

VERMILION FLYCATCHER ADDED TO ALABAMA LIST

The first Alabama record of the Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), appearing in *Audubon Field Notes* (vol. 3, p. 21), was not specifically assigned to that State, but the locality was referred to as "20 miles west of Pensacola." The record was made by Francis M. Weston, of Pensacola, on November 6, 1948. In a recent communication Weston states that this bird, a male, was at a dairy pond beside the Pensacola highway two miles east of Elberta. Three other observers who were with Weston concurred in the identification.

A second State record of this distinctive species was made recently by M. H. Fisher, who has suggested that I submit it for publication. This individual, an adult male, was near the picnic area of the Gulf State Park east of Gulf Shores, "around the middle of January," 1954. Fisher has a broad background in field ornithology, is familiar with the present species in Mexico, and displays all-around competence in the field of identification of birds. These two records are in line with the general increase of this flycatcher in the Southeast in recent years.—Henry M. Stevenson, Department of Zoology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

NOTES ON CLARKE COUNTY MIGRANTS

Throughout the winter months my wife and I maintain three separate feeding stations for the birds. One is on a ledge, just outside a dining room window, one is a shallow box suspended from a horizontal pecan limb and only a few feet from the window, and the third is a plot of ground. They are so aligned that we can watch all three from our table.

The one hanging from the pecan limb is kept well supplied with pecan nuts which I first smash with a brick. One noon in the past midwinter my wife excitedly called for me to come to the window—that there was a new bird on the box. Sure enough there was one I had never seen before. His head and body were black and orange with conspicuous white splotches on the wings. I looked him over carefully at close range as he ate his fill of the pecan meats. His size and shape were those of an oriole, so I turned to the orioles in my "Birds of America."

The only description that seemed to fit at all was that of Bullock's oriole, a Western species, and it fit perfectly. I wrote Dr. Arthur A. Allen at Cornell of what I had seen and in time he replied that it probably was a Bullock Oriole—that they had been seen as far east as Thomasville, Georgia, and that one was then wintering in Massachusetts.

So far as I know, this one visit was the only one made to my feeding station.

I had another experience this spring which gave me quite a thrill. On two different mornings I heard a hermit thrush sing. I was out turkey hunting the latter part of March and the weather was unusually warm for that time of year. The first time I heard the song the bird sang only briefly, which left me in doubt, but two or three mornings later I was back in the same vicinity and this time he gave me quite a concert. I didn't see the bird but I know from my recordings of bird songs that it was the hermit thrush doing the singing.

As a matter of fact, there would be nothing unusual about this. Probably I had heard it before but it failed to register, as I had never had the opportunity of hearing the recorded song of the bird until recently. During periods of migration in the spring I have seen and heard sing the rose breasted grosbeak, the Baltimore oriole, the scarlet tanager, the robin, and others. So if the stirrings of romance cause these birds to break into song, there is no reason why the hermit thrush shouldn't be similarly stirred.—George A. Carleton, Grove Hill, Alabama.