

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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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

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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2 July 1972

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.