

by Hurricane Ginger during the first week of October 1971, as was the immature Bridled Tern (first state specimen) found at Oregon Inlet by David Hughes and Gary Williamson on 3 October 1971 (*American Birds*, 26:48, 1972). Roxie C. Laybourne kindly identified the remains of the Bridled Tern now deposited in the National Museum of Natural History (USNM #565914).

## Traill's Flycatchers Nesting at Raleigh, N.C.

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During the summer of 1971 we found a small population of Traill's Flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii*) near Lake Raleigh in Wake County, N.C. (*Chat*, 35:113). However, no evidence of nesting was found. Traill's Flycatchers returned to the same area in 1972, and a careful and intensive study of these birds by several Raleigh birders resulted in the discovery of one and possibly two nests.

In 1972 the first Traill's Flycatcher at Lake Raleigh was seen and heard singing on 20 May, but a silent *Empidonax* flycatcher on 15 May in a nearby thicket was probably a Traill's. Chris Marsh visited this area on 29 May and observed at least three singing males and a female. On 11 June he and Bill Brown found a nest of this species in an elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) about 6½ feet from the ground. Four eggs were in the nest, which was made primarily of fine grasses. The general habitat around the nest site was a low, open bushy thicket with a small cattail marsh nearby.

On 18 June Edmund LeGrand found a mass of nest material about 10 feet up in a red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) on the edge of the thicket about 50 yards from the first nest. He suspected this was the beginnings of a nest because a pair of adult Traill's Flycatchers were nervously flitting around the bush. The same day Harry LeGrand visited the first nest and found that pair of adults and their four eggs.

Harry LeGrand visited the area on 30 June and observed both pairs of adults. At least two nearly-fledged young were present in the first nest. The second nest could not be located and may have been washed away by heavy rains. Both authors visited the thicket on 8 and 9 July, but we were unable to find the second nest again or the birds associated with it. On these dates the first nest was empty but intact. Although no young birds were seen out of the nest, it is believed that at least one fledged because the adults seemed disturbed when we approached the nest and refused to leave the immediate area.

Raleigh is the second locality in North Carolina where Traill's Flycatchers have been found nesting, the other location being North Wilkesboro (*Chat*, 29:88). Thus the breeding range of this species ("fitz-bew" form) has been extended about 100 miles to the southeast.

## Olive-sided Flycatcher at Montreat, N.C.

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28 September 1972

An Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis borealis*) was observed 19 August 1972 in Montreat, N.C., at an altitude of 2,900 feet. This is the first published record of this species in Buncombe County since John S. Cairns included it in his paper, "The Summer Birds of Buncombe County, North Carolina" in *Orn. and Ool.* February 1889. In this paper he noted "but a few specimens; one on Craggy Mountain and one shot half way up the Black Mountain." (Cairns' observations were later included in a list of Birds of Buncombe County by Brimley in 1940.) The altitudes of both of Cairns' locations exceed 3,500 feet with portions of the Craggy range exceeding 5,000 feet. The altitude

of this Montreat bird at 2,900 feet was significantly lower. The only other August observation of this bird was recorded by Wendell Smith at North Wilkesboro 17 August 1968 (*Chat*, 33:28).

The Olive-sided Flycatcher observed in Montreat was perched in the top of a dead oak tree on a mountainside. It remained for 20 minutes during which time it made two forays for food returning to the same branch each time, but facing in opposite directions so that all sides could be clearly observed through binoculars. While it preened, the fluffy white feathers above the flanks were exposed as large white patches on both sides above the wing secondaries. The olive sides, separated by a white line continuous with the white throat, were clearly visible. Photographs taken through a 600mm lens were submitted for verification.

[Dept. Ed.—This editor concurs with the author on the identity of this bird from the photograph submitted, which, however, is not suitable for printing.]

### **Sprague's Pipit at Raleigh, N.C.**

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CHRIS MARSH, ROBERT SMALL, and ROBERT DOWNS

15 September 1972

To the best of our knowledge, there is only one published record of Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) for North Carolina. This was a sight record by George A. Smith at Chapel Hill, 9 May 1959 (*Chat*, 23:89). We report here a second North Carolina sight record on 18 March 1972 at Greenview Dairy Farm in Wake County, about 8 miles S of Raleigh.

The bird was alone, although several Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) and Water Pipits (*A. spinoletta*) are commonly seen in winter in the area where it was found. It is noteworthy that the birds observed by Norris in South Carolina (*Chat*, 21:25) were also found in habitat occupied by Savannah Sparrows. The Greenview site consists of a dairy pasture adjoining a shallow marsh at the head of a man-made pond about 10 acres in extent. The pasture was rather damp near the marsh in early spring, and it was in this area that the bird was first noticed. It appeared rather larger than a Savannah Sparrow, and the walking gait along with the thin bill indicated to us that the bird was unusual. These factors together with the white outermost tail feathers, the lightness in color of the bill at the base, the yellowish-orange legs, and the streaked plumage (most noticeable on the back) without any buffy or greenish-gray wash led us to the conclusion that the bird was a Sprague's Pipit, rather than the more common Water Pipit. Field marks were checked at leisure from Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* and *Birds of North America* by Robbins et al. Binoculars and a Balscope Sr. telescope were used at a distance of about 30 yards. The day was clear with perfect light conditions for studying the bird. During the 20-minute period of observation, the bird did not appear afraid. Finally we flushed it, whereupon it gave a call similar to, but lower pitched and slower than, that of the Water Pipit. It flew out of sight in a northerly direction and was not seen again despite a search later the same day.

### **Mountain Fall Record of Wilson's Warbler at Montreat, N.C.**

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5 October 1972

A Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) was observed 29 August 1972 at an altitude of 3,000 feet in Montreat, N.C. The bird was a male in full breeding plumage with a distinct nearly rectangular black cap behind a yellow forehead. Observation was made at a distance of 15 feet as the bird appeared in a dogwood near a window-ledge bird feeder. A