

cold front had resulted in a low temperature of 55 F the night before this bird was seen.

This bird appears to be a rare fall migrant in the mountains of western North Carolina. No other fall records of the Wilson's Warbler in this area have been published since the 22-25 September 1894 record in Brimley's 1940 list of "The Birds of Buncombe County" (*Chat*, 4:21-36). This warbler was also recorded by Bob Ruiz in Swannanoa, N.C., 25 September 1969 in an unpublished observation. Arthur Stupka, in *Notes on the Birds of Great Smoky Mountains National Park* (1963), lists only four fall records - 31 August 1941, 11 September 1944, 18 September 1934, and 2 October 1939. Three of these records were at the Park Headquarters in Tennessee and one at Deep Creek.

In view of these isolated records, further field studies are needed to determine the status of this bird in the mountain region of the Carolinas.

### **Clutch of Unusually Large Eggs Laid by Rufous-sided Towhee**

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On 15 June 1971 I discovered a banded female Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) incubating a clutch of three unusually large eggs in a ground-level nest concealed beneath a bush beside the driveway to my home near Zebulon, Wake County, N.C. The eggs were of normal color for the species, and two were normal in shape though larger than average. The largest egg was somewhat constricted near the middle much like a peanut shell with two seeds, one slightly larger than the other. At its greatest dimensions this egg measured 35.0 x 16.0 mm. The other two eggs were 27.5 x 18.0 mm and 24.5 x 18.0 mm. Two extremely large *P. p. erythrophthalmus* eggs described in Bent's *Life Histories* (1968) measured 25.7 x 18.3 mm and 24.4 x 19.3 mm. Measurements of 50 eggs averaged 23.1 x 17.0 mm.

On 21 June the smallest egg in the clutch had hatched, and the nest contained one chick and two eggs through 25 June. The morning of 26 June I found the eggs punctured and both eggs and chick being devoured by tiny red ants that completely covered the contents of the nest.

A few days later I saw the banded female carrying nesting material toward a site about 150 feet from the first nest, but I did not locate the second nest until 3 August when it contained three well feathered chicks, which left the nest the next day.

### **A Le Conte's Sparrow Record for Moore County, N.C.**

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On 30 April 1972, while conducting the annual Southern Pines Spring Bird Count, Sandra Bishop, Dana Taylor, and the authors observed a Le Conte's Sparrow (*Passer-herbulus caudacutus*). The bird was located in a large complex of interconnecting pastures at Little River Farm, near Whispering Pines in Moore County, N.C. Two creeks run through the pastures, and, except in times of drought, water stands in a number of places. In the drier areas upland grasses, especially broomsedge (*Andropogon* sp.), are prevalent, and in the wetter portions a variety of sedges and rushes are dominant.