

*Pooecetes*  
*gramineus*

SBv 97A.9 (23)  
V. 25

Poa caetes gramineus.

1889

April 30<sup>1</sup> 1889. 9<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>3</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>5</sup> 24<sup>4</sup> 25<sup>4</sup> 26<sup>10</sup> 27<sup>3</sup> 1891

May 5<sup>5</sup> 11<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>3</sup> 1889. 2<sup>3</sup> 7<sup>3</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>3</sup> 31<sup>2</sup> 1890

June 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>3</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 1889. 6<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>6</sup> 12<sup>5</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>8</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>15</sup> 29<sup>20</sup> 1890

July 17<sup>1</sup> 1889. 6<sup>6</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>10</sup> 19<sup>4</sup> 20<sup>8</sup> 1890

Aug 13<sup>8</sup> 1889. 2<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 1890

Sept.

Oct. 22<sup>6</sup> 23<sup>6</sup> 24<sup>6</sup> 25<sup>6</sup> 26<sup>4</sup> 1891.

Nov. 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 1891.

Dec. 25<sup>1</sup> 1889

April 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>3</sup> 5<sup>4</sup> 6<sup>6</sup> 8<sup>10</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>6</sup> 19<sup>4</sup> 20<sup>6</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>3</sup> 25<sup>3</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>10</sup> 1892

May 2<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>5</sup> 12<sup>4</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>0</sup> 25<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> 31<sup>25</sup> 1891

" 1<sup>4</sup> 2<sup>3</sup> 3<sup>10</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>3</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9 10<sup>2</sup> 11, 12, 13, 14, 15<sup>1</sup> 16, 17<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> } Concord  
 " 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> 31<sup>2</sup> } 1892

June 1<sup>1</sup> 2<sup>1</sup> 3<sup>10</sup> 1891.

" 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>4</sup> 12<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> Concord. 1892

July 1<sup>1</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>3</sup> 5<sup>4</sup> 6<sup>4</sup> 7<sup>5</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 11<sup>4</sup> 12 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>4</sup> } Concord  
 20<sup>3</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>3</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> 31<sup>1</sup> } 1892

Aug 1<sup>1</sup> 2<sup>1</sup> 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> Concord 1892

Oct. 2<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> 6<sup>3</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>6</sup> 12<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>6</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 31<sup>1</sup> Concord 1892

Sept 23<sup>1</sup> (wining twilight) 1892

1 gramineus

*Poocætes gramineus*

1893

March <sup>E. loc.</sup> 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> <sup>cl.</sup>

April <sup>E. loc.</sup> 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> (W.D.) <sup>cl.</sup> 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> (vale woods) 21<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 22<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 29<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 30<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> Concord

May <sup>E. loc.</sup> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 16<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 17<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> [18<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub>] 19<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 20<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 21<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 23<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> [24<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub>] 25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 28<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 29<sup>4</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 30<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> Concord

June <sup>Concord</sup> 26<sup>4</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 27<sup>4</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 28<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 30<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> } *P. gramineus*

July 1<sup>5</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 14<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 17<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 19<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 20<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 23<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 30<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 31<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> (very thin only at sunset) Concord

August 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 4<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> Concord

September

October <sup>cl.</sup> 25<sup>2</sup>

1894.

April Concord cl. cl. cl. cl. 16<sup>3</sup> (7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub>)

May 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub>

June <sup>Great S. Hyannis cl. Wareham</sup> 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 9<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 10<sup>4</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 11<sup>6</sup>/<sub>11</sub>

July <sup>Milton</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 2

August

September

October 21<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> Concord

1895.

April <sup>a</sup> <sup>Concord</sup> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> (7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub>) 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 15<sup>6</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 28<sup>6</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 29<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 30<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> Concord

May <sup>Concord</sup> 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub>

June <sup>Gr. Id. Hyannis.</sup> 16<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub>

July

October <sup>Waltham</sup> <sup>Concord</sup> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> (7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub>) 18<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub>

1896

April 5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> or 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> (4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub>) 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 12<sup>5</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 14<sup>15</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 15<sup>4</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 16<sup>6</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 17<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 19<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 20<sup>4</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 21<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 22<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 23<sup>3</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 26<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 27<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> 28<sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub> } Concord 1896

Massachusetts.

*Procaetes gramineus. (No. 1)*

1892.

June 14 Concord. Grass Finches are still singing freely. This evening just before the shower, one, sitting in the top of an apple tree near the house, held my close attention for at least ten minutes. It was the finest singer that I have heard this season or rather I should say that its singing was the finest for the same bird has frequented this field since April but, as I have noted in former years, the song certainly gains in both richness and expression as the season advances. I have verified this fact to my entire satisfaction this year. The April singing was disappointing, the May better, but not until this evening have I heard the bird at its best. I care more + more for its song as I get older. It seems to me to combine in some degree the sweet simplicity of the Song Sparrow's song with the richness of the Fox Sparrow's and in addition to possess a spiritual quality not found in either, sweet, simple, rich, fervid, it is all these + more!

Massachusetts,

*Procaetes gramineus. (no. 2)*

1892.

July 5 Concord. Twilight was deepening into night when I turned back and entered the large pasture just beyond Belcher's but the Grass Finches (two of them) were still singing there. Approaching within 20 yds. of one which I could dimly see sitting on a large boulder I lay down on the turf and listened until it ceased. One must be very near this bird to get the best effect of its song. I know of no other sound in Nature which so rests and soothes me. It is like the touch of a soft hand and steals through all the senses quieting the nerves and bringing peace & rest. After my bird had finished singing he joined his mate on the ground within a few yards of me when both rambled about for several minutes among the short thin grass every now and then raising their heads to look at me.

*Pooecetes gramineus.*

Concord, Mass.  
April, 1. 1893.

Apr. 2

We found three Grass Finches in Lawrence's field running about among some woods. When approached they would bludge off running very rapidly, following the furrows and depressions and keeping behind clods & branches of grass. If followed they quickly became tired and stopping crouched and remained perfectly still. until finding this ruse of no avail they would fly to the nearest tree for refuge. Their generally gray coloring and striped backs gave them a close resemblance to Spowish Sparrows.

Grass Finches

Concord, Mass.  
April, 20. 1893.

The only bird singing at South Hill was a Grass Finch which was also singing at South Hill in Concord.

Grass Finch

Pooaetes gramineus.

Concord, Mass.

1893.           The singing of the Grass Finches was very rich and tender

June 26.   this evening - quite up to the best singing one ever hears  
from this species. There can be no question that the song  
becomes sweeter and more expressive as the summer advances.

1

Pooecoetes gramineus.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.            Throughout this region the Vesper Sparrows appear to have  
July 5        the upland mowing fields wholly to themselves and everywhere  
to            they are abundant. The record of singing is as follows:-  
Aug.15.       they are abundant. The record of singing is as follows:-  
July 5 to 12 (2 or 3 daily), 17<sub>x</sub><sup>1</sup>, 18<sub>x</sub><sup>1</sup>, 19<sub>x</sub><sup>2</sup>, 20<sub>x</sub><sup>3</sup>, 21<sub>x</sub><sup>2</sup>, 24<sub>x</sub><sup>2</sup>,  
          \* \* \*  
25<sub>x</sub><sup>1</sup>, August 3<sub>x</sub><sup>1</sup>(in full song once at sunrise). The birds noted  
on the 24th were found by W.Deane near the summit of Pack  
Monadnock.

Concord, Mass.

Scarcity in Concord, Mass.

1899.            The only Grass Finch I know of in the whole Ball's Hill  
May 13.        region is one that has sung up to within a few days in Law-  
rence's field within hearing of the Barrett house.

June.            Two Grass Finches which I heard singing on June 8th near  
White Pond were the only birds that I met with during the  
month. The species must have suffered terrible losses in the  
South last winter.

Birds of Upper St. John.  
Batchelder.

45. *Poecetes gramineus* (Gm.) Bd. GRASS FINCH.—Common at Fort Fairfield. Some seen in the open fields at Grand Falls.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, July, 1882, p. 148

*Addendum to List of Birds Occurring within  
Ten Miles of Point des Monts, Quebec, Can.  
From notes of N. A. Comrau.*

177. *Poecetes gramineus*.—Shot at Godbout, April 24, 1885. Others were seen the same day and the next, and on May 10.

*C. Hart Merriam, Locust Grove, N. Y.*

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 315.

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings  
County, N. S. Watson L. Bishop.

Grass Finch (*Poecetes gramineus*). May 20,  
27. June 4.

O. & O. XIII, Mar. 1888 p. 45

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.  
A. H. Berger.

540. Bay wing Bunting. Tolerably common.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 87

Dwight. Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.

*Poecetes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW.—An abundant bird, frequenting the open fields in the more settled districts.

Auk X, Jan. 1893, p. 11

General Notes.

Notes on Cape Breton Summer Birds.  
Francis H. Allen.

*Poecetes gramineus*.

Auk XII, Jan. 1895 p. 90

*Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region.  
Nipissing District, Ontario.*

*by Frederick C. Hubel, Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 57*

41. *Poecetes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW.—Only one seen, July 30, in a small clearing near Haileybury.

*Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James A. Fleming.  
Part II, Land Birds.  
Auk, XXIX, Jan. 1907, p. 80.*

203. *Poecetes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW.—Abundant summer resident, April 7 to October 23; breeds commonly.

*Poëcetes gramineus*

1896. Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Deer Island. June 20<sup>2</sup>/<sub>10</sub> (1/2 mile north of Emerson's)

July 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> (Emerson's field, a new corner) 5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>10</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

July 15 Sedgwick } A few seen in both towns but apparently they  
" 16 Brooksville } were not common anywhere.

June 16-22 Mattineus Islands. Not common (field H. K. Job).

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

49. *Poocetes gramineus*, (Grass Finch). Observed in the open fields around houses. Did not look for nests. Mr. Freeborn lists it as "Abundant summer and winter; breeds."

O. & O. XI. Oct. 1886. p. 146

Summer Residents on Southwest  
Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

540. Vesper Sparrow. Uncommon. I secured a ♂ at Boothbay, and saw two others.

O. and O. 15, Nov. 1890. p. 162

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N. H.  
July 21 - Aug. 11, 1883. F. H. Allen

Poocætes gramineus.—Very common.

**Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 78**

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N. H.  
July 12 - Sept. 4, 1883. F. H. Allen

Poocætes gramineus.—Common.

**Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77**

Birds of Hillsboro Co. N. H. June 27, '92  
Arthur M. Farmer, Amoskeag, N. H.

Grassfinch, common.

**O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 136**

*Poocætes gramineus.* — *very abundant.* Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865. R. D.  
Rye Beach, N. H. 1866-1885.

*Poocætes gramineus.* — *Abundant (no notes)* Common, July 23, 24, 1885.

18. *Poocætes gramineus.* — *Common - still singing*  
Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1885.  
Wolfeboro, N. H. June 17-1887.

6. *Poocætes gramineus* — *no*  
Wolfeboro, N. H. June 18-1889.  
*Poocætes gram.* 10 my Academy grounds.

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21  
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

33. Poocætes gramineus. BAY-WINGED SPARROW.—Abundant.

**Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 152**

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem  
N. H. July - August, 1874. J. A. Allen

23. Poocætes gramineus. Abundant.

**Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 154**

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N. H.  
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

26. Poocætes gramineus. BAY-WINGED BUNTING.—Very common.

**Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 150**

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

*Porcitis granulosus*

1894.

	Mon	Tu	We	Th		
June	15 <sup>2</sup> *	16 <sup>2</sup> *	17 <sup>2</sup> *	20 <sup>2</sup> *	21 <sup>1</sup> *	22 <sup>2</sup> *
	23 <sup>2</sup> *	24	25 <sup>1</sup> *	26 <sup>2</sup> *	27 <sup>1</sup> *	28 <sup>1</sup> *

*[Faint handwritten notes, mostly illegible]*

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

*Porcitis granulosus*

1895.

May

29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 31<sup>2</sup>

June 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup>

Grass Finch, Apr. | 5;

First Arrivals, C. O. Tracy. Taftsville, Vt.  
O. & O. VIII. Sept. 1883. p. 71

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

38. *Poœcetes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW. — Abundant; the com-  
monest singer in the valley.

by Arthur H. Howell.

Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 342

Belmont Mass.  
Apr. 6, 1883.

Poocetes gramineus

Spring arrival

One seen at Belmont, by Spelman.

April 11. I saw numbers at North Rutland, Mass.

7. 51

E. Mass. 1885. 2

65. Poocetes gramineus. - June 16; July 1<sup>4<sup>ing</sup></sup>; Sept. 30<sup>20</sup> Oct 2<sup>10</sup>

Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885

16. Poocetes gram. Common - Lucas table

Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June, 18, 1886.

26. Poocetes gramineus. Common

Poocetes 12<sup>1</sup> - 14<sup>2</sup> Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Falmouth, Mass. 1889.

16. Poocetes gramineus July 4<sup>10<sup>am</sup></sup> 18<sup>sun</sup> 14<sup>4<sup>am</sup></sup> 27<sup>2<sup>am</sup></sup>

Poocetes gramineus. Mass. - near Cambridge.

1886 April 10<sup>1</sup> - 12<sup>4</sup> - 18<sup>2</sup> - 19<sup>10</sup> - 23<sup>6</sup> - 27<sup>1</sup>

Mass. (near Concord).

1887 \* = singing  
April 7<sup>4</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 12<sup>8</sup>/<sub>\*</sub>  
May 8<sup>2</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 9<sup>4</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 16<sup>2</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 17<sup>4</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 23<sup>4</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 26<sup>4</sup>/<sub>\*</sub>  
June 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 3<sup>2</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 4<sup>6</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>\*</sub>  
July 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 15<sup>2</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 24<sup>2</sup>/<sub>\*</sub>

*Poocetes gramineus*  
Mass (Winchendon)

\* singing

1887

June 24<sup>2</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 25<sup>2</sup>/<sub>\*</sub> - 26<sup>3</sup>/<sub>\*</sub>

*Poocetes gramineus*

1889. *Poocetes gramineus*. Wellesley, Mass.

March, 27. heard May, 7. nest half built.

S. W. Denton.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.  
June 25-30, 1889.

*Poocetes gramineus*

One at West Townsend; very common and generally distributed about Ashby.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.  
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Oct. 18  
Noted Bay- | winged Buntings as common.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 2

March 17th, Grass Finch  
Spring arrivals at Dartmouth Mass.  
H. H. Dexter.

O. & O. XI. Apr. 1886. p. 52.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.  
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Sept. 20; - Our Grass Finches are being reinforced  
by migrants from the north.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886, p. 2

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Pooecetes gramineus* (Gmel.), Vesper Sparrow.  
Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140

Eds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
Co., Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

32. *Pooecetes gramineus*. BAY-WINGED SPARROW.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889, p. 44

Eds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

29. *Pooecetes gramineus*. BAY-WINGED SPARROW.—Common in the  
cultivated land in the valleys.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 100

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season  
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

37. *Pooecetes gramineus*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

*Pooecetes gramineus*.

1895: Falmouth, Mass.

July 12\* 14\* 16\* 17\* 18\* 19\* 20\*

" 21\* 31\*

Mass. (Concord)

APR 5 1888

*Poocetes gramineus*

APR 9 1888

1888

APR 12 1888

Apr. 5

Two at Concord with junco & song sparrow  
in stubble or upland, both silent.  
Denton saw a number at Willsbury.  
I shot both of the former; both ♂ one  
with testes of maximum size, the other  
only half max. size. Probably one  
was a migrant from further  
north, the other a bird that had  
reached, or nearly reached, its breeding  
ground.

Apr. 9

About eight at Concord in the stubble. When

Winter Birds at Wareham, Mass.

Vesper Sparrow, *Poocetes gramineus*, two.

C. A. Robbins

Auk. XXXII. Oct. 1915. p. 499-500.

blended they always flew to the  
nearest isolated tree picking  
among the branches when they  
sat very still, not leaving from  
tree to tree like the juncos &  
house sparrows, unless a tree got  
penetrating high. A few sang  
in full tones.  
April 12. About four in the  
middle field. Apparently the  
bulk of migration has passed.

Winter Birds at Wareham, Mass.

Wesper Sparrow, *Poocetes gramineus*, two.

G. A. Robbins

Auk. XXXII. Oct. 1915. p. 499-500.

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Pooecetes gramineus

June 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4 <sup>6</sup> / <sub>8</sub>		Fairfield		
" 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> - 12 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	} Saybrook		
" 16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	17 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	nest with 4 fresh eggs - 18 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>			
" 19 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	20 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>8</sub>				
" 21 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	22 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	23 <sup>6</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	24 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	25 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	Andover

Common everywhere in pastures and sandy fields where the grass was sufficiently short and the open area sufficiently extensive. Singing became more free & general after the middle of the month. On the 17<sup>th</sup> I saw a bird in a nest with 4 fresh eggs under a solitary little bayberry bush on the north side where it must have been perfectly shaded during the hotter hours of the day. The birds had scratched a shallow saucer shaped hollow in the sandy soil & laid a few blades of dry grass on the bottom. The bird on the bottom there bare earth. But quite outside yet I saw a bird which had evidently suffered from exposure & rough handling. The bird was sitting on the eggs but two days later it was gone - no egg shells ever left near the place.

Summer Birds in Wilder

June.

26th, shot a Bay-winged Bunting;  
 Chas. H. Miff. Portland, Conn.  
 O. & O. VIII. Apr. 1833. p. 22

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.

64. *Poæcetes gramineus* (Gmelin) Baird. GRASS FINCH.—Common in places; breeding in dry grass-covered clearings and sandy fields.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Oct, 1881, p. 229

Bird Notes from Long Id. Wm. Dutcher

2. *Poæcetes gramineus* (Gm.) Baird. GRASS FINCH.—One was taken February 22, 1883, on Jones Beach. It was not in company with the Ipswich Sparrows, taken the same day and in the same locality. Noted as being an early date.

Auk, I, Jan., 1884. p.

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the  
Northern Adirondacks [Cape], New York [1901].  
April 25 to 30 -

Vesper Sparrow. Not common.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 298.

The Vesper Sparrow on Long Island, N. Y., in Winter.—On February 12 I observed two or three Vesper Sparrows (*Poæcetes gramineus*) at Bellmore, Long Island. It was very difficult to make out the white in the tail against a background of snow, and I had to follow them about and get them against a dark background to make out this mark satisfactorily. Two birds seen February 10, some where between Babylon and Massapequa, which I was unable to identify, I now believe to have been this species.—JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS, *New York City*.

Auk, 24, Apr., 1907, p. 220.

The Vesper Sparrow (*Poæcetes gramineus*) on Long Island, N. Y., in Winter.—In order to confirm Mr. J. T. Nichols's observation published in 'The Auk,' Vol. XXIV, p. 220, I wish to record four specimens in my collection taken on Feb. 7, 1905, near the northern part of Jamaica Bay, from a flock of these birds found roaming the snow covered fields.—J. A. WEBER, *New York City*. *Auk*, XXIV, Oct., 1907, p. 442.

Undescribed First Plumages, Brewster

104. *Poecetes gramineus*.

*First plumage*: male. Above reddish-brown, the feathers everywhere streaked with dark brown. Upon the nape and the anterior portion of the back much whitish mottling appears, for the most part upon the margins of the feathers. Shoulder and wing anteriorly, nearly as in the adult. Secondaries and all the rectrices except the outer pair (which are marked with white like the adults), bright reddish-brown. Beneath ashy-white, slightly tinged with brownish-yellow. Throat, breast, and sides thickly and broadly streaked with brownish-black. Upon the sides of the chin and throat these streaks are run together, forming a short but continuous stripe. From a specimen in my collection obtained by Mr. N. C. Brown at Portland, Me., July 26, 1877.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 40.

Albinism and Melanism in North  
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

*Albino specimen of P. gramineus, presents a  
mottled plumage.*

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 21

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

12. *Poecetes gramineus*. GRASS FINCH. — I am indebted to Mr. Wm. Brewster for a specimen of this Bunting, showing white secondaries on both wings; and Mr. A. K. Fisher collected a very light specimen at Sing Sing, N. Y., Oct. 27, 1879, which had the appearance of a white bird when flying. Mr. Henry Garrett of White Horse, Penn., also has a partial albino in his collection. The example of albinism in this species mentioned in the Bulletin (Vol. I, p. 21) proved to be another species.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 27

1884

July.

Abundant and in full song up to July 20<sup>th</sup> after which date its vocal vigor rapidly declined until by the closing days of the month it was seldom heard. The song of this Finch has always seemed to me finest at this season. Were the bird rarer or more retiring we should perhaps consider it the finest performer among our Sparrows. Heard at evening on the rocky slopes of these rugged pastures its voice is ineffably tender, sweet, and plaintive; it is varied to an unusual degree. Now rising it rings out clear and strong in the still air; next

## The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

## Poœcetes gramineus. GRASS FINCH.

Where this Sparrow breeds numerously it perhaps sings on later into the summer than in the locality of my observations, where it is not a common summer bird. In some years I have not heard it long after the entry of July, but usually it sings till late in the month, and I am not without dates of its singing in early August.

In the autumn the species as a whole is without song, but individuals sometimes infringe the general rule of silence. At Saratoga, on September 30, 1883, a bird rose into the air from a sandy field, ascending with an excited chipping which passed into the musical notes of a varied and extended song; this instantly suggested the song of the Vesper Sparrow, differing, however, in being less definite in theme and more prolonged, but just as the songs of many birds while on the wing differ from their usual strains. Where the bird alighted a flock of Vesper Sparrows scattered up on my approach, and there can be no doubt that it was to one of their number that I had listened. I had not before observed the song-flight in this species. Another record of this Sparrow's singing in the autumn has been mislaid.

Auk, I, Oct., 1884. p. 330.

the same time of year. . . .  
May and June, and again after the fall moult there is a renewal of the spring chantings—an aftermath of song, for the bird ceases his soaring lay, and once more sings for the setting of the sun.

Another peculiar effusion of the Bay-wings is a prolonged twittering, uttered after dusk, as the bird runs on the ground. It is like a soft, continuous whispering of extracts from his various other musical performances.

Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 23.

softened as if by distance it steals upon  
the ear in a low hushed cadence, which  
very now and then buty the higher  
notes are heard, the remainder drifting  
away with ~~the~~ gentle puffs of the  
dying breeze or mingling with the  
drowsy tinkles of distant cow-bells.  
All the time the little bird sits motionless  
on some rock, stump, or clod of turf,  
invisible in the gathering gloom or seen  
only dimly as he flits from point  
to point during the intervals of  
his song.

Flocks they seem disinclined to sing.  
Final songs are sung at the last of August (20th and 26th to  
30th); though I have no record for 1881 later than August 8,  
notwithstanding that the birds were present through the month;  
possibly observation was at fault.  
After the close of summer their song is not again heard until  
the following spring. Singing begins in the spring before the  
perfect summer plumage is assumed; but for that matter many of  
the birds were seen in the latter part of the season with a dusky

### Manitoban Notes E. E. T. Seton

During the months of July and August the Bay-winged Bunting (*Poœetes gramineus*) ceases its usual vesper song, and vents his feelings in a loud, wild, Lark-like chant, which is poured forth as the bird rises high in the air; he begins to sing as he leaves the prairie, and sings and soars till he has reached a height of fifty or sixty feet, when he again returns to earth.

This air-song is not heard nearly as frequently as the common perching-song is in its proper season, nor have I heard both at the same time of year. The perching-song alone is heard during May and June, and again after the fall moult there is a renewal of the spring chantings—an aftermath of song, for the bird ceases his soaring lay, and once more sings for the setting of the sun.

Another peculiar effusion of the Bay-wings is a prolonged twittering, uttered after dusk, as the bird runs on the ground. It is like a soft, continuous whispering of extracts from his various other musical performances.

Auk, XVI, Jan., 1899, pp 20-23.

THE GENERIC NAMES *PEDIOCÆTES* AND  
*POOCÆTES*.

BY THEODORE GILL.

THE two generic names, *Pediocates* and *Pooicates*, have been much animadverted upon, but have nevertheless been adopted in the A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds. These names were adopted because it was supposed that they were the first ones published for the genera involved. That such was not the case will be made evident. Not only were they not first published, but before publication Baird himself substituted for them names of entirely different etymology and only resembling them in superficial appearance. The substitute names were of later formation — “happy afterthoughts” — though published first in the same volume. The substitute names were also adopted generally, and not until long afterwards were the abandoned names taken up again and generally adopted.

I.

In 1858 Baird published his great work on the ‘Birds of North America,’ under cover of the ‘Reports of Explorations and Surveys’ for a Pacific railroad, ‘volume IX.’ In the descriptive portion he introduced, as new genera *Pooicates* (p. 447) and *Pediocates* (p. 625), but in the table of the higher groups, preceding the descriptive portion, he used the names *Pooicetes* and *Pedioecetes*, referring to the pages on which the genera were on following pages described.

It is known that Baird submitted partial proofs of his work to a correspondent and had been informed that *-caetes* was not a legitimate component, and that *-oecetes* should replace it. The assumption that Baird thus submitted to has been maintained ever since. For example, Mr. Elliot, in the October (1898) number of ‘The Auk,’ has remarked (p. 295) that “neither could *πεδιον* and *οικέτης* be correctly compounded into *Pediocates*, two blunders in one word.”

True, if the assumption were true! but *πεδιον* and *κοίτης* could be compounded into *Pediocætes* and the resultant would be a word abundantly sanctioned by classical usage. Put in italics, the difference between *Pediocætes* and *Pediocætes* is small indeed, and as Baird may never have seen the pattern name otherwise than in italics, it is no wonder that at first sight he might have mistaken the *æ* for *æ* and carried over his impressions into other fields.

## II.

Baird unquestionably modelled the names *Pediocætes* and *Poocætes* after *Ammocætes*. He suffered from obliquity of vision or mind respecting the last name and rendered it *Ammocætes* instead of *Ammocætes*: the name was so spelled in the 'Iconographic Cyclopædia' (II, 207, 208, 1851). He later (1854) based a generic name for a true frog (*Helocætes*) on the same model. Finally (1858) he coined the bird names *Nephocætes*, *Poocætes* and *Pediocætes* after the same patterns. Baird was not acquainted with Greek, and when he was informed that the bird names should have been written *Nephoecetes*, *Poocetes*, and *Pedioecetes*, he not unnaturally assumed that his critic was correct and altered the names correspondingly in the table of contents. But his critic was not correct, and was probably ignorant of the model Baird had used. That model was justified by a number of ancient Greek names. Two of the best known names of ichthyology were classical Greek names used for genera which are the types of distinct families — *Exocoetus* and *Hemerocoetes*: *Exocoetus*, misapplied by Linnæus to the flying fishes, appears in the works of Theophrastus, Aelianus and Oppianus, and was a component of *ἔξω* and *κοίτη* — a fish sleeping out of the water; *Hemerocætes*, misapplied by Cuvier and Valenciennes, to a New Zealand genus of fishes, occurs as the name of an undetermined fish in Oppian, and was a compound of *ἡμέρα*, day and *κοίτη*. Another well-known zoological name is that of a genus of Cystignathoid batrachians — *Borborocoetes*: this was literally reproduced from a designation in the 'Batrachomyomachia' translated in Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon as "mudcoucher." Still further, by a notable coincidence the name *Pediocætes* is closely

approximated by a medieval Greek name used by Maximus Planudes in his 'Anthology'—*Pedocoetes*—the only difference being that the first component of *Pedocoetes* was  $\pi\acute{\epsilon}\delta\omicron\nu$ , the ground, while that of *Pediocetes* was  $\pi\epsilon\delta\iota\omicron\nu$ , a plain.

These examples amply justified Baird in the coining of the names in question, and the only mistake he made was in the substitution of *a* for *o*.

### III.

It will be thus seen that *Pediocetes* and *Poocetes*, by a very slight alteration, might have been corrected into *Pediocoetes* and *Poocoetes*. As it is, through misunderstanding, names of entirely different etymology were suggested in place of them, and those very different names must be accepted. They must be accepted for the following reasons:—

1. The substitute names *Poocetes* and *Pedioecetes* were deliberate corrections of *Poocetes* and *Pediocetes*.
2. They were published not only simultaneously with the incorrect names, but "stand first in the book."
3. They were adopted in the quarto edition of the "Catalogue of North American Birds" (Oct. 1858) and the octavo edition (1859).
4. They were in part at least accepted before the incorrectly formed names, *Poocetes* having been adopted by Sclater in 1859 (P. Z. S., 379) and *Pedioecetes*<sup>1</sup> by Hayden in 1861 (Trans. Am. Phil. Soc., N. S. XII, 172).
5. They were generally adopted at first and only replaced later by the incorrect names.

### IV.

The data respecting the species in question given in the A. O. U. code and Check-List of N. A. Birds should be replaced by the following:—

<sup>1</sup>Suckley also in 1861, retained the text name *Pediocetes*.

*Pedioecetes Baird.*

- Pedioecetes* BAIRD, B. N. A. 1858, xxi. (= *Pediocaetes*, p. 625).  
308. ***Pedioecetes phasianellus* (LINN.)**  
*Pedioecetes phasianellus* (part.) BAIRD, B. N. A. 1858, xliv.  
308a. ***Pedioecetes phasianellus columbianus* (ORD)**  
*Pedioecetes phasianellus* var. *columbianus* COUES, Key, 1872,  
234.  
308b. ***Pedioecetes phasianellus campestris* RIDGW.**  
*Pedioecetes phasianellus campestris* RIDGW. Proc. Biol. Soc.  
Wash. II, 1884, 93.

*Poocetes Baird.*

- Poocetes* BAIRD, B. N. A. 1858, xx. (= *Pooaetes*, p. 447).  
540. ***Poocetes gramineus* (GMEL.)**  
*Poocetes gramineus* BAIRD, B. N. Am. 1858, xxxix.  
540a. ***Poocetes gramineus confinis* (BAIRD)**  
[*Pooaetes gramineus*] variety *confinis* BAIRD, B. N. Am.  
1858, 448.  
[*Poocetes gramineus*] var. *confinis* COUES, Key, 1872, 136.  
540b. ***Poocetes gramineus affinis* (MILLER)**  
*Pooaetes gramineus affinis* MILLER, Auk, V, 1888, 404.

*Ammodramus*  
*princeps*

Eastern Massachusetts.

1888  
MAR 20

Ipswich. - Found only one on the sand-hills at mouth of Ipswich River. Shot it; ♂, very fat, testes small. Yellow of local stripe very bright. Bradford Torrey went over the large sand dunes. Near the light-house found about eight princeps, most of them shy but one so tame I knew that he got within 5 yds. & distinctly saw the yellow stripe. He heard what he took to be a princeps singing but did not see the bird. Song like Savannah's but louder. Princeps reminds him most of Poocetes.

Song

Passerculus princeps

1888

Nov. 15

Spinnich. Started 13 ~~in~~ the sand dunes at the mouth of the river. Owing, perhaps, to the fact that the day was warm, still and misty with nearly incessant heavy rain the birds were more about the open spaces and edges of the grass than usual. Two were even seen feeding near some Snow Buntings on the drift at high water mark but they ran across the intervening space of clear sand into the beach grass before we were within shot. Two others were seen at about 2 P.M. Migrating flying in over the sea from the direction of Plum Id. By day. They traversed nearly the entire length of the grass belt before alighting, and once one chased the other for several yds. both mounting straight upward. One was seen perched on a seed bearing stalk of beach grass eating the seeds. All the others were flushed singly from the grass. They rose within ten to twenty yds. and when not killed flew from 100 to 300 yds. before realighting. At the second rise they lay closer often getting up within ten yds. ~~The~~ flight at the start is jerky and erratic the bird rising and falling sharply and often dodging like a Snipe. After proceeding 15 to 20 yds. however, its flight becomes more regular and it now skims <sup>down</sup> swiftly over the sea of pale yellowish grass in nearly a straight course but always in long, smooth undulations. It alights by merely closing its wings and dropping, without apparently first checking its speed in the least, into the grass. It is a difficult bird to shoot flying. The best chance is after it has stopped twisting & just as it steadies itself on its course. It usually alights in a small opening in the grass and rises from a similar open space. It is rare to flush one in really dense grass seen during cold windy weather. I often see one darting across openings or skulking behind tufts of grass. The birds coloring matches that of the sand very closely. Its note is a faint chirp like that of savanna

Flight

THE IPSWICH SPARROW IN NEW BRUNSWICK. — On April 11, 1876, while collecting at Point Lepreaux, N. B., in company with Mr. William Stone, we secured a fine female of the Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*, Maynard). It was sitting on a rock on the extreme end of the Point when first seen, and was very easily secured. The yellow over the eye in this specimen is more intense than in any other I have ever examined, and quite equals in this respect the average coloring of the same area in *P. savanna*. This is the third spring specimen that has been thus far reported. The first, a male, was taken by Mr. Maynard at Ipswich, April 1, 1874; and the second by Mr. Willey of Portland, at Cape Elizabeth, Maine, March 15, 1875. The former is now in my possession, and the latter graces the collection of Mr. N. C. Brown of Portland. — WILLIAM BREWSTER. **Bull. N.O.C. I, July, 1876, p. 52.**

Occurrence of the Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*) in Nova Scotia. — A short time ago I forwarded to Mr. Montague Chamberlain of St. John, N. B., a Sparrow for identification, and he has kindly returned it with the intimation that it is an example of the Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*), a bird which has never before been included in our fauna. I shot the specimen while after Ducks on the Coast at Lawrence-town, near Halifax, about the end of March, 1878, as it was feeding on seeds among the bent grass near the shore. Mr. Chamberlain informs me that its only known breeding place is Sable Island, which is but 80 miles out at sea from our coast; it may therefore breed on some part of our eastern seaboard between Cape Sable and Cape Breton. Not being aware of the rarity of the species, I did not search for more at the time, but I am almost positive that I have seen other specimens since. However, I hope next spring to be able to prove that it is not so rare a bird, at least in this Province, as it is supposed to be. — T. MATTHEW JONES. *Halifax, N. S.* **Auk, 3, Jan., 1886, p. 135-136**

*New Brunswick Notes — Chamberlain.  
(St. John's).*

It was among one of these groups, feeding nearest the seaward point of the flats, that Mr. Alfred Morrissey discovered a flock of Ipswich Sparrows (*Passerculus princeps*) on April 11. The species was new to this locality, for Mr. Brewster's solitary individual, taken at Point Lepreaux in April, 1876 (as recorded in this Bulletin, Vol. I, p. 52), is the only instance of its occurrence previously known. Of the birds as they appeared to Mr. Morrissey he says: "When I first saw the Ipswich Sparrows they were in company with Song Sparrows, their actions being so nearly identical that the species could only be distinguished by the difference in the length of the tail and the general color of the plumage, that of the Ipswich being somewhat the lighter.

"There were some twenty individuals in the flock, and, as they were very tame, allowing me to approach within a few yards, I was enabled to easily watch their movements during the few days they remained, they feeding always in one locality. Most of the weather while they were here was stormy, but they appeared indifferent to it and were very active, picking about in the sand, even in a snow-squall, hopping around and taking short flights, all the while uttering a sharp chirp, but not attempting any song. Of the few specimens I secured, one was merely wounded, and I placed it in a cage with a Canary, where it lived for a week, being fed during the entire time by the Canary. It was exceedingly tame, allowing one's hand to be put in the cage without disturbing it in the slightest degree."

**Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1888, p. 8.**

### Notes on Maine Birds.

The once prized Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*) must now take its place among the common autumnal migrants of southern Maine, though restricted, so far as I am aware, to the sea-coast. In spring, however, it is uncommon if not rare. Since the capture of the first Maine specimen,\* March 20, 1875, I have seen but two other spring specimens. These I found upon Old Orchard Beach, March 28, 1882, and one of them is now in my collection. In their autumnal migration the birds reach Cumberland County about Oct. 13, remaining at least until Nov. 6, later than which I have never looked for them. Upon almost any day between these dates the collector may find a dozen or more individuals along the sandy shore between Scarborough Beach and the Saco River.

N. C. Brown, Portland.

\* See Rod and Gun, Vol. VI, p. 65.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, July, 1882, p. 190.

### Wintering of Ipswich Sparrows in Maine

On January 23, I found two Ipswich Sparrows in the beach grass about half-way between Pine Point and Old Orchard. I managed to secure them both, though not without some difficulty, as they were exceedingly shy.

Taking the lateness of the date and the severe weather which prevailed for two weeks previous into consideration, I believe that both species were undoubtedly wintering. They certainly had not suffered for food, as all three were well feathered and plump, the Whitethroat in particular being quite fat.—JOSEPH L. GOODALE, Cambridge, Mass.

\* That is, the species given above and white-throated Sparrows seen at Saco.

Auk, 3, April, 1886, p. 277.

✱

Auk, XIII, Jan., 1896, p. 84.  
The Ipswich Sparrow.—A Correction.—Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr.'s, interesting monograph of the Ipswich Sparrow<sup>1</sup> brings into prominence a boyish and ill-advised note on this bird which I published in the 'Bulletin' of the Nuttall Ornithological Club (Vol. II, pp. 27, 28). I regret that I have left the note so long unexpunged; but it is not too late to mend the matter, and I withdraw the record now.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, Portland, Me.

<sup>1</sup> Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, No. II. Cambridge, Mass., August, 1895.

Passerculus princeps.

At Maynards I have seen an Ipswich Sparrow killed by Matt. Owen Jr. at about time & place. It was a dark, small bird, probably a ♀

Passerculus princeps

Swampscott, Mass.

Nov. 3, 1883

Messrs Spelman & Balchelder killed thirteen Ipswich Sparrows at Swampscott to-day. Mr. C. R. Lamb also killed one a few days since (during a heavy gusty storm on the edge of "Artificial" in the Fresh Pond marshes. This is the first seen taken away from salt water

Passerculus princeps

Rever Beach, Mass.

Nov. 20 - 1882

Messrs. Spelman and Chadburn shot seven of these Sparrows to-day. They thought that they must have been at least as many more. This number is equal to that seen at the same place, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. They identified a single P. savanna to-day.

Passerculus princeps.

At Mayneards I have seen an Ipswich Sparrow killed by Matt. Owen Jr. at above time & place. It was a dark, small bird, probably a ♀

Passerculus princeps

Messrs Spelman & Balchelder killed thirteen Ipswich Sparrows at Swampscott to-day. Mr. C. R. Lamb also killed one a few days since (during a heavy westerly storm on the edge of "Artificial" in the Fresh Pond marshes. This is the first one taken away from salt water

Passerculus princeps

Messrs. Spelman and Chadbourne shot seven of these Sparrows to-day. They thought that they must have seen at least as many more. This number is equal to that seen at the same place, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. They identified a single P. savanna to-day.

Swampscott, Mass.

Feb. 22, 1883

Swampscott

Nov. 3,

Rever Beach, Mass.

Nov. 20 - 1882

Passerculus princeps

Wintering in Mass.

1882.

Maynard tells me that a customer, Mr. Chamberlain shot four of these Sparrows at Duxbury this week. I did not ascertain the exact date. He (Mr. C.) is certain that he saw many more of the same species.

Passerculus princeps

Spring arrivals,

Rever Beach, Mass.  
March 27, 1883

I shot two at Revere this afternoon. They are the first that have been taken though several collectors have been on the watch. P. savanna actually arrived first this year, Spelman taking one March 20<sup>th</sup>.

March 29 - three, Nahant.

" 30 - two, Revere.

" 31 - one Nahant.

Mass.

Passerculus princeps

1885.

Oct. 17 One killed by A. P. Chadbourne at

" 29 Thirteen seen, eleven killed by Batchelder and Dwight at Swampscott.

" 31 Eleven killed here, nine killed by Batchelder and Dwight at Swampscott (two) and Marblehead (seven).

Nov. 1 Twenty-four killed by Mr. Chamberlain at Duxbury. This is the largest number I ever knew to be killed in one place in a single day.

Passerculus princeps

Wintering in Mass.

1882.

Maynard tells me that a customer, Mr. Chamberlain shot four of these Sparrows at Duxbury this week. I did not ascertain the exact date. He (Mr. C.) is certain that he saw many more of the same species.

Passerculus princeps

Spring arrivals,

Rever Beach, Mass.  
March 27, 1883

I shot two at Revere this afternoon. They are the first that have been taken though several collectors have been on the watch. P. savanna actually arrived first this year, Spelman taking one March 20<sup>th</sup>.

March 29 - three, Nahant.

" 30 - two, Revere.

" 31 - one Nahant.

April 3 - Revere Beach - none seen - W's

" 4 - Phillips " - " " " (over)

" 29 Thirteen seen; eleven killed by Batchelder and Dwight at Swampscott.

" 31 Eleven killed here, nine killed by Batchelder and Dwight at Swampscott (two) and Marblehead (seven).

Nov. 1 Twenty-four killed by Mr. Chamberlain at Duxbury. This is the largest number I ever knew to be killed in one place in a single day.

Passerculus priniceps

Wintering in Mass.

Duxbury, Mass.  
December 25-30, 1882.

Maynard tells me that a customer, Mr. Chamberlain shot four of these Sparrows at Duxbury this week. I did not ascertain the exact date. He (Mr. C.) is certain that he saw many more of the same species.

Passerculus priniceps

arrivals,

Rever Beach, Me.  
March 27, 18

I shot two at Revere this afternoon. They are the first that have been taken though several collectors have been on the watch. P. savanna actually arrived first this year, Spelman taking one March 20<sup>th</sup>.

March 29 - three, Nahant.

" 30 - two, Revere.

" 31 - one Nahant.

April 3 - Revere Beach - none seen - W's

" 4 - Phillips " - " " " (over)

" 29 Thirteen seen; eleven killed by Batehelder and Dwight at Swampscott.

" 31 Eleven killed here, nine killed by Batehelder and Dwight at Swampscott (two) and Marblehead (seven).

Nov. 1 Twenty-four killed by Mr. Chamberlain at Duxbury. This is the largest number I ever knew to be killed in one place in a single day.

Wintering in Mass.

1882-  
1881

Maynard tells me that a customer, Mr. Chambelain shot four of these Sparrows at Duxbury this week. I did not ascertain the exact date. He (Mr. C.) is certain that he saw many more of the same species.

April 6. - Four seen, one shot  
Rum Brook - Chadbourne.

April 7. - One shot, Rum B.  
Sparrow. *P. princeps*  
was abundant yesterday  
for the first time.

April 9<sup>th</sup> Sparrow 5 killed  
four at Sparwick, Mass.  
two of them were ♀. We  
saw about twice as  
many *P. princeps*.

" 29 Thirteen seen, eleven killed by Batchelder and Dwight at Swampscott.

" 31 Eleven killed here, nine killed by Batchelder and Dwight at Swampscott (two) and Marblehead (seven).

Nov. 1 Forty-four killed by Mr. Chambelain at Duxbury. This is the largest number I ever knew to be killed in one place in a single day.

Mass. (Hyannis)

*Passerculus princeps*

1886

Feeding on salt marsh.

Nov. 21

Shot one in beach grass on sand-hills. and saw another, at sunset, at least a hundred yards from the sand-hills on the salt marsh, feeding where the grass was very short. It came from the direction of the sand dunes flying low over the ground.

Mass. (Hyannis)

1887

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>

*Passerculus princeps*

Mass. (Pohant & Spruce)

*Passerculus princeps*

1888-9

Wintering

Dec. - Feb.

Dr. Faxon found a very few wintering.

In haste  
Yrs. sincerely  
Chas. D.

12/15/87.

Dear Henry,

I have finally found time to look up the data on the *P. princeps* which you inquired about.

The bird is numbered 452 in my collection & is a male, shot Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 1883.

I went out that morning before breakfast & found the bird in a flock of *P. savanna* on the other <sup>side</sup> of Artificial.

It was raining a little probably a "North-easter" along the coast.

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.  
H. K. Job.

Ipswich Sparrows can at last be ranked almost as common birds upon our seacoast in the late fall. Last year I saw them first on October 28<sup>\*</sup>, in Boston Harbor, and for about a month found more specimens than I could possibly desire to shoot. The main body leaves us late in November, but stragglers are occasionally found during the winter.

\* 1880

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1883, p. 148.

Mass. (Ipswich) - (Nahant) (Wentworth).

1888

March 30<sup>9</sup> (Ips.)

April 3 (Ips.) 4<sup>6</sup> Nahant (Honey) 5-2 Wentworth

Oct. 23 2 shot (Revere) 30<sup>2</sup> (Ipswich)

Nov. 8<sup>14</sup> 4<sup>15</sup> (Ipswich)

*Passerculus princeps*.

E. Mass. 1884.

*Passerculus princeps*, Oct. Nov. <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup>

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.  
H. K. Job.

Ipswich Sparrows can at last be ranked almost as common birds upon our seacoast in the late fall. Last year I saw them first on October 28<sup>th</sup> in Boston Harbor, and for about a month found more specimens than I could possibly desire to shoot. The main body leaves us late in November, but stragglers are occasionally found during the winter.

\* 1880

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1883, p. 148.

Mass. (Ipswich) - (Nahant) (Nantucket).

1888

March 30<sup>th</sup> (Ips.)

April 3<sup>th</sup> (Ips.) 4<sup>th</sup> (Nahant (Honey)) 5-2 (Nantucket)

Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> shot (Pease) 30<sup>th</sup> (Ipswich)

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> (Ipswich)

Wormoy Island, April 17, 1879.

Ms.  
175

Mr. Wm. Brewster,

Dear Sir: -

Yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> is received. Will ship Hawks about the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Shot a fine specimen of Ipswich Sparrow a few days ago. I think they are quite rare here in the spring. Never saw but two before and that was the last of April last year.

Very truly yours  
John A. Cahoon

1883

Passerculus princepsCambridge  
Mass.October 20

Under this date I find in  
Mr. Chas. R. Lamb's field catalogue  
the following entry which I copy  
verbatim & in full: -

" 45-2. Passerculus princeps, ♂  
Middletown Co. Mass.

To-day rainy. Went out with  
my gun before breakfast. I  
saw a flock of Savannah Sparrows  
the other [i.e. western] side of  
artificial swamp which I  
recognised as Spanish Sparrows.  
After the second time I flushed  
it it lit in a small oak  
where I shot it."

Notes from Rhode Island.

*Ammodramus princeps*. IPSWICH SPARROW.—Among the dunes back of the first and second beach at Newport and Middletown this species winters not uncommonly.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., Longwood, Mass. *Auk*, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 189-190

R. H. Howe, jr.

*Auk*, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 189-190

## PASSERCULUS PRINCEPS

IN CONNECTICUT. —

On November 4, 1875, while collecting along the beach at "South End," a few miles below New Haven, I was fortunate enough to secure a fine specimen of the Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*, Maynard). The specimen was a female, and in excellent condition. Its mate was seen, but escaped capture. *C. Hart Merriam, New Haven, Conn.*

**Bull. N.O.C. I, July, 1876, p. 52**

THE IPSWICH SPARROW (*Passerculus princeps*) AT NEW HAVEN, CONN. — I secured a fine male specimen of this species, November 22, 1879, while collecting along the shore at "South End," near New Haven. Two specimens were seen, but the other, probably its mate, escaped capture. The only other specimen of this bird that has been taken in this State, so far as I am aware, was taken by Mr. Merriam, at nearly the same place, and recorded by him in the Bulletin, Vol. I, p. 52. — GEORGE WOOLSEY, *New Haven, Conn.* **Bull. N.O.C. 5, April, 1880, p. 121.**

IPSWICH SPARROW. — I would like to inform you that on March 24, 1883, I shot a male Ipswich Sparrow, (*P. princeps*), and on Nov. 26, 1884, another. The first of these has been identified by Prof. Verrill and Mr. T. B. Osborne, and the second is just like the first, except that the yellow above the eyes is almost entirely wanting, and the plumage is altogether more dirty looking.

—*Louis B. Bishop, New Haven, Conn.*

**O. & O. X, Feb. 1885, p. 30**

*Connecticut Notes.*

**Passerculus princeps.** — IPSWICH SPARROW. — An adult male was taken January 20, 1917, in the low sedge bushes at the edge of salt meadow at East Norwalk.

*Auk, Vol. XXXV, 1918, p. 232.*

Bishop supplied information bearing upon Carolinian species in Connecticut. He also spoke of a specimen of *Ammodramus princeps* taken in Connecticut ten miles from the sea.

Aug. 5, Apr. 1889, p. 199.

New York (Long Id.)

*Passerculus princeps*

Abundance in Spring

Mr. Jno. Dwight Jr. tells me that he saw at least fifty Ipswich Sparrows in one day on Long Id. The weather was showery and they seemed to be migrating, flitting along the sand hills in small flocks. This happened in Spring

OCCURRENCE OF *PASSERCULUS PRINCEPS* IN NEW YORK. — One of my correspondents, Mr. Frank E. Johnson, of Gravesend, Long Island, writes me that when out collecting, on December 20, 1876, on Coney Island, in New York harbor, he shot three specimens of a Sparrow new to him, which were shown to Mr. George N. Lawrence, and pronounced to be the Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*). They were shot on the salt meadows of the island, and were in company with Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus savanna*) and Swamp Sparrows (*Melospiza palustris*). This is the most southern record of this species.\* — H. B. BAILEY, Newton, Mass.

Bull. N. O. C. 2, July, 1877. p. 78.

THE IPSWICH SPARROW (*Passerculus princeps*) ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y., — On the 1st of January, 1878, I took a fine specimen of the *Passerculus princeps* at Rockaway, Long Island. The bird when taken was in company with Savanna and Tree Sparrows (*Passerculus savanna* and *Spizella monticola*), and was found among a low range of sandhills that skirt the main shore of the bay at Far Rockaway. Another was observed the same day, but, being very wild, I was unable to procure it. This makes the fifth specimen that has been taken in the same locality: the first in December, 1870, the second and third in November and December, 1872, the fourth, November, 1874, and the fifth, January, 1878. — N. T. LAWRENCE, New York City. Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878, p. 102

IPSWICH SPARROW. I noticed in March O. and O. that Mr. Griffing took three *Passerculus princeps* in November last near Shelter Island, L. I. I have taken eight out of ten I have seen on Great South Beach, Long Island, since Jan. 1, 1883. — Wm. Dutcher, 304 Second-avenue, New York, March 2d.

O. & O. VIII, June, 1883. p. 44.

Ipswich Sparrows.

On Nov. 21, '82, I had occasion to go to Island Beach. This is a wide sandy beach some fifty acres in extent, and covered with beach grass, and in some parts with bushes and small cedars. As I was out to leave I saw several sparrows fly and alight on the cedars, and at the first glance it struck me that they were Ipswich Sparrows, and as if to convince me a Song Sparrow flew up beside one of them, showing off the large size and pale tints of the former very markedly. Having no gun I reluctantly left, but returned in the afternoon, and after some hunting secured all three of them. Two of them measured 6½ inches in length; the 3d 6 in. Since then I have searched the beach over carefully but found no more specimens of *Passerculus princeps*.

Moses B. Griffing, Shelter Island, N. Y. O. & O. VIII, Mar. 1883. p. 22

694. Ipswich Sparrow. By Moses B. Griffing. Ibid., p. 22.— Taken on Shelter Island, N. Y., Nov. 21, 1882. O. & O. Vol. VIII

BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

1. *Passerculus princeps* *Maynard*. IPSWICH SPARROW.  
 —While collecting, January 1, 1883, on Jones Beach\* ; I was fortunate enough to secure four specimens of this Sparrow. The first one seen was shot while running through the short beach-grass, between two sand-dunes. The others were flushed in similar localities and shot while flying. Another was seen but escaped. February 14, 1883, the gunner who usually accompanies me on my collecting trips, shot on the same beach two more specimens, which he sent me. He wrote that he saw one other, which he could not secure. February 22, 1883, I again visited this beach and saw two more specimens, both of which I secured. The following measurements were carefully taken while the birds were in the flesh :

Sex.	Extent.	Length.	Wing.
♂	6.12	10.00	3.00
?	6.25	10.00	3.06
?	6.25	9.50	2.88
♂	6.25	9.75	3.00
♂	6.50	10.25	3.06
♂	6.00	9.50	2.88
?	6.00	9.75	3.00
♂	6.00	9.50	2.88
Average	6.17	9.78	2.97

\* Jones Beach is part of the Great South Beach of Long Island, distant about 28 miles east from New York City. *Auk*, I, Jan., 1884. p. 3/.

BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

1. *Passerculus princeps* *Maynard*. IPSWICH SPARROW.—Wishing to ascertain whether this species is as rare as it has been generally supposed to be, or was overlooked from the inaccessibility of its winter habitat, I arranged with two of my correspondents to send me all the individuals of this species that they could secure. Both of them spend the winter months on the beach, one at Fire Island Inlet and the other at Shinnecock Bay, which is some forty miles further east. That they might be perfectly familiar with these birds, I sent them early in the autumn a skin of one as a sample. December 29, 1883, I received from my Fire Island correspondent twenty-nine specimens which he shot between December 17 and 29. He informed me that he had looked carefully but unsuccessfully for them until December 17, when he found six and secured them all. Subsequent to that time and prior to the 29th he secured twenty-three additional specimens. He also added that he usually observed them in pairs, although sometimes there would be three or four together. They were always found feeding on the seeds of tall grasses and weeds that were above the snow level. January 30 he wrote, "I have not seen any Sparrows lately." My Shinnecock Bay correspondent did not succeed in getting any specimens until February 4, 1884, when he sent me four, and also stated, "these birds are very scarce." February 27, 1884, he succeeded in securing two additional specimens, which he sent to me, and again directed my attention to their scarcity. February 22, 1884, I hunted carefully for this Sparrow on Rockaway Beach, but unsuccessfully. I am quite positive, however, that I saw three or four individuals, but they were so wild I could not secure them. March 7, 1884, my correspondent at Fire Island wrote that he had seen but one Sparrow since the first cold spell when he sent me twenty-nine, and that he was at a loss to know whether he had killed them all or whether they had gone away. Of the thirty-five specimens received five measured 6.75 inches in length, and only two were under 6.15 inches. The largest and smallest birds measured respectively :

Length, 6.75; extent, 10.50; wing, 3.20.  
 " 6.10; " 9.25; " 2.65.

