ported by Cockrum (Wilson Bull. 64:149, 1952) and Storer (Wilson Bull. 66:143–144, 1954) identified a hybrid Clay-colored Sparrow × Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) collected by A. D. Tinker in Michigan, where several species of *Spizella* are regular breeders.

Between 1960 and 1975, mixed nesting pairs comprising Clay-colored Sparrows and either Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*), or Chipping Sparrows, have been recorded 3 times in New York State, where the Clay-colored Sparrow has only recently begun to breed (Bull, The Birds of New York State, Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1974). Two of the reports involve a nesting of a Chipping Sparrow and a Clay-colored Sparrow pair near Ithaca, Tompkins Co., in June 1960 (McIlroy, Kingbird 11:7–10, 1961) and a Clay-colored Sparrow mated to a Field Sparrow in June 1974 near Millbrook, Dutchess Co. (Finch and Smart, Kingbird 24:211, 1974; Bull, Supplement to Birds of New York State, Wilkin's/Printers, Cortland, New York, 1976).

The third instance mentioned above occurred in 1972 and involved a pair of Field Sparrows and a male Clay-colored Sparrow nesting at the edge of a 9.3-ha Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) plantation just southeast of Foster Lake, 4 km WSW of Alfred, Allegany Co. I was conducting a breeding bird census there for the fourth consecutive year (for a detailed description of the area see Brooks, Audubon Field Notes 23:743–744, 1969). There was 1 territorial male Clay-colored Sparrow in this plantation in the summers of 1970 and 1971 and there were 2 territorial males there in 1972. At the same time this area had 26 territorial male Chipping Sparrows in 1970, 15 in 1971 and 23 in 1972. There were 6 Field Sparrows in 1970, 7 in 1971 and 9 in 1972. A pair of Clay-colored Sparrows had nested successfully in 1971, and an unsuccessful nesting had occurred in June 1972.

The nest of the mixed trio, discovered by Dr. Harold Axtell on 5 July at 14:00 EDT, was 15 cm up in a clump of goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) amidst young choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), about 1 m from a row of Scotch pine and spruce (*Picea* sp.). By 15:00 the first egg had hatched. On 6 July 3 eggs had hatched, while 1 (infertile) egg remained. The nest was studied for up to 3 h daily from 5 July until 15 July from a partly hidden vantage point nearby. On 15 July, 3 newly-fledged young were being fed by adults of both species in a nearby choke cherry. At this time we could discern no field marks suggesting that the young were anything but Field Sparrows.

The nesting clearly involved 2 adult Field Sparrows and a male Clay-colored Sparrow. The 2 birds doing most of the incubating, brooding and feeding of the young were 1 Field Sparrow (judged to be the female) and the male Clay-colored Sparrow. No evidence of agonistic behavior among the adult birds was ever seen. The male Clay-colored Sparrow, of apparent normal plumage, sang both the typical territorial song of a Clay-colored Sparrow and also a deep, buzzy—but seemingly otherwise typical—territorial song of a Chipping Sparrow. I was unable to capture any of the young for study of possible hybrid characteristics. No Clay-colored Sparrows have been found in this plantation in subsequent years of censusing. I wish to thank Harold Axtell, Lou Burton, Clarence Klingensmith and Gordon Ogden for their observations and assistance.—ELIZABETH W. BROOKS, *1435 Waterwells Road, Alfred Station, New York 14803.* *Accepted 15 June 1979.*

Wilson Bull., 92(2), 1980, pp. 265–266

Cory's Shearwater off the South Carolina coast.—On 28 July 1973, my ornithology class and I observed 2 Cory's Shearwaters (*Puffinus diomedea*) on the Atlantic Ocean about 15 km east of Charleston, South Carolina. I collected 1 of the birds, which proved to be a female of the Mediterranean race (*P. d. diomedea*). It had an exposed culmen of 50 mm, a bill depth of 16 mm and a wing length (chord) of 343 mm with about 3 mm of the tip missing.

The white in the underwing extended from 50 mm distally from the shoulder until it became dark for the distal 100 mm. The bird was prepared as a study skin (Charleston Mus. No. CB 2) and sent to George E. Watson who confirmed the subspecific identification (Watson, pers. comm.; 16 August 1973).

The bird showed molt well underway, although the extent of molt in the primaries and tail was too ill-defined to describe. The extensive molt, and the fact that the bird was far from its breeding grounds, led Watson to conclude that this was a young, prebreeding female, of indeterminate age because the age of first breeding is unknown in this species. Usually breeding adults in the Mediterranean would be feeding small young in late July and would begin to molt in early fall (Watson, pers. comm.; 16 August 1973, 20 April 1976).

The Mediterrean race has been reported from only 2 North American locations: 5 specimens in 3 different years off Long Island, New York, and 4 birds off the Florida Keys (Murphy, Auk 39:58–60, 1922; Murphy, Serial Atlas of the Marine Environment: Distribution of North Atlantic Birds, Am. Geogr. Soc. 1967; Bull, Birds of New York, Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1974:60). The present record suggests that this species may be more widely distributed in the western Atlantic than previous records indicate. A systematic examination of collections from North American waters should be made to delineate the distribution of this subspecies.

That the specimen was an immature bird supports the hypothesis that birds summering in the western Atlantic are prebreeders (Bourne, p. 157 *in* Handbook of N. A. Birds, Vol. 1, Palmer, ed., Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 1962). Recent observations of Cory's Shearwaters during June–July off South Carolina (P. Laurie, pers. comm.) indicate that the species is more common in this area than was earlier thought (Sprunt and Chamberlain, South Carolina Bird Life, Univ. South Carolina Press, Columbia, South Carolina, 1970:63).

I wish to thank George E. Watson for his identification and comments on the note, and E. Burnham Chamberlain for providing information from The Charleston Museum. The boat trip was funded by the Department of Biology at The Citadel. This note was prepared while I held a grant from the Charleston Cultural, Scientific and Educational Foundation.—DENNIS M. FORSYTHE, *Dept. Zoology, Univ. Aberdeen, Scotland.* (Present address: *Dept. Biology, The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina 29409.*) *Accepted 2 Apr. 1979.*

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The use of measurements in sexing Common Murres from Newfoundland.—The Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) is a widely distributed species that shows substantial geographic variation based on coloration (Salomonsen, The Atlantic Alcidae, Göteborgs Kungl. Vetenskaps=och Vitterhets=Samhälles Handlingar, Sjätte Foljden, Ser. B., Band 3, No. 5, 1944) and measurements (Tuck, The Murres, Can. Wildl. Serv. Monogr. No. 1, 1961; Witherby, H. F., Jourdain, F. C. R., Ticehurst, N. F. and B. W. Tucker, Handbook of British Birds, Vol. V, H. F. and A. Witherby, London, England, 1965). The subspecies occurring in Newfoundland is *U. aalge aalge* (see Tuck 1961). When studying the breeding biology of any species, the ability of investigators to distinguish between adult males and females obviously gives a more complete picture of the roles played by each sex. When a breeding biology and behavioral study of Common Murres was started in 1977 in Newfoundland, efforts were made (using data collected during an earlier study of the helminth parasites of auks conducted there [Threlfall, Can. J. Zool. 49:461–466, 1971]) to determine whether or not the murres could be sexed using only meristic characters. Birkhead (Breeding Ecology and Survival of Guillemots (*Uria aalge*), Ph.D. thesis, Oxford Univ., Oxford, England, 1976) was