

is below the 40th parallel, North Latitude, and though I do not assert that they always summer here, I do maintain that they did during 1907.—
RICHARD C. HARLOW, *Edge Hill, Pa.*

The Savanna Sparrow Breeding in Detroit and Hamtramck Village, Michigan.—One especial ornithological feature of the season 1907 was the appearance of Savanna Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*) as summer residents on territory not previously occupied by them. Prior to 1906 this sparrow was not known to breed in the county but that season I located a small colony in the village of Grosse Pointe Farms and established a positive breeding record by securing a young bird not yet able to fly well (Auk, XXIV, p. 98). The grounds extending northerly from this colony to the county line and southerly into the city of Detroit were carefully explored without result, but in 1907 this sparrow was common in all suitable places throughout this entire territory. In late May, 1906, I spent considerable time on some large commons in the eastern part of the city and carefully noted all birds, but no Savannas were present. I was again on this commons May 28, 1907, and found them all over it; six males in song being counted while standing at one point. During the noon hour I watched a female to her nest containing four slightly incubated eggs. This was about fifty yards inside the city limits on P. C. 644. In June, 1906, I frequently walked the length of a strip of meadow bordering the Detroit River in River Rouge Village and saw only Vesper Sparrows, but June 3, 1907, six pairs of Savanna Sparrows were present and frequently seen later; and thus it was with portions of Hamtramck, Springwells and Ecorse Townships. The birds were also found in many places not visited in 1906. July 30, 1907, I found this species common and in full song on Section 6, Monguagon Twp.; the southernmost point I reached during the summer. It is thus evident that the breeding range of this sparrow in numbers was extended southward in 1907—a phenomenon possibly explained by the abnormal weather conditions. I have no doubt that isolated pairs frequently nested here in former years and were overlooked. I have substantial proof of this in the possession of a set of five fresh eggs taken by Mr. Herbert H. Spicer, May 28, 1902, in $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 39, Hamtramck Village. The territory, over which the Savanna Sparrow was a summer resident in 1907, extended from the shore of Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River inland about three miles, and from the north county line southerly a distance of twenty-five miles to Section 6, Monguagon Twp., and probably further. At a few points in Gratiot and Springwells Twps., Highland Park, etc., the birds were noted from one to three miles further inland.—J. CLAIRE WOOD, *Detroit, Mich.*

The Case of *Hortulanus Vieillot*.—In my recent paper on the 'Types of Genera of North American Birds,'¹ I took the ground (*l. c.*, p. 23, footnote)

¹ A List of the Genera and Subgenera of North American Birds, with their Types, according to Article 30 of the International Code of Zoölogical Nomenclature. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXIV, pp. 1–50, December 26, 1907.

that *Hortulanus* Vieillot, 1807, had no standing under the new Article 30 of the International Code of Zoölogical Nomenclature, inasmuch as the author failed to designate its type when founding it, and later ignored it, transferring its three original species to other genera founded by him later, one of these species becoming the type of another genus, and the other two becoming types by subsequent designation of still other genera, the genus *Hortulanus* not having in the meantime been cited by any other author, except in synonymy, and without designation of a type. Since the publication of this dictum several correspondents have written to me taking exception to it, on the basis, apparently, that a genus properly published cannot be ignored, and if not a homonym must be retained for some one of its original species. (See A. O. U. Code, Canon XIX.)

As already shown elsewhere,¹ the three original species of *Hortulanus* are (1) *Hortulanus erythrophthalmus* (= *Fringilla erythrophthalma* Linn.), which became the monotypic type of *Pipilo* Vieill. in 1816. (2) *Hortulanus albicollis* (= *Fringilla albicollis* Gmel.); which became type by designation of *Zonotrichia* Swains. 1831 in 1832. (3) *Hortulanus nigricollis* (= *Emberiza americana* Gmel.), which became the type of *Spiza* Bonap. 1824 by subsequent designation of the founder in 1827.

If *Hortulanus* is to be retained as a properly founded generic name, the application of the rule of priority to the case would make *Fringilla albicollis* the type, and *Zonotrichia* a synonym of *Hortulanus*.—J. A. ALLEN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

The Accidental Occurrence of the Green-tailed Towhee (*Oreospiza chlorura*) in Virginia.—Mr. John B. Lewis captured a male of this species at his home, one mile west of Bower's Hill, Virginia, on January 26, 1908, which was subsequently sent to me for identification. The bird was first discovered by his fourteen year old son, in company with White-throated Sparrows, in a thicket along the edge of an open field, and Mr. Lewis stated that its actions resembled very closely those of the sparrows. Bower's Hill is about seven miles southwest of Portsmouth, and within a mile of the border of the Dismal Swamp.

So far as I can find, there is no other published record of the Green-tailed Towhee east of San Antonio, Texas.

The specimen in question, although in very poor condition when received, was immediately preserved and is now in the writer's collection.—G. C. EMBODY, *Ashland, Va.*

Type Locality of *Vireo pusillus*.—It is unfortunate that Mr. Grinnell (see Auk, January, 1908, pp. 85, 86) was not able to consult the original description of *Vireo pusillus*, for if he had done so it would have been quite clear to him that the type specimen—that is, the specimen on which the description was based—is given as "No. 16,954, Smiths. Register, ♂,

¹ Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXIII, p. 360, April 15, 1907.



Allen, J. A. 1908. "The Case of Hortulanus Vieillot." *The Auk* 25, 223–224.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/4070713>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54097>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070713>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/86982>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.