The average of the thirty-five specimens was : length, 6.49; extent, 10.02; wing, 3.03.

*Auk*, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 36-37.

Long Island Bird Notes. Wm. Dutcher

19. *Ammodramus princeps*. IPSWICH SPARROW.—On Long Island I think this species is a regular winter resident on the barren sand beaches of the South Shore. It can undoubtedly be found from the middle of October till the first of April. Although this bird is a winter resident in numbers, yet some must migrate further south, as Mr. J. Dwight, Jr., found them at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, November 22, 1884 (*Auk*, Vol. II, p. 105). It may be that the 120 miles of coast line of Long Island is their southern winter range, below which, however, a few may straggle. In addition to the Long Island records already published I will add the following, which will extend the time of their residence on the island materially. Charles Carter, of Shinnecock Bay, wrote me October 20, 1884, that he had seen but one *princeps* this fall; that on October 12. There can be no doubt of Mr. Carter's identification of the bird, as he is very familiar with the species, having shot and sent to me a large number of them from time to time. He is a keen and reliable observer, and I am indebted to him for many valuable notes and rare birds. Very early in November he commenced to send me specimens of this species and continued to do so at intervals all winter. February 7, 1885, Dr. A. K. Fisher and myself secured eleven during a walk of two miles on the beach at Rockaway, and saw at least three individuals which we did not get. On the same ground, the 23d of the same month, Mr. L. S. Foster and myself shot thirteen and saw probably as many more. Of these the genital organs of some of the males were quite sensibly increased in size, and of some received March 19 they were quite markedly so. Some of these last specimens were in the midst of the moult. April 1, I received from Mr. Carter two specimens, the stomachs of which were filled with small black insects. This was the first instance where I had found anything but vegetable matter used for food. All of the stomachs examined before contained, so far as I could determine, seeds. Mr. N. T. Lawrence kindly permits me to record one shot at Far Rockaway Beach, April 3, 1885. He thinks he saw another the same day. Hereafter this species will have to be relegated to the commonplace, and not worthy of special record on Long Island.

*Auk*, 3, Oct., 1886. p. 441-42.

Mass. (Ipswich)

MAR 30 1888

Passerculus princeps.

1888

Singing

Mar. 30

Visited Ipswich to-day and found only one princeps on the sand-hills at the mouth of the river. It was a ♂ & very fat. Met Bradford Torrey who had been over the larger sand dunes. Near the light house he found eight or ten P. princeps. Most of them were wild but one allowed him to approach within a few yards. He heard what he took to be a princeps singing, but did not see the bird. The song was like the Savanna's but much louder. The princeps

Mass. (Spruce)

APR 3 1888

*Passerculus princeps*

1888

Feeding among seaweed with Snow Buntings

Apr. 3

Denton spent the day scouring the sand-hills but saw only one of these Sparrows. It was feeding among wet seaweed on the beach near the lighthouse in company with two Snow-larks & five Snow Buntings. When D. shot first he killed an Otocoris & the Sparrow flew off with the other birds. He afterwards secured it killing two Snow Buntings at same shot. It was a ♂ in full pl. & very fat.

Mass. (Spruce)

*Passerculus princeps*

1885

Nov. 28

Saw six at Spruce and shot five. All were in beach grass, but none on the usual ground. The day was dead calm and warm in the sun and they were apparently encouraged by these conditions to visit elevated and very exposed situations. He found two on the crests of high ridges, where one was sitting in the top of a bush, chirping. Another started from a stubble field on top of a high grassy hill and after flying about 300 yds. alighted in the upper branches of a large willow.

The Probable Breeding-place of *Passerculus princeps*.—The National Museum possesses a considerable series of eggs labeled "*Passerculus savana*, Sable Island, Nova Scotia, July, 1862; J. P. Dodd," which are uniformly so much larger than those of the Savannah Sparrow as to strongly suggest the probability that they may be in reality those of the Ipswich Sparrow. At any rate, the matter is worth investigating, and it is hoped that some reader of 'The Auk' may be able to decide the question.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

**Auk, I, July, 1884. p. 292-293.**

Breeding of *Passerculus princeps* on Sable Island.—In the last number of 'The Auk' Mr. Ridgway stated: "The National Museum possesses a considerable series of eggs labelled '*Passerculus savana*, Sable Island, Nova Scotia, July, 1862; J. P. Dodd,' which are uniformly so much larger than those of the Savannah Sparrow as to strongly suggest the probability that they may be in reality those of the Ipswich Sparrow. At any rate the matter is worth investigating, and it is hoped that some reader of 'The Auk' may be able to decide the question" (pp. 292-293). Acting upon the above suggestion I immediately wrote to the Rev. W. A. Des-Brisay, a resident missionary of Sable Island, requesting him to send me a specimen of the common 'Gray Bird' of the Island. This he was kind enough to do, and the specimen, in confirmation of Mr. Ridgway's suspicion, proves to be an unquestionable Ipswich Sparrow.—C. HART MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, N. Y.* **Auk, I, Oct., 1884. p. 390.**

the closest scrutiny on his part has failed to discover even the faintest dotting upon any of the specimens that he has examined, while Mr. Ricksecker writes that his set are exactly similar in shape and color to those now in my possession, and that all he has seen are entirely immaculate. I am aware that occasional unspotted eggs occur in nests of the other and better known Vireos; indeed my collection embraces several such specimens, but they must be classed as comparatively rare exceptions. If, however, the Black-capped species ever lays spotted eggs, they will probably be found to constitute the exceptions to the rule. The testimony on this point is already, I think, ample enough to warrant this conclusion, based as it is upon the examination of no less than fifteen authentic examples. So far as I am aware, no other North American representative of this interesting family is known regularly to lay unmarked eggs. To show the range of variation in size, I give the following measurements, kindly taken for me by Messrs. Werner and Ricksecker. Set of four eggs in the collection of Mr. Ricksecker:  $.68 \times .50$ ;  $.71 \times .51$ ;  $.70 \times .51$ ;  $.65 \times .50$ . Set of four eggs collected by Mr. Werner and recently presented by him to the Smithsonian Institution:  $.75 \times .52$ ;  $.73 \times .50$ ;  $.76 \times .53$ ;  $.74 \times .56$ . Set of three eggs in the collection of Mr. W. H. Werner:  $.72 \times .53$ ;  $.73 \times .50$ ;  $.74 \times .52$ .

---

THE IPSWICH SPARROW (*PASSERCULUS PRINCEPS*,  
MAYNARD).

BY W. A. JEFFRIES.

On the 23d of January, 1875, while collecting in Swampscott, Mass., I shot a female *Passerculus princeps*. It was, at the time, on the crest of the beach, running about on the snow, and picking up seeds in company with a few Snow Buntings. Not hunting for it, I did not again meet with it till October 26, 1878, when, by chance, it was noticed in the same locality in good numbers. My brother and myself shot eleven before December 1, and one again on January 25, 1879. During November we searched for them carefully several times, and, with one exception, always shot one or more specimens. Probably as many rose out of range as we shot, although, from the same bird being seen several times, it was hard to judge of the true number. From what I have seen and heard of this bird in this part of Massachusetts, I should give it as a late fall migrant, a few spending the winter here, there being few true winter but many fall records of its capture.

83. *Passerculus princeps* in New Jersey. By William L. Abbott. *Ibid.*, XIV. p. 44.—One shot and one or two others seen on Seven Mile Beach, December 30, 1879. **For. & Stream**

719. *Ipswich Sparrow*. By Wm. Dutcher. *Ibid.*, p. 48.—Eight, out of ten seen, taken at Great South Beach, L. I., in January and February, 1883. **O. & O. Vol. VIII**

1025. *The Ipswich Sparrow in Rhode Island*. [By F. T. Jencks.] *Ibid.*, No. 3, pp. 17, 18.—Numbers taken on the sandy beach, near Point Judith, Nov. 27, 1884. **Band. Notes Nat. Hist. II**

Note on Passerculus princeps, Dr. Elliott Coues.

At one time it was thought that Baird's Bunting had been found in Massachusetts. The error was not rectified until several notices to such effect, including Mr. Maynard's full account, and his plate of the supposed Massachusetts "*Centronyx*," had appeared. Mr. Maynard made the correction in 1872, when the New England bird was named *Passerculus princeps*.

The complete synonymy of the ~~two~~ species, and ~~their~~<sup>its</sup> nearly entire bibliography, are as follows:—

**Passerculus princeps.**

*Centronyx bairdii*, ALLEN, Am. Nat. iii, 1869, 513 (original notice of supposed occurrence of *P. bairdii* in Massachusetts, the actual reference being to *P. princeps*). — MAYN., Am. Nat. iii, 1869, 554 (next notice of the same). — ALLEN, Am. Nat. iii, 1869, 631 (third notice of the same). — MAYN., Nat. Guide, 1870, 113, frontisp. (fourth notice of the same). — BREWST., Am. Nat. vi, 1872, 307 (fifth notice of the same, and of additional specimens).

*Passerculus princeps*, MAYN., Am. Nat. vi, 1872, 637 (explanation of the error, and the supposed "*C. bairdii*" from Ipswich, Mass. named *P. princeps*). — COUES, Key, 1872, App. 352. — COUES, Am. Nat. vii, 1873, 696. — BD., BREW., and RIDGW., Hist. N. A. B. i, 1874, 540, pl. 25, f. 2. — BREWER, Pr. Bost. Soc. xvii, 1875, 441. — BREWST., Bull. Nuttall Club, i, 1876, 52 (New Brunswick). — MERRIAM, Bull. Nuttall Club, i, 1876, 52 (Connecticut). — BROWN, Bull. Nuttall Club, ii, 1877, 27 (New Hampshire). — BAILEY, Bull. Nuttall Club, ii, 1877, 78 (Coney Island, N. Y.). — MINOT, Birds New Engl. 1877, 195 (general account). — MAYNARD, Nat. Guide, 2d Ed. 1877 (colored plate; text rewritten).

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan., 1878. p. 2-3.

## THE IPSWICH SPARROW IN ITS SUMMER HOME.

BY W. E. SAUNDERS.

OWING to a happy combination of circumstances I had the pleasure of visiting Sable Island recently, arriving on May 16, 1901, and leaving on the 23d. Ever since reading Dr. Dwight's delightful monograph of the Ipswich Sparrow I have longed to visit this bird at home but with little hope that my desire would ever be realized, and it was therefore an unexpected delight when a feasible opportunity occurred. It will be remembered that not only is Sable Island the only breeding ground of this Sparrow, but also that the Sparrow is the only land bird which breeds there,

eminently protective, and they appear to realize this thoroughly and would often remain motionless and allow a fairly close approach before flying. There was seldom any difficulty in approaching to within comfortable range of the few that I shot.

While I was too early for most nests to have eggs, I arrived at the most favorable time to find them, because the first step in nestbuilding is the excavation of the nest cavity which usually results in the exposure of some black soil, the patch of dark color being easily seen among the dried grass stems which cover the site. A few days later, when these holes were covered with grasses, detection became very difficult indeed.

Three nests were found in the enclosure surrounding the Superintendent's house, and nearly 30 were found altogether, most of them being, of course, incomplete. Of those containing complete sets, four contained 5 eggs, and four contained 4 only, part of one set being hatched. All the nests but five were placed among long

a fact which seems curious when one considers the migrants which remain for days in both spring and fall. The total number of summer residents is ten, including two Ducks, two Plovers, two Sandpipers, three Terns, and the Ipswich Sparrow.

During my stay, I was in every way highly favored, for not only was the season much farther advanced than at the time of Dr. Dwight's visit, without which I could have been able to see nothing of the nesting season, but on three of our eight days we saw the sun, and though many trifling rains were encountered, there were none that made one desire shelter, so that the whole of all the eight days were available for bird study, when other duties would permit.

The Sparrows were found in increased numbers and their song could be heard at all hours of the day.

The song resembles very closely that of the Savanna Sparrow, but instead of ending with *dzzz* as does that species, the concluding note is a weak imitation of the call of the terns which, as Dr. Dwight truly remarked, can be heard at all hours of the day and night. He has well described this note by the syllables *prē-a* and they are delivered rapidly and abruptly, almost as much so as one can articulate while giving the letters their full sound.

The birds were not found to be very shy, but their color is eminently protective, and they appear to realize this thoroughly and would often remain motionless and allow a fairly close approach before flying. There was seldom any difficulty in approaching to within comfortable range of the few that I shot.

While I was too early for most nests to have eggs, I arrived at the most favorable time to find them, because the first step in nestbuilding is the excavation of the nest cavity which usually results in the exposure of some black soil, the patch of dark color being easily seen among the dried grass stems which cover the site. A few days later, when these holes were covered with grasses, detection became very difficult indeed.

Three nests were found in the enclosure surrounding the Superintendent's house, and nearly 30 were found altogether, most of them being, of course, incomplete. Of those containing complete sets, four contained 5 eggs, and four contained 4 only, part of one set being hatched. All the nests but five were placed among long

grass where the bleached stems of last year had fallen over, thus increasing the shelter, the exceptions being placed, one in a clump of crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), one among dark green rushes, and three in a field of clover, of the most vivid green, surrounding the Superintendent's house. The former was said to be a favorite situation, but such cover was rare on most of the ground where I hunted, and only the one was seen, so situated. The nests are large, deep and thick, sometimes being heavily lined with horse-hair, and always placed in an excavation of one-half to one inch in the ground. A few of the incomplete nests were placed in holes in hillsides, just such positions as the Junco frequently uses, a projecting piece of sod partly sheltering the nest from above.

