.

The history of the species in Florida is brief. Howell ('Florida Bird Life,' p. 469, 1932) lists only three sight records. Since that time, two other sight records have come to hand: a single bird in high plumage was present in the garden of Mrs. Andrew L. Whigham, at Century (forty miles north of Pensacola), from April 23 to 25, 1936, where it was seen by several observers (*Bird-lore*, 38: 308, 1936); and an immature bird was glimpsed by Miss Cordelia Arnold at Altamonte Springs Hotel, in Seminole County, on February 11, 1939 (*Florida Naturalist*, 12: 100, 106, 1939).—FRANCIS M. WESTON, 2006 E. Jordan St., Pensacola, Florida.

Birds eating tent caterpillars.—On May 20, 1935, I twice observed the Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens virens*, feeding upon American tent caterpillars, *Malacosoma americana*, about ten miles north of Indiana, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. During each observation, the individual warblers descended from hemlock growth at the woodland's edge to a grove of young wild black-cherry trees, *Prunus serotina*, where they tore open the nests and devoured the small larvae in some quantities. The larvae at this time were about three-quarters of an inch in length. On the morning of April 23, 1938, I again observed at close range the destruction of these caterpillars, this time by a Black-capped Chickadee, *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*, in a brush-grown field in Broome County, near Nanticoke, New York. When first seen, the chickadee was busily engaged in visiting a number of the newly started nests of the American tent caterpillar located in a nearby wild-apple tree, *Malus pumila*. Using an eight-power binocular at twenty feet, I observed the chickadee closely while it visited three caterpillar nests in succession. It would first tear open the web, then pick up the small worms (on this date about three-eighths of an inch long and a sixteenth of an inch in diameter) and devour them rapidly. After visits to three nests during my presence, it apparently had its fill and flew off. On examining these nests a conservative estimate showed that 75% of the contents of each had been eaten. Estimating an average of 70 to 100 worms in each (rough count in an untouched caterpillar nest) the chickadee must have consumed at least 170 tent caterpillars at one meal. The chickadee was apparently feeding before my approach, so that it had possibly eaten many more. Tent caterpillars are so tiny at this time of year that they are attractive prey for warblers and chickadees before noticeable destruction of foliage has begun. This suggests that these birds are especially important checks on tent caterpillars at a time that presages their more destructive development.—J. KENNETH TERRES, *Soil Conservation Service, Ithaca, New York*.

Notes from Virginia.—The birds noted below have been considered rare in this section of Virginia. The Black Rail, Pine Warbler and Dr. Smyth's Long-eared Owl are in the collection of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute.