

Avocets in Alabama.—On October 15, 1949, Thomas A. Imhof, James Doubles, William E. Jernigan, and Atkeson were checking on migrating shore birds on the western part of the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge, located in the Tennessee Valley of northern Alabama, includes many acres of mud flats, which are used by various species of shore birds. In the late afternoon, while the party was in the Whitesides vicinity of the refuge in Limestone County about two miles north of Decatur, Imhof noted a single Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) feeding with a flock of Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*). All members of the party observed the Avocet.

A close check failed to reveal any previous Avocet records for Alabama and it was considered advisable to collect the bird to verify the record. This was done by Ernest Byford on October 22, 1949, and the specimen is now in the Washington collection of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On November 7, 1950, John H. Sutherlin and Henry H. Grammer noted a flock of ten Avocets on a mud flat along the southeastern shore of Garth Slough, in Morgan County, ten miles east of Decatur. The birds were observed at close range and with binoculars. On November 1, 1951, Grammer and both authors observed two Avocets in the same locality.

The occurrence of the Avocet in Alabama in each of three consecutive autumns indicates that the species may be an uncommon, but possibly a regular, fall migrant in northern Alabama.—DAVID C. HULSE AND THOMAS Z. ATKESON, *Box 1643, Decatur, Alabama, April 22, 1952.*

European Tree Sparrow extending its range in United States.—The European Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) has been included in the state lists of Missouri and Illinois and recent books have described it as localized about St. Louis, with a southern migratory trend into the Horseshoe and Reelfoot Lake areas of southern Illinois and western Tennessee. In 1949, I found a pair of European Tree Sparrows nesting behind a rain pipe on the Hannibal, Missouri, high school, 100 miles north of St. Louis. In 1950, a pair was recorded nesting at Hull, Illinois, 10 miles east of Hannibal. On June 6, 1951, Doctor James W. Chapman, of Jacksonville, Illinois, and I drove around Lake Mauvaisterre south and east of Jacksonville where we located a colony of at least eight pairs of European Tree Sparrows living in holes in soft maple trees about the lake. I believe this is the easternmost and northernmost record to date. Seemingly, the species is extending its range northward.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois, June 21, 1952.*

Chestnut-collared Longspur: an addition to the Louisiana list.—On the morning of March 23, 1952, while crossing a small airfield at Gilliam, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, about 23 miles north of Shreveport, I flushed a flock of six birds. As they bounded through the air, flashing white outer tail-feathers, they uttered a double call-note unlike any with which I was familiar. I approached close enough to obtain a good view of the birds on the ground. One of the six was a male sufficiently distinctive in plumage for me to identify it as a Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). The others appeared to be females of the same species. I returned in the afternoon and, with the assistance of John P. Everett, succeeded in obtaining a specimen which is now in the collection of the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University. This species was last seen on March 30, when I noted a flock of five in the same area. This apparently was a different group as none was in the spring plumage of the male.

Chestnut-collared Longspurs were also found in a pasture at Wallace Lake Dam, 36 miles south-southeast of Gilliam, on March 25 and 26, 1952, by Mrs. H. C. Hearne. I observed a flock of nine birds there on March 27, and five on March 29. None could be found on April 1.

The Chestnut-collared Longspur has not previously been recorded in Louisiana. While it seems unlikely that the species is of regular occurrence here, it should be noted that neither of the areas in which it was found has ever been visited previously during spring migration by an ornithologist.—HORACE H. JETER, 4534 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana, April 21, 1952.

Unusual behavior of Tufted Titmice.—On the afternoon of January 25, 1951, while looking for birds in a deciduous woods not far from Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, I squeaked up five Tufted Titmice (*Parus bicolor*). I noticed that four of the five, in flying from tree to tree toward me, kept their wings and tails spread as they alighted, holding this rather extraordinary pose from five to eight seconds. Each time as they flew into a new tree they repeated the procedure. The fifth bird, although scolding and flying along with the others, did not put on the spread-wing act. When I stopped squeaking the birds stopped their spread-wing posing, though they continued to fly from tree to tree about me. I have read no other reports of this behavior in Tufted Titmice, nor have I previously seen this behavior in over 20 years of bird-watching.—CHARLES R. GOSLIN, 726 King St., Lancaster, Ohio, January 31, 1951.

Pleistocene birds from Haile, Florida.—Vertebrate fossil remains occur in a fresh water deposit in a limestone quarry in Section 24, T 9 S, R 18 E, a little south of the village of Haile, and about four miles northeast of the town of Newberry, Alachua County, Florida. The altitude of the railroad station at Newberry is 83.5 feet. The fossil locality thus lies between the Wicomico (100 feet elevation) and Penholoway (70 feet) terraces of the Sangamon Interglacial Stage of the Pleistocene, as outlined by Cooke (1936. *Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, 21 (21):503-589).

The stratigraphy is as follows:

5. 6 inches: surface layer of dark brown sand
4. 1½ feet: consolidated dark gray sand with charcoal
3. 8 feet: yellowish brown sand
2. 10 feet: bluish or yellowish clay with lenses of fresh water shells
1. White marine sand (Penholoway?).

Strata 2 and 3 both contain avian fossils. All of the birds identified occur in the county today, although the Mallard is present only as a winter visitant. One species had not previously been recorded in a fossil state, and two others were not known from Florida as fossils.

Podilymbus podiceps.—The Pied-billed Grebe is represented by the distal end of a right tibiotarsus and the proximal end of a left ulna, both pinkish brown in color. It has been previously reported from two other Pleistocene localities in Florida (Wetmore, 1931. *Smiths. Misc. Coll.*, 85 (2):12-13), as well as from other parts of North and South America.

Guara alba.—Cervical vertebra, reddish brown in color; collected by Jon L. Herring. The only previous record of the White Ibis as a fossil is that reported by Wetmore (*op. cit.*: 18) from Florida.