The chief ingredient in the construction of all the nests is fine, dry grasses; and frequently these compose the whole of the bottom of the nest, there being only a slight difference in the fineness of those placed on the ground and those on which the eggs are laid. The upper edge of the nest is covered with coarser grasses, with a very few weed stems, but the latter increase in number as the ground is approached, and at the ground level the weed stems predominate. Eel grass is often added and sometimes moss, but the centre of the nest against the ground shows from three to six square inches of fine grass only.

The measurements of the nests average as follows:

	Average.	Extremes.	
Diameter inside	2½ inches	2¼ inches	2¾ inches
“ outside	5 “	4½ “	5¼ “
Depth inside	2 “	1½ “	2 “
“ outside	3 “	2½ “	3½ “

The thickness of the walls is thus shown to vary from one-half to two inches.

The nest in *Empetrum* was the smallest, all the minimum measurements belonging to it, the reason probably being that this plant grows so thick that the site selected was too small to hold a much larger nest, and the birds have not the art of embracing twigs in it, but place it as a rule entirely free from its surroundings.

The only nest of the Savanna Sparrow to which I have access just now, measures 2½ × 4½ in diameter against 2½ × 5, average for the Ipswich, and in depth 1¾ × 2½ against 2 × 3 for the Ips-

wich. These figures utterly fail to give any idea of the enormous difference in the quantity of material present in the nests of the Ipswich Sparrow, which are very thick-walled and substantial; therefore I have weighed them and find that while two ordinary nests of the Ipswich Sparrow average 300 grains each, the nest of the Savanna weighs but 110 grains.

Since returning from the island, a letter from the Superintendent informs me that they had (in July I think) a gale of 60 miles an hour! Such occurrences, coupled with a spring temperature which may be characterized as moderate to cool, explain the absolute necessity that these birds are under to build a heavy and compact nest.

Dry localities were almost invariably selected as nesting sites, only two exceptions to this rule being noted, both on May 20 when I obtained a set of 4 eggs from a nest in low damp ground under long wiry rushes; and found another nest near water but on drier ground among long grass, containing one addled egg, one egg almost hatched, and two newly hatched young.

The birds were seldom close sitters, some of them leaving the nest as soon as an intruder was seen, judging from the fact that the eggs were so often found uncovered. Others would be seen to leave when I was still 15 to 20 yards distant and only the one that had built in the damp locality dared to remain till I got within 2 or 3 feet. Even the mother of the newly hatched young flew when I was 15 yards away but in that instance I was running, and I came over an eminence and down a grade towards her nest which was situated on a slight upward slope facing me and directly in my line of passage, and she could hardly be expected to await such an attack. It must be remembered that all upright objects appear disproportionately large on Sable Island from the lack of trees or other upright growths of any size.

The eggs vary considerably both in size, shape and color. The two largest measure  $.81 \times .64$  and  $.84 \times .59$  in. and the two smallest  $.75 \times .57$  and  $.73 \times .63$ , the average of the eggs in the six sets in my possession being  $.79 \times .60$ .

But the variation in color is more surprising to me, perhaps because my limited series of Savanna's show so little variation. Two sets resemble a common phase of the Vesper Sparrow, one

with bright, well defined streaks and blotches of light brown on a greenish ground, the other with a more cloudy effect. Two other sets are almost exactly like some of the Savanna, thickly dotted with fine brown spots so as to hide the ground color; the fifth bears a striking resemblance to some eggs I have seen of the Bobolink, being clouded and washed with dull brown on a dirty greenish white ground, while in the sixth set, 3 eggs are almost exactly like the ordinary type of the Prairie Horned Lark, with the buffy tint of the latter replaced by greenish, and the ground color being sparingly dotted with light brown; the other egg in this set resembling a light colored Savanna's, thickly dotted with brown spots, so as to nearly hide the ground color. I had no time to take a description of the seventh nest, which was taken by Col. Gourdeau, Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to the Museum of his Department at Ottawa.

Mr. James Boutilier, who seemed to know where nearly every pair nested annually, assured me that pure white eggs were seen in the nests occasionally, perhaps one egg in two years.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, pp. 267-271.



Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna.

1889

May Gd. Wm. Gd. 19 Gd. R. v. A. Gd. Concord. 5<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 16 (Barrens) 1889. 3<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>4</sup> 30<sup>1</sup>? 1890 30<sup>1</sup> (Blyden) 98  
 June Gd. Gd. Gd. Gd. Gd. R. S. R. 7<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>3</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 1889. 7<sup>5</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>6</sup> 24<sup>7</sup> (2\*) 25<sup>8</sup> (5\*) 26<sup>7</sup> 28<sup>20</sup> (10\*) 29<sup>10</sup> 1890

Aug Gd. Gd. Gd. 9<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 1889.

April Gd. S. Gd. Gd. Gd. 23<sup>1</sup> 1890 2<sup>1</sup> (Jeffers) 11<sup>2</sup> (Fair) 18<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 1891.  
 " T. 18<sup>3</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> Concord 1892 21<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> Concord 1893. 7<sup>1</sup> 1894

" 17<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 1894  
 Gd. Gd. Concord 21<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 1895 14<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> (Great Meadow) 28<sup>1</sup> (do) 1896 5<sup>1</sup> 1897 17<sup>1</sup> 1898

May Co. M. Vineyard R. v. A. M. L. Gd. N. P. W. P. 4<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>12</sup> (Fair) 11<sup>6</sup> 19<sup>12</sup> 20<sup>12</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>6</sup> 31<sup>6</sup> 1891. 12<sup>3</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 1899. 99.

" 2<sup>3</sup> 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> 12<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> Concord 1892

" 1<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> Concord 1893 1<sup>1</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>4</sup> 1894

" 13<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 1895  
 June T. 2<sup>1</sup> 3<sup>1</sup> 1891. 2<sup>1</sup> 5<sup>1</sup> 6<sup>1</sup> 12<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> Concord 1892.

" 27<sup>1</sup> (meadow opp. Egg Rock) 1893

" Great I. Hyannis Gd. 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> 5<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 1894

" Great I. Hyannis 18<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 1895 Concord 8<sup>1</sup> (Kid) 1898

July Gd. M. Vineyard Gd. 6<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 2<sup>1</sup> 3<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 31<sup>1</sup> 1890.

" 1<sup>1</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> Concord 1892

" 7<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> - Flints B. meadow - 14<sup>1</sup> - Egg R. - 16<sup>1</sup> - do - 26<sup>1</sup> Egg R. 29<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> chirping in Meryops meadow. 31<sup>1</sup> Egg R. Concord 1893.

Aug. Great M. 2<sup>1</sup> Concord, 1898.

Sept. 16<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>4</sup> 24<sup>5</sup> Concord 1892 9<sup>1</sup> (on breeding ground) Concord 1893.

Oct 23<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> 1897. 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> Concord 1899.

Oct. R. Concord 8<sup>30</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 1891. Gd. 23<sup>1</sup> 1896

" 6<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>3</sup> 24<sup>4</sup> Concord 1892

" 21<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> Concord 1894 1894

" 6<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 1895 Concord ?

Nov. Gd. 2<sup>1</sup> 1894 1894

Savanna

Passerculus savanna

1889 Mass.

May 14 Waltham. - If I am not mistaken I heard a ♂ singing in the extensive field west of the Trickey farm, an old time breeding ground.

" 16 Cambridge. - Shot a ♀ in the meadow just N. of the Artificial pond. On dissection found the ovaries at the lowest a barren(?) possible stage of development, the granulation invisible to female the naked eye - in short about as in young birds in Sept. It seems nearly certain that this specimen would not have bred this season.

June 7 a ♂ singing at sunset in the grassy opening north of the Pine Swamp.

" 9 a ♀ flushed at 2 o'cls. in the meadow at the north end Breeding mead of Beech Island. She rose with the usual deep undulations Beech Island (the flight of this species when flushed at this season is very characteristic) and alighting in an alder chirped at us anxiously. Evidently she had either eggs or young. The ♂ heard singing on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> was doubtless her mate. Faxon tells me that he has seen ~~some~~ no Savanna Sparrows since the breeding season began except Disappearance at Concord where several were heard singing near the from the French farm on June 7<sup>th</sup>. They seem to have nearly region N. of disappeared in the region west of Cambridge & east of Concord. Cambridge. The meadow where we found the bird this morning is only a few rods in extent, springy, with short, scanty, wiry grass.

" 22 Concord. Three different ♂♂ singing between Red Bridge & French farm. Distribution

Massachusetts,

*Ammodramus s. savanna.*

1892.

June 5. Concord. On my way up river this evening I heard a Savannah Sparrow singing near the G. dm. I do not think that there are more than three birds (i.e. males) between Flint's bridge and Ball's Hill this season. At least two more males are singing between Red-budg and town and above the Fitchburg Railroad bridge two more.



Birds of Upper St. John.  
Batchelder.

44. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna* (Wils.) Ridgw. SAVANNA SPARROW.—Common in the pastures at Grand Falls. At Fort Fairfield it was common. It was found in grassy fields, especially along the roadsides.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, July, 1882, p. 148

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

36. *Passerculus sandvicensis savana*. SAVANNA SPARROW.—Tolerably common, breeding on the thinly grassed sand-fields about the mouth of the Godbout. Mr. Comeau shot one as early as April 21, 1882.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 285

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region  
Cape Breton Id., N. S. J. Dwight, Jr.

34. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 16

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador  
M. Abbott Frazar.

*Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*, Savannah Sparrow. The commonest of all the land birds I saw, and breeds abundantly on all the treeless islands I visited.

O. & O. XII. Mar. 1887, p. 34

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings  
County, N. S. Watson L. Bishop.

Savanna Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*). May 21, 25, 26, 27.

O. & O. XIII, Mar. 1888 p. 45

Birds of Magdalen Islands.  
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

40. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW.—Very abundant, breeding in every open field on the islands, especially in the neighborhood of the shore. Most of the Savannah Sparrows taken wanted the yellow on the wing, but a careful search failed to reveal any specimens of *A. princeps*.

Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 148

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.  
A. H. Alberger.

542a. Savannah Sparrow. Tolerably common.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 87

Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.

*Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW.—It is probably the most abundant bird on the island, and is found everywhere except in woods. On sand beaches, marshes, or dry fields its weak song was constantly to be heard, and in certain pastures it seemed as if every third fence post were occupied by a singer. As an illustration that flying is a matter of practice on the part of young birds, I instance a young Savannah Sparrow that I flushed one windy day in a pasture where the grass was very short. The wind upset all his calculations and himself as well, apparently getting under his wings and turning him upside down every time he started on a fresh flight. He would get along pretty well for a rod or so and then a puff would send him bowling over the sod till he reached a point of fright and exhaustion that left him panting just where he happened to roll.

Auk X, Jan, 1893, p. 11

A Further Note on the Subspecies of *Passerculus sandwichensis* inhabiting Labrador. — Mr. J. D. Sornborger lent me some time ago for examination three specimens of *Passerculus* from Labrador. Two are from Okak, and one from Hopedale. As they are not sexed they do not serve to amplify the data in regard to the sexual range of size the race shows.

No. 1451 (52), taken at Hopedale by W. W. Perrett in 1898, in slightly worn plumage, measures, wing, 2.75; tail, 1.86; tarsus, .80; bill, .41 × .42.

No. 1452 (55), taken at Okak by C. Schmitt on July 6, 1896, in unworn plumage, measures, wing, 2.90; tail, 1.95; tarsus, .84; bill, .40 × .26.

No. 1453, taken at Okak by C. Schmitt on June 29, 1897, in worn plumage, measures, wing, 2.56; tail, 1.87; tarsus, .80; bill, .39 × .24.

It was pointed out by Dr. Allen in 1871 (*Winter Birds of Florida*) that Savanna Sparrows show tremendous individual variation, which is by the way true to a great degree in all Fringillidæ, and he tabulated the measurements of twenty-six breeding specimens from Massachusetts which showed a range of wing measurement from 2.44 to 2.95, only two of which, both males, however, measured over 2.80, and these two, Nos. 5092 and 5096 in the collection of the Museum of Comp. Zoölogy, I have remeasured, and had my measurements checked, and find they now measure 2.90 and 2.62 respectively. Of some hundreds of measurements published by others, and taken from fresh and dried skins, I have yet to find but this one bird from south of Labrador whose wing measurement overlaps sexed Labrador specimens.

The range of wing measurements shown by Labrador specimens which I have examined is as follows:—males, 2.86–2.93; female, 2.65<sup>1</sup>. Unsexed, including immature, 2.56 (worn), 2.75–2.90.

I present these facts not to help prove the validness of the race in the face of the A. O. U. Committee's ruling, for recognition of subspecies unfortunately is often, if not generally a matter of personal opinion and judgment, but I present them simply as facts. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Concord, Mass.* *Auk*, XX, Apr., 1903, pp. 215–216.

<sup>1</sup> Specimen kindly loaned by Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd, No. 393, Carnegie Museum, taken at Nain, Aug. 26, 1901, by D. A. Atkinson. Appreciably larger than the average of southern females.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming—  
Part II, Land Birds.  
*Auk*, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 80

204. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW.  
— Common summer resident, April 5 to October 16; breeds (May 31 to June 23).

Summer Residents on Southwest  
Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

542a. Savannah Sparrow. Shot specimens  
at Boothbay, Castine, Bobson's Island, and  
Green's Landing. The common species of  
this genus.

Ornithol., 13, Nov. 1890. p. 162

ye Beach, N. H. 1866-1885.

in Salt Pond Marsh July 23. 1885

Passerculus savanna. - Common, breeding (no special notes.) One pair,

Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1885.

(17) Passerculus savanna. - One pair. Salt Pond.

Wolfeboro, N. H. June. 18-1889.

