

FIELD NOTES

Clay-colored Sparrow near Tupper Lake Village in the Adirondacks: On the evening of July 5, 1962, my wife and I were returning along the Pitchfork Pond road toward the town of Tupper Lake in the Adirondacks, when we stopped our car by an abandoned golf course for a photograph of the distant mountains. As we stopped, an unfamiliar song was heard consisting of five to seven, usually seven, flat penetrating insect-like buzzes, all on one pitch. Walking across the grassy field which had recently been planted with young pines, I found a Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella Pallida*) singing from the outer branches of an open grown spruce. The unmarked breast, pale median stripe, grey nape and well outlined dark cheek-patch were all well seen. The bird sang repeatedly, but at no time that evening or the following day did we see any female of the species. The bird did not permit close approach, flushed often and sang from a number of perches.

Although we were taken aback by this mid-western sparrow it was not without precedent as a summering bird in this area since Miss Amstutz reported a singing male in June and July of 1956 in the Tupper Lake area about three miles from the above mentioned location. (*Kingbird* VI (4):117). In addition, Ralph Friedman whose property lies along the Jordan River, north of Tupper Lake called to report a male and a female in his area, July 8th. No nesting data mentioned.

The possibility that this species may be breeding in the area certainly bears further investigation. The terrain here greatly resembles the bird's breeding habitats in Wisconsin and Michigan. The field in which the Clay-colored was found contained at least seven other sparrow species including Vesper, Field, Savannah and Chipping. Then again, the potential "sparrow fields" are not intensively covered because of the size of the Northern Adirondacks and the lack of observers. The three observations of this species mentioned here were quite casual. Miss Amstutz's above mentioned location (*Kingbird* VI (4):117). In addition, Ralph Friedman where he vacations, and my own, only, because of a penchant for recording mountain scenery and the distinctive song of the Clay-colored Sparrow.

A more intensive approach by interested birders may prove the species is extending its range eastward.

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Attention is called to another record of the Clay-colored Sparrow in New York State which is fully described by Mrs. Malcolm McIlroy in her article, "Possible Hybridization between a Clay-colored Sparrow and a Chipping Sparrow at Ithaca" (*Kingbird* XI (1):7). It may be as Mr. Cohen suggests that this species may be in similar areas of New York State which are not now covered by intensive field work. — Ed.

Evidence of Nesting of the Tufted Titmouse in Rensselaer County: For several years the Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) has been moving northward in New York State. The progress of this invasion has been reviewed by Eaton (*Kingbird*, IX(2):59-62) and the spread of this species has continued since his paper appeared.

An interesting aspect of this invasion, however, is that few breeding records have been obtained in areas where the titmouse is common as a winter bird at feeding stations. The first record of which I have knowledge of a nesting of this species in the upper Hudson valley occurred in 1961.

Mrs. Ethel M. Cornwell, of Troy, Rensselaer County, has had titmice at her feeders through several winters, and has become very familiar with the species. In August, 1961, two adult titmice appeared at her feeder with four young. At their first appearance the young were barely able to fly, so that the nest must have been nearby. The six birds remained regular attendants at the feeder until the young were fully independent. The record came to my attention as a result of my position as a columnist on birds for the Albany Knickerbocker News. I am grateful