

ber 25, 1944; December 8, 1945; December 15, 1945; December 22, 1945; January 19, 1946; February 2, 1946. On December 22, 1945, a female was shot near Slaterville, but was not preserved. Behle (*op. cit.*:84) listed this species only as a summer resident.

Passerella iliaca. Fox Sparrow. One was seen on February 6, 1944, near Plain City; four on February 20, 1944, at Perry, Box Elder County; one on May 10, 1944, and one on December 25, 1944, near Bonneville Park; one on April 6, 1945, near Harrisville; four on September 22, 1945, on Mount Eyrie (one taken); five on September 29, 1945, on Mount Eyrie (one taken); one near Marriotte on February 2, 1946. These transient and winter records, mostly from lowland thickets, presumably represent more than one race, but the two September specimens, from 7100 and 8000 feet, are *P. i. schistacea*.—J. DAN WEBSTER, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, October 15, 1946*.

Occurrence of Black Rail in San Francisco.—So little is known regarding the status of the Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) in the San Francisco Bay region, outside of the fall and mid-winter months, that the following incidents seem worth recording. On April 2, 1945, Mr. Raymond Smith of the California Academy of Sciences discovered the crushed remains of a Black Rail on the drive next to the Shakespeare Garden in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. It was found about noon and apparently had been run over by an automobile the previous night. Although readily recognizable for purposes of identification, it was not in suitable condition for preservation. In view of the time of year and unusual locality of occurrence, this individual was thought perhaps to have been a migrant en route south.

Another Black Rail was brought to the California Academy of Sciences on August 9, 1945, by William Miller. This rail was alive at the time, having been captured by a cat at about 10:30 p.m. the previous night at Roosevelt Way and Castro Street in San Francisco. Efforts to induce the bird to eat were unsuccessful. Later dissection showed it to have been suffering from internal injuries, probably received from the cat. It was preserved, however, as a study skin (C.A.S. no. 58550) and proved to be an immature female. The bill is not fully grown, measuring only 12 mm. along the culmen. In plumage it conforms to the description of the juvenal of the species given by Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. no. 135, 1926:329). Furthermore, it is the only specimen, out of a total of 63 skins of the Black Rail from California in the Academy collection, that is not in seemingly adult plumage.

There are a few summer records for this species in central California (see Bent, *op. cit.*; Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* no. 27, 1944:130ff.; Stoner, *Condor*, 47, 1945:81). These indicate that Black Rails sometimes remain in this region during the reproductive period, although they may not be breeding individuals. The presence of a juvenile, however, such as was found in San Francisco on August 9, 1945, is significant. It is unlikely that such an immature bird would have wandered far from the locality in which it was hatched. While members of this species have not been discovered nesting outside of San Diego and San Bernardino counties, the possibility exists that small numbers may breed in the San Francisco Bay region. Black Rails are notably elusive and extremely difficult to see except in winter when high tides flood the salt marshes, thus submerging the dense growths of pickle-weed (*Salicornia*) which they inhabit, and force the birds into less secluded situations. A small summering population, therefore, might easily escape detection.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, August 22, 1946*.

Chestnut-sided Warbler in Marin County, California.—On September 24, 1946, we captured in one of our water traps at Manor, Marin County, California, an immature Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). This bird was not taken in the trap next to the aviary of American warblers as were the Tennessee Warblers (*Vermivora peregrina*) and the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) of previous record, but entered a trap located nearest to shrubbery bordering a creek which bisects our grounds.

Neither Mrs. Kinsey nor the writer was familiar with this eastern species, and considerable difficulty was experienced in our first efforts properly to identify it. Since this individual was in immature plumage and lacking the chestnut side patches of the adult, we found it no easy task to run down the secondary characteristics of general coloration, eye ring, and wing bars, all or part of which are applicable to so many other warblers. Moreover, *pensylvanica* has a "big-eyed" appearance, not unlike that of vireos, a feature we have never noted before in any of the warblers with which we have worked. Identification was subsequently confirmed by comparison with skins in the California Academy of Sciences.

The captive Chestnut-sided Warbler has been banded and introduced to artificial food. It will be held over winter in our large, heated shelter until spring, when it will be released in the main warbler aviary. Color characteristics should, by that time, be sufficiently developed so as to enable us to determine sex. The only previous Californian record of this species, apparently, is that from Sherwood,