Passerculus sav. 2 ♂♂ hatched & young on wing. Academyfield

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem  
N. H. July-August, 1874. J. A. Allen

24. Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna. Rather common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N. H.  
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86, W. Faxon

27. Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna. SAVANNA SPARROW. -  
Not common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.150

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21  
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87, W. Faxon

34. Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna. SAVANNA SPARROW. -  
Abundant.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.152

Birds of Hillsboro Co. N. H. June 27, '92  
Arthur M. Farmer, Amoskeag, N. H.

[Savanna Sparrow, several.]

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 136

Peabody River Valley, N. H.

Passerculus savanna

1884

July 12

All along the valley of the Peabody from Gorham  
to the Glass House where there were  
open grass fields or meadows of any  
extent these Sparrows were abundant  
In the Glass House clearing they were  
particularly numerous.

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

*Ammodramus*

1894

June 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 22<sup>5</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 23<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 24<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
700 ft.  
25<sup>3</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 26<sup>3</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 27<sup>3</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 28<sup>3</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

*[Faint handwritten notes, possibly describing measurements or observations related to the specimens listed above.]*

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1895. *Ammodramus* *lanceus*

May

29<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 30<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 31<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

June 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

39. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW.—  
In 1899, several pairs were breeding in the pastures at the base of the  
mountain; in 1900, I noted the species but once or twice.

by Arthur H. Howell. Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p.342.

Ammodramus s. savanna.

Nantucket, Mass.

1878, Sept. 28. Smith's Point was fairly alive with them to-day.

Pastreulus savanna

Early arrival

River Beach, Mass  
March 20, 1883

Spelman shot one at River Beach. I have earlier dates but this is the first Pastreulus seen this spring though we have beaten the ground almost daily for P. princeps. This bird is small, dark & has little yellow above eye. (Skin in Spelman's Coll.) First P. princeps shot March 27 (two, River, W.B.)

April 6. A dozen or more seen and four shot, River Beach. Chadbourne and

Ammodramus s. savanna.

Nantucket, Mass.

1878, Sept. 28.

Smith's Point was fairly alive with them to-day.

found. There are the first  
observed since Shelton's capture  
of one, March 20.

April 9. I saw about a dozen at  
Smith's. Also that from  
the prints. They were all  
(both species) on the sand-  
hills.

*Passerculus savanna*

1884.

Noyes, Mass.

June 17. Abundant on the salt marshes, rocky pastures, and beach ridges of white sand and scrub grass. In the latter situation we found a brood of three young out of the nest but able to fly only a few rods at a time. They made a singular quacking noise like the creak of a rusty hinge.

6. *Passerculus savanna*, <sup>2 Rev</sup> Nov. 11 E. Mass. 1884.

E. Mass. 1885. <sup>4</sup> June 16, July 1. Sept. 30<sup>2</sup>

37. *Passerculus savanna*, <sup>3 shot</sup> April 2, 6

Nov. 21-23. 16. <sup>Rev. B. 7</sup> Great Id. Mass. ~~1885~~ 1888. *Savanna* - 21<sup>1</sup> - 22<sup>1</sup>

Falmouth, Mass. 1889. *Savanna* July 14<sup>1</sup> - 21<sup>3</sup> - 28<sup>6</sup>

*Passerculus savanna* Mass. - near Cambridge.

1886 April 14<sup>x</sup>

Winter Birds of Cape Cod, Mass.  
Ralph Hoffmann.

*Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW. — Dec. 28, 1894, I found a Savanna Sparrow in a small tidal marsh in Sandwich. The next day, and again on the 30th, I found two, always in the same spot. *Auk*, XII, April, 1895, p. 188.

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

May 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 17<sup>3</sup>

June 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 3<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 12<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 16<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 17<sup>4</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

July 9<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 24<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 25<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

\* huzing

*Passerculus savanna*,

*Auk*, XIV, Jan., 1897, p. 100.

Unusual Visits of Birds in Western Massachusetts during 1896. — *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. — A Savanna Sparrow was taken in Longmeadow the 8th of last February at a spot in the vicinity of which it had been repeatedly observed during the six preceding weeks. This is the first record of this species wintering near Springfield. <sup>Robert O. Norris, Springfield, 771 & 55.</sup>

Mass. (Revere Beach) Arrival, Spring of 1887.  
March 30, Several seen at Revere Beach  
by Jos. Goodale.

*Passerculus savanna*.

Mass. (near Concord).

1888  
APR 5<sup>1</sup>\* 9<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>6</sup>  
\* = singing

*Passerculus savanna*.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna* (Wils.),  
Savannah Sparrow. Summer resident, com-  
mon. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140

The Savana Sparrow Wintering in Massachusetts. — On January 18, 1902, with Mr. Louis Agassiz Shaw, I took a male *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna* at Ipswich, Mass. The bird was entirely alone when shot, in the belt of beach grass which separates the dunes from the beach. This is the third wintering record for the State, it having been previously recorded from Sandwich and Longmeadow. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., Longwood, Mass. Auk, XIX, April, 1902, p. 203.

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
Co., Mass. June 17-20, '88. W. Faxon

33. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. — SAVANNA SPARROW. —  
Abundant.

Auk, VI, Jan., 1889, p. 44

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
Co. Mass. June 28 - July 1. W. Faxon

30. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW. —  
Common at lower levels at the base of the Saddle-Back range of moun-  
tains, and observed in the Notch as high as the Graylock toll-gate, 1560  
feet.

Auk, VI, April, 1889. p. 101

*Ammodramus savanna*

1895. Falmouth, Mass.

July 12<sup>2</sup>\* 14<sup>2</sup>\* 19<sup>1</sup>\* 20<sup>1</sup>\* 21<sup>1</sup>\* 25<sup>1</sup>\*

*Unusual Winter Records.*

Savanna Sparrow. One seen at Ipswich on March 31. As Mr. R. H. Howe, Jr., shot one at the same place on January 18, this probably had wintered there.

Arthur C. Covey, Cambridge,  
Mass. Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 293.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Connecticut Savannas

June 4<sup>th</sup>  
x 9<sup>th</sup>

Fairfield

" 9<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>  
x

Saybrook

Faxon found these Sparrows rather numerous on the Fairfield marshes where they were intermingled with the Sharp-tailed & Canada Finches, at the mouth of ~~the~~ River Saybrook. There were none whatever on the marshes proper, but <sup>along their borders</sup> numbers were breeding on sand hills covered with beach grass and in sandy fields grown up to woods and golden rod. At Saybrook Ferry a bird was heard singing on the 14<sup>th</sup> & another seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> on a grassy knoll near the railroad, but none were found on the Saybrook or Lyme marshes nor did we detect the species on any of the more inland fields or meadows. It is evidently a very local bird in S. Connecticut, found in only a few places but in them abundantly. Song & habits not noted. One specimen shot & preserved.

Connecticut Notes.

*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNAH SPARROW.—A male was taken January 20, 1917 in the sedge bushes at the edge of the salt meadow at East Norwalk. The bird was in company with the Ipswich Sparrow noted above, and was apparently a healthy bird and a winter resident.

Auk, vol. xxxv. 1918. p. 232.

SAVANNAH SPARROW breeds commonly throughout Western New York. I saw many sets in Ward's Museum at Rochester, N. Y., taken in Monroe County, and I take a few sets here each year, though the nests are hard to find. They arrive the latter part of April (25th, 1881, 20th, 1882,) and depart about the middle of September, (Sept. 19, 1882.) In abundance they rank sixth among the Sparrows here, viz.: Grass Finch, Hair, Song, House, Swamp, and Savannah Sparrows.—*John M. Howey, Canandaigua, N. Y.*

**Long Island Bird Notes N. T. Lawrence**

5. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW.—This bird, I think, may now be included among the winter residents on Long Island. I have taken specimens at Far Rockaway during November and December, and one (male) January 1, 1884. Mr. Wm. Dutcher secured two specimens at the same place on February 23, 1885.

*Auk*, 2, July, 1885. p. 272

**Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.**

63. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna* (*Wilson*) *Ridgway*. SAVANNA SPARROW.—A rather rare summer resident in suitable spots, where it breeds.

*Bull. N. O. C.*, 8, Oct, 1881, p. 229

*Notes on Long Island Birds.*

*Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*.—The Savanna Sparrow has been found on Long Island in summer, but not so far west I believe as the following record. At Garden City 17th July, 1897, an adult male in worn breeding plumage was found in a locality where many Grasshopper Sparrows were resident. Mr. Oberholser considers this an interesting discovery and at his suggestion it is made a matter of record. Mr. Wm. Dutcher has recorded this species from Long Island in summer. It is also a winter bird on Long Island. The writer met with a specimen Jan. 30, 1895, at Flatbush, L. I. *Auk*, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 190-3.

*Wm. C. Braislin, M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Albinism and Melanism in North  
American Birds, Ruthven Deane.

Mr. John Akhurst of Brooklyn, N. Y., writes me that he once shot a Savannah Sparrow pure white with the exception of the head and neck, which had a creamy tint.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 28

Shelburne, N. H.

Passerculus savanna

1884

July.

Abundant everywhere over the level intervals bordering the Androscoggin River. The males continued in full song up to the end of the month. On July 16 Chubbourn & I shot ten of them. The males all had testes of full size and the females were incubating. As young were flying about everywhere at the same time they must regularly raise two broods. We found the young - even the little bob-tails - very active and quite as wary as their parents. The adult ♂'s are persistent

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

*Passerculus sandvicensis savana*. SAVANNA SPARROW.

This Sparrow is one of the few spring migrants which are not in song on their arrival, and is also the only one of our song-birds which I find in full moult while migrating in the spring. Even so late as the fourth week of April individuals are to be found covered with sprouting and growing feathers; but at the same time, and before, others have acquired their full spring attire.

The dates that I have recorded limiting its presence in the spring are March 23 and May 19; while I have heard its song between April 9 and May 2. Beyond the latter date it is never common, and in some seasons there are but few birds remaining at the end of April. Singing does not usually begin until from two to three weeks after the pioneer migrants have made their appearance.

This Sparrow I have never heard sing in the autumn.

Auk, I, Oct., 1884. p. 329-330.

singers being nearly silent long at  
 any time of the day. They also sing  
 almost, if not quite as late, in the  
 morning, as the Green Finches. I  
 noted the following variations of  
 different performers: tit-tit-tit,  
three-see; pit, pit, pee-pee;  
pit-pit-pit, pee-pee. The song  
 is very deliberate, drawing, just  
 a pleasing sound coming to the  
 ear from all sides over the green  
 meadows.

On July 17 I heard and saw several  
 of these Sparrows in a rocky pasture  
 opposite the Crescent Home, Roadside  
 Hill N. W. at an elevation of by  
 aneroid barometer of 1650 feet.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

*Passerculus sandvicensis savana.* SAVANNA SPARROW.

This Sparrow is one of the few spring migrants which are not  
 in song on their arrival, and is also the only one of our song-birds  
 which I find in full moult while migrating in the spring. Even  
 so late as the fourth week of April individuals are to be found  
 covered with sprouting and growing feathers; but at the same  
 time, and before, others have acquired their full spring attire.

The dates that I have recorded limiting its presence in the  
 spring are March 23 and May 19; while I have heard its song  
 between April 9 and May 2. Beyond the latter date it is never  
 common, and in some seasons there are but few birds remaining  
 at the end of April. Singing does not usually begin until from  
 two to three weeks after the pioneer migrants have made their  
 appearance.

This Sparrow I have never heard sing in the autumn.

Auk, I, Oct., 1884. p. 329-330.

1884.

Rever Masses, Mass.

June 13. Over the salt marshes along the line of the Eastern R. R. just north of "Oak Island" Spelman & I found these Finches sparingly distributed & breeding. The males sang from the stacks on which hay is stacked in autumn. The females probably left their nests before we were near for I shot them which were incubating not one of which started from the nest. The song of the males was identical with that of our inland Mass. birds & also identical

Shelburne, N. H.

*Passerculus savanna*

1884

July 4.

On the interval between the road and the Androscoggin I found these Sparrows breeding abundantly. This interval from a distance looks as if it were perfectly smooth and level grass land. But upon entering it one finds numerous more or less long, narrow depressions containing water and fringed with coarse wild grasses. The banks, as well as numerous knolls scattered about, are hillocky and covered with wild blackberry and Strawberry vines with occasional rank weeds but scarcely any grass. About these

SAVANNAH SPARROW.—I think that part of the article on this species, in the September number of this magazine, is rather misleading, at least my observations in New Brunswick would suggest a different report, for while it is true that these birds seem to have a strong liking for the sea shore, the inference that they are not found elsewhere is not correct. In the vicinity of the Bay of Fundy they certainly build their nests nowhere else than in a marsh or field close by the salt water, and they are found in field or marsh along the river bank, where the water is brackish, but they are also found all along the banks of the St. John river, from Fredericton to Fort Kent, the latter place being some 250 miles or more away from salt water. They are also quite common in the fields bordering Grand Lake and Washademoak Lake into which no salt water enters.—M. Chamberlain.

1884.

Rever Marshes, Mass.

June 13. Over the salt marshes along the line of the Eastern R. R. just north of "Oak Island" Spelman & I found these Finches sparingly distributed & breeding. The males sang from the stacks on which hay is stacked in autumn. The females probably left their nests before we were near for I shot them which were incubating not one of which started from the nest. The song of the males was identical with that of our inland Mass. birds & also identical

birds and builds the Sparrows in breeding, in places almost in colonies. The males sing from the top of the taller weeds or grasses and sometimes from a small clear or weedy if not a tree is near. I shot nine specimens in the hour of a few acres and others were brought when I left. Of these nine from one female. She was about to lay the first egg of her brood when I shot her. She had already laid a few broods, the other then had evidently finished incubating and was engaged with their young. I should remark of the latter which flew strongly.

