

then fed on fishing worms, beetles, and raw meat until they were old enough to fly.

The soft chocolate underparts, the small size, the dark bill, the well defined white "V" from above the eyes, and the lack of ear tufts identified them as Saw-whets. When they were able to fly they were released.

I feel this is a legitimate second nesting record in Illinois for this owl.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, Quincy, Illinois.

**A Substitute Name for a Thrush, *Turdus*, of the West Indies.**—The name *Turdus nigrirostris* Lawrence (Ann. New York Acad. Sci., 1: 146 [in reprint, 147], June, 1878) proves to be preoccupied by *Turdus nigrirostris* Karelín (Trudy Sankt-Peterburgskago Obshchestva Ėstestvoispytatelei, 6: 288, 1875). For the bird of Saint Vincent, I propose *Turdus fumigatus bondi*, new name, in honor of James Bond, the well-known authority on West Indian ornithology.

Karelín's name has been ignored by such authors as Hartert and Steinbacher, but is not a *nomen nudum*; the accompanying brief description may be translated from the Russian as follows: "Similar to the Siberian [thrush], but distinguished by the lack of a white eye-brow. Arrives in flocks late in the autumn." Its type locality is "the territory of the Cossacks of the Ural," which, on modern maps, appears as the West Kazakhstan Province of the so-called Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic.

The "Siberian thrush" of the Russians is *Turdus sibiricus* Pallas, 1776, known to non-Russian ornithologists as a species breeding from Japan to central Siberia in two races, each of which has a very conspicuous white supercilium in the adult. One must wonder whether *Turdus nigrirostris* Karelín represents a little-known, but valid, resident form of western Siberia, or merely an exceptional specimen of one of the familiar races.—H. G. DEIGNAN, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

**The Discovery of Sprague's Pipit, *Anthus spragueii*.**—"The first specimen of this truly interesting Lark was procured by Mr. Sprague, another of my companions, who shot it on the 19th of June, 1843, near Fort Union, Upper Missouri." So said Audubon in 'The Birds of America' (Vol. 7: 334, 1844) where the bird that he called *Alauda Spragueii*, after his artist, Isaac Sprague, is described. That statement is generally accepted as fact and it is perpetuated in Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Wagtails, etc.' (1950). There are, however, three records that show it to be not literally true. One of these appears in Audubon's journal of his Missouri River expedition, published in 'Audubon and His Journals,' edited by Maria R. Audubon (1897) with notes by Elliott Coues, where, on page 41 of Volume 2, under date of June 19, 1843, we read, "Harris and Bell have returned, and, to my delight and utter astonishment, have brought two new birds: one a Lark, small and beautiful," etc. To this Coues's footnote is: "This is the first intimation we have of the discovery of the Missouri Titlark, which Audubon dedicated to Mr. Sprague under the name of *Alauda spragueii* . . . It is now well known as *Anthus (Neocorys) spraguei*." Just before this the journal had said, "Sprague has been drawing all day."

Although the journal as printed does not state it specifically (there is indication of an omission), Audubon must have decided at once to name the new "Lark" for Sprague because he had already named a sparrow and a vireo for Harris and Bell respectively, for on the next day Harris and Bell are out again and he is hoping they will bring more specimens of "Sprague's Lark." On June 22 Audubon and his companions heard the song of "the little new Lark that I have named after Sprague" but had not been able to discover its nest. On the 24th, however, the nest was found, and very appropriately by Sprague himself, who took the female and her five eggs. Thus Sprague had more than a merely honorary association with his "Lark,"

the bird we now know as Sprague's Pipit, though if we are to give credence to Audubon's journal, written at the time of its discovery, he was not the original discoverer.

Fortunately there are two other authorities which corroborate Audubon's journal record. One is Isaac Sprague's own diary for 1843, the manuscript of which has been presented to the Boston Athenaeum by his grandson Isaac Sprague, of Wellesley, Massachusetts, who, as well as the Athenaeum, has given me permission to quote from it. This diary says under date of June 19, 1843, "Messrs. Harris and Bell went out shooting and brought in . . . a small species of titlark which is probably new." And again, under date of June 23: "While out I watched one of the new titlarks for nearly an hour—as it sailed over my head high in the air—singing its simple notes at intervals of about 10 seconds, the song itself occupying about 5 seconds. While singing they remain nearly still moving their wings in a rapid manner like a little hawk, and in the intervals between they sweep around in an undulating manner closing the wings to the body like the goldfinch. 3 of these titlarks killed today." Sprague's last mention of his "titlark" is under date of June 24 and records the finding of the nest as follows: "Found the nest of the titlark and shot the female as she rose from it. It was built on the ground, in a small cavity so that the top of the nest was even with the surface and slightly shaded by a small tuft of grass. The eggs five in number are pale brown thickly spotted with darker."

Besides corroborating the account in Audubon's journal of the discovery of Sprague's Pipit, Sprague's own account, here, I believe, for the first time published, is interesting in itself, as I think the reader will agree.

The third piece of corroborative evidence is brought to my attention by the editor of 'The Auk.' It is in Phillips B. Street's paper 'The Edward Harris Collection of Birds' (Wilson Bull., 60: 167-84, 1948), which I had read at the time of its publication but had forgotten. There Harris's own diary is quoted as follows, under date of June 19, 1843: "As we returned home Bell and I fired together and shot a small bird which proves to be an entirely new *Anthus* or Titlark," and under date of June 24, "In the afternoon Bell and Mr. Audubon rode down to the Fort again and on their way killed more of the new Larks. Sprague was out and killed another, and what is of more consequence discovered its nest with 5 eggs," etc.

It is interesting to note that while Audubon spoke of the new bird as a Lark, both Sprague and Harris gave it the proper designation of Titlark, except that Harris, perhaps following Audubon, calls it a Lark in the second entry quoted.

Now the question arises whether science owes it to Audubon to follow his own statement in a book formally published by him, and keep on saying that Sprague's Pipit was named for its discoverer, or whether we should stick to what appears to be the cold fact as testified to by Audubon himself in his journal, by one of the actual discoverers, and by the man for whom the bird was named. Perhaps it is an ethical question more than a scientific one since there is no question of nomenclature or type locality involved. After all, a decision either way would not rock the foundations of either science or morals. Perhaps the problem has been faced before.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, 9 Francis Ave, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Further Evidence on the Refractory Period in the Reproductive Cycle of the Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia coronata*.**—In 1948 the results of three years of experimentation with light stimulation of Golden-crowned Sparrows were reported (Miller, Journ. Exper. Zool., 109: 1-11) which showed that a refractory period exists in this species during which artificial illumination is not able to induce recrudescence of the testes. This period occurs in the autumn from the time of