

long into May.” Lowther and Falls in Bent (1968) also state the possibility of pairing during spring migration.

The two farthest southerly nesting confirmations from Pennsylvania are for approximately 40 degrees, 45' and 41 degrees, 30', and the species is known as “fairly common, regular breeding residents mainly in the Pocono Mountains, North Mountains, and in the Glaciated Northeast” (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). In Connecticut, the most southerly breeding locale is, again, approximately 41 degrees, 45' (approximately the same as the Chicago records), and the species is known as an uncommon to fairly common nester in the northwest hills ... and in the northeastern hills (Zeranski and Baptist 1990). Byers, et al (1995), Falls and Kopachena (1994), and other sources give West Virginia as the southernmost limit of this species' regular breeding range. In fact, it is considered a rare breeding bird in that state with only three actual nests having been found in West Virginia (G. Hall, pers. comm.). The first breeding location (approximately 39 degrees, 30') was found in 1952 in Cranesville Swamp (a typical boreal bog) on the West Virginia/Maryland state line, near the town of Terra Alta (Preston County), when two nests were found there. Juveniles were seen near that same location in 1970, with no further breeding attempts being documented until 1987 when a nest and fledgling young were observed being fed (during the West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project) in another bog at approximately 4,000 feet elevation, near the headwaters of the Cheat River (Randolph County), near the town of Cheat Bridge at 38 degrees, 34' in 1987. This location appears to be the most southerly documented nesting location in the U.S. Other possible/probable breeding evidence from that state include birds noted in the Cranberry Glades area (Pocahontas Co.), also at ~ 4000 feet and in 1990 at another bog near the 1987 location (G. Hall, pers. comm.).

This species has no confirmed breeding records for most of Illinois' other neighboring states including Indiana (Mumford and Keller 1984, Castrale et al 1998), Iowa (Kent and Dinsmore 1996), and Missouri (Robbins and Easterla 1992). Although Indiana, Illinois' closest neighbor to the east has no “confirmed” breeding records for this species, there are several intriguing summer records. Amos Butler (in Mumford and Keller 1984) reported collecting a specimen 23 July 1887 at Berry Lake (Lake County). Mumford and Keller (1984) also report birds that have been found between 6-24 June in the four counties of Fayette, Johnson, Newton, and Wabash, with Johnson (just south of Indianapolis) being the most southerly of these locales. They also list 5 June and 3 July 1965 records from the Indiana Dunes (Porter County), and I found an additional 1 June record for that location (Jackson 1997). Additional recent June records come from St. Joseph County and LaPorte County

(northern tier border counties), with one on the late date of 28 June, “besting the old late record of 7 June 1997” (Jackson 2000), as well as one bird in a backyard 1-5 June (Allen Co.). The “flock of seven late migrants” in Elkhart County 6 June (Jackson 1994), may be a good indication that a few individuals of this species likely linger into early June most years at this latitude. Even more interesting are Indiana records of a male that “sang from a clump of evergreens on the Bloomington campus of Indiana University throughout June and until 13 July 1951” (Mumford and Keller 1984). The aforementioned authors apparently questioned the report of a 30 April 1902 record of a White-throated Sparrow attempting to build a nest in Bloomington. Bloomington is well south in Indiana (at approximately 39 degrees, 10'). Don Gorney (pers. comm.) relates a record even more pertinent to this paper, a singing male that two Indiana DNR employees reported from downtown Indianapolis (Marion County) 28 June 2002. (Interestingly, a bird was found on the Capital grounds 20 June, 1997 [Jackson 1998]). Indianapolis is in the center of the state (at approximately 39 degrees, 45'). Gorney also saw and heard the bird singing 30 June 2002, and spent some time exploring the evergreens in the area. However, no other birds were noted, and no other nesting evidence was found, so the bird was presumed un-mated.

In Missouri, Robbins and Easterla (1992) list four observations during the breeding season, including single birds 1 and 10 June, and two birds 6 June 1962, as well as two birds at the late date of 10 July 1982. The 10 June bird was said to be present for several days. Iowa lists five records for the period 7 June-5 August, including a bird at Davenport (Scott County) that was present 7 June-18 July; one, 9 June; one, 20 June; one, 20 July; and one 5 August (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). Interestingly, there are more than 20 summer records from Tennessee, an extreme southerly location for this species in summer, with most of the records coming from middle and western Tennessee (Robinson 1990). Six of the latest dates include 20, 23, 28 June; 6 and 9 July; and a bird 1 August-6 September. The 23 June bird had been present since 31 May. Although much of the northern half of Minnesota is well within the regular breeding range of this species, Janssen (1987) states that “what was no doubt a summer vagrant was seen in Wabasha County 5-19 July 1985.” This record is from far southeastern Minnesota.

For a bird with an affinity for breeding in boreal associated habitats, the White-throated Sparrow seems to have a history of widespread non-breeding summer occurrences throughout the eastern United States. Non-breeding/summer records of White-throated Sparrows have occasionally been observed south to Arkansas, Tennessee, and Maryland (Falls and Kopachena 1994), with Lowther and Falls in Bent (1968), adding New Jersey.