These Sparrows sing almost continuously through the day. Their notes tend to me to differ a little from those of the Salt Marsh Sparrow but the difference is slight. I was shown a nest which contained two young just hatched and three eggs, two with dead embryos, one abortive.

July 16. Visited the nest found on the 4<sup>th</sup> & found that the young were all hatched and were on the 10<sup>th</sup>

SAVANNAH SPARROW.—I think that part of the article on this species, in the September number of this magazine, is rather misleading, at least my observations in New Brunswick would suggest a different report, for while it is true that these birds seem to have a strong liking for the sea shore, the inference that they are not found elsewhere is not correct. In the vicinity of the Bay of Fundy they certainly build their nests nowhere else than in a marsh or field close by the salt water, and they are found in field or marsh along the river bank, where the water is brackish, but they are also found all along the banks of the St. John river, from Fredericton to Fort Kent, the latter place being some 250 miles or more away from salt water. They are also quite common in the fields bordering Grand Lake and Washademoak Lake into which no salt water enters.—M. Chamberlain.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis Savanna, Wils.*) Ridgw. We presume it is the long name that drives this modest little Sparrow away from civilization down to the sea shore and adjacent islands where it breeds. We had never seen to recognize this bird until the present Summer, when, with a friend, we visited Plum Island, on the eastern end of L. I. While tramping over the ground a female Sparrow was flushed from the nest, which was supposed to be a Song Sparrow, but the nest was lined entirely with grass. This raised our suspicion at once. When the field glass was brought to bear on the bird, which was not a Song Sparrow, but more striped, and the stripes more prominent and the actions of the bird was different. It kept on or near the ground on very low bushes. Its song was feeble and not that of the Song Sparrow.

The eggs, too, which were fresh, were different, being more rounded and the brown blotches longer. The ground color was lighter and not so much on the greenish blue order as the Song Sparrow. After identifying this bird we saw many pairs of them breeding on the Island and found another nest, which was in an almost bare pasture in a very slim tuft of grass. This bird remained on the nest, so that we could get very close to her and study her markings as much as we cared for. The first nest was also on the ground in the long, thin, coarse grass, incident to a sandy plain. O. & O. VII. Sept. 1882. p. 156

SAVANNAH SPARROW.—John H. Sage reports that he has never taken a set of these eggs at Portland, Conn., although they breed there. Chas. H. Neff was more fortunate and found a set this season. O. & O. VII. Nov. 1882. p. 174

On May 15, 1889, I found a nest and five eggs of Savanna Sparrow. One egg has a pure white ground, with a faint wreath of very pale lilac, and is longer than the others by one-fifth of its longest diameter.

Oswego, N. Y. . . . D. D. Stone

O. & O. XVI, March. 1891, p. 42.

415. *Savannah Sparrow*. . . Editorial. *Ibid.*, p. 156.—Breeding on Plum Island, off the eastern end of Long Island. O. & O. Vol. VII

420. *Savannah Sparrow*. By M. Chamberlain. *Ibid.*, p. 162.—Breeding inland in New Brunswick. O. & O. Vol. VII

688. *Savannah Sparrow*. By J. M. Howey. *Ibid.*, p. 16.—“Breeds commonly throughout Western New York.” O. & O. Vol. VIII

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador  
by Henry B. Bigelow.

68. *Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius*. LABRADOR SAVANNA SPARROW.—The new subspecies of *Passerculus sandwichensis* recently separated by R. H. Howe, Jr., seems to rest on good foundation, but ranges much farther north than he supposed (Lance and Loup), for I found it fairly common at Port Manvers (Lat. 57°) during last half of August and the first week of September.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p.30.

The Labrador Savanna Sparrow.—I have, since describing *Passerculus savanna labradorius*, learned more from various sources of its range, habits, and migrations which seem of interest to present.

The species inhabits Labrador as far north certainly as Port Manvers, and probably further—though the bird is apparently most common on the southern Labrador. It is known as the 'Chipbird,' as are most of the small sparrows in the north, and is mentioned by all, I think, of the writers on the Labrador avifauna. I have examined nearly a hundred or more specimens of *Passerculus s. savanna* from Newfoundland and southward since describing the race, with the result that I find Newfoundland and Cape Breton birds approach most closely the Labrador race in measurements, as would be expected, one bird in particular from Cape Breton measuring, wing 2.87, bill .39 × .24, which slightly overlaps the smallest Labrador bird measured. Two other specimens from Labrador have also been sent me from Bowdoin College, taken on the expedition to Labrador in 1891. Both birds, one a male, and one unsexed, were taken at Chateau Bay on July 14 and are in very worn breeding plumage. The male measures, wing 2.86, tail 1.83, tarsus .83, bill .42 × .25. The other, wing 2.75, tail 1.87, tarsus .80, bill .41 × .24. On the migrations an occasionally very large Savanna Sparrow has been noticed by observers and collectors, which are referable to this form, and I have in my collection five such birds, two from Massachusetts (♀, Brookline, April 26, 1895, wing 2.88; ♀, April 28, 1894, wing 2.90), evidently late northern migrants; two from Rhode Island, wintering birds (♂, Middletown, Dec. 22, 1900, wing 2.89, ♀, wing 2.86), and one from Florida (♂, Kissimmee, Dec. 5, 1892, wing 2.88).

In the collections there will probably be found many specimens referable to this race, which, though I am adverse to naming slight natural and to be expected differences, are widely different enough to deserve a name, if the present accepted races of *sandwichensis* are to be recognized.—

REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., Longwood, Mass.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, pp. 85, 86.

passerinus

Coturniculus passerinus.

Belmont, Mass.

Breeding.

1878.            Drove to the top of the hill above Cotton's. Found five  
June(?). or six pairs of C. passerinus breeding. Took one female,

Massachusetts.

*Ammodramus passerinus.*

1892.

May. 16. Concord. A Yellow-winged Sparrow singing in the field opposite the Buttricks' an early arrival for this species. Following up the sound I found the bird sitting, in the usual crouching attitude, among the upper branches of an apple tree.

*Ammodramus s. passerinus.*

Concord, Mass.  
May 14. 1893.

May 14

The above named species is quite conspicuous  
a very few as in the field & sometimes  
I heard one this evening when the last  
was singing his last note & all the other  
birds had ceased. It was first for the first  
time by the fringing quality of the song -  
slowly trilling pat

Concord, Mass.  
May 16. 1893.

Last night at about ten o'clock the Yellow-winged  
Sparrows which has evidently established himself in the  
field opposite the Buttricks, sang over loudly giving  
the ordinary simple loc-ee-lee song. I have heard  
the varied, twittering song from him in the day time  
on several occasions. He always sings late  
into the evening twilight when all other Sparrows  
have ceased to sing.

Yellow-winged  
Sparrow  
sings at  
night

Ammodramus s. passerinus.

Cambridge, Mass.

My first record.

1898. After leaving the Cemetery this morning I drove through  
June 18. Fresh Pond Lane. Just beyond Gray's Pond, in the corner  
formed by Huron Avenue and Fresh Pond Lane on the west side  
of the latter and about thirty yards back from the fence in  
the open field where an old house once stood a Yellow-winged  
Sparrow, the first that I have ever seen or heard of within  
the limits of Cambridge was sitting on a stump singing at  
short, regular intervals. His P't, n'l't, e-e-e-e-e-e-e  
seemed to me stronger and fuller than usual and I heard it  
distinctly when I was more than 200 yards away after passing  
the spot.

Concord, Mass.

1899. A bird heard singing in the Keyes' pasture May 7th and  
June. again on the 28th was the only one met with this season al-  
though in June I took many long drives about Concord and  
through the bordering towns.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming.  
Part II. Land Birds.  
Auk, x x 18, Jan. 1907, p. 80.

205. *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—Two records — one taken on Toronto Island by Dr. Brodie, the other by Mr. John Edmonds May 24, 1890, at Ashbridges Bay; both are still in the collection of the Biological Society.

### Ottawa Ontario.

The Grasshopper Sparrow at Ottawa, Ontario.—On June 30, while prowling around in one corner of the Experimental Farm here, I heard a here unknown but to me familiar song. Its author allowed me to approach closely and to inspect him carefully with the glass. It was, as I knew immediately upon first hearing his song, a Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum australis*), an old acquaintance of mine in the south. There were two birds there, both singing from the wire fence around a large timothy field. Next day I went there again to secure it, but could find it no more. But there is no mistake possible; I know the bird too well, having taken and prepared many when living in Maryland. This is quite an extension of the range of this species, comparatively unknown in Canada. As stated on authority of W. E. Saunders in Macoun's 'Catalogue,' it is fairly common only in the two southwestern counties of Ontario, is rare at London, and has only twice been taken at Toronto (J. H. Fleming).—G. EIFRIG, Ottawa, Ont.

Auk 26, Oct-1909, p. 432.

The Grasshopper Sparrow in Ontario.—In 'The Auk' for October, C. W. Eifrig, reports the occurrence of this bird in Ottawa, stating that this extends the bird's range by a long distance. This is, however, not the first time that the bird has been taken there. In the 'Ottawa Naturalist' for 1898, page 87, under the heading of 'Bird Notes' by W. T. Macoun, is the following: "Grasshopper Sparrow, one seen beyond Hull, on the 24th of June, doubtless breeding. Seen in rear of Experimental Farm on 26th and 27th, and one shot on the 28th." This is another addition to Ottawa's bird list.

My impression is, that this bird has not been observed near Ottawa in the intervening period, but evidently there were several of them around in that year. But it will also be observed, that as Hull is in Quebec, the bird was added that year to the Quebec list as well.—W. E. SAUNDERS, London, Ont.

Auk 27, Jan-1910 p. 84.

**The Grasshopper Sparrow in Maine, and Other Notes.**— When returning from a short trip with Mr. J. M. Swain, on June 8, 1901, we heard a thin sparrow-like song which we could not identify. The bird was in a large field not far from my home, and as the singer proved shy, I got my gun and soon secured it. It proved to be a Grasshopper Sparrow (*Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*), the first to be taken in the State since Boardman's original specimen, captured many years ago.

C. H. Morrell, Pittsfield, Me.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 290.

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

40. \* *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. — Mrs. Straw says of this species: "First seen June 5, 1899 — remained all summer."

by Arthur H. Howell. Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 342.

\* *Fide Mrs. Carrie E. Straw of Stowe, Vt.*

Coturniculus passerinus

Belmont, Mass.

June 12<sup>th</sup> 1878

Small males seen and heard on the hill above the Cotton Farm this being much nearer Cambridge than I have found them before.

I shot a ♀ which had a large spider held firmly in her bill. She had been incubating much from her appearance. I judged the young were already hatched. The males sing from stone walls & sometimes the tops of small apple-trees. I heard both the Jubel-Good! Ho! Ho! song and its sputtering amplification.

Excavation (see transect noted from 1874).  
The locality was a small swept hill top with  
extensive fields not greatly stony but better  
than some out and covered with a scanty growth  
of grass but much old corn.

49. *Coturniculus passerinus*. - June 10 E. Mass. 1885

Mass. (Littleton)

*Coturniculus passerinus*

1886

July 25

Two ♂'s singing in a large <sup>barren</sup> field about 2 miles west of the village and another in the village itself in a mowing field.

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

May 10  $\frac{2}{8}$  - 17  $\frac{1}{4}$  - 22  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 25  $\frac{2}{4}$  - 26  $\frac{5}{8}$  - 30  $\frac{1}{2}$

June 16  $\frac{1}{8}$

July 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 15  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 26  $\frac{2}{4}$  - 31  $\frac{2}{4}$

Aug. 1  $\frac{1}{2}$

*Coturniculus passerinus*

\* singing

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Ammodramus savannarum passerinus* (Wils.),  
Grasshopper Sparrow. Summer resident,  
rare.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
Co., Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

34. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.  
—Common.

Auk, VI, Jan., 1889, p. 44

Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County,  
Massachusetts.

*Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. One pair found on the east  
slope of Northwest Hill in Williamstown.

Reginald Heber Howe, Jr., Lenox, Mass.

Auk, XIX, Oct., 1902, p. 405.

Ammodramus savannarum passerinus. Lincoln, Mass.

1902. "We also found yesterday a pair of Grasshopper Sparrows, May 18. singing on the western side of the Cambridge Reservoir, near where Concord Turnpike crosses it". Postal to W. Brewster from Richard S. Eustis, May 10, 1902. He was accompanied by Howard Turner.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

*Ammodramus pennsylvanicus*

June 3<sup>d</sup> - Fairfield

"	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	7 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	9 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	10 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	12 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	} Saybrook
"	13 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	nest 4 folded young			14 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	16 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>4</sub>		
"	17 <sup>8c</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	nest 5 eggs		18 <sup>10c</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	nest 3 fresh eggs (4 on the 20 <sup>th</sup> )			}
"	19 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	20 <sup>6</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	" 2 eggs in group, just hatched					

Only one near Fairfield, not seen at Grodover, <sup>Whitaker</sup> above Saybrook abundant in sandy, worn out fields where the grass grows in short, scattered tufts with spaces of bare, mossy or bare ground between. Less common but still generally distributed in mowing fields where the grass was not too dense or rank. None seen in rocky pastures covered with smooth ferns etc. Four nests, all sunk to the rim in hollows several inches in the ground. One in mowing field was in no way covered above. The other three in sandy pastures were all concealed by carpets woven of dry grass & resembling those of the Oven bird. I was further concealed by being placed in or under tufts of living grass. One field of about 15 acres contained fully 6 pairs of birds & probably more. The ♂♂ sang on fence posts & the tops of bucking bushes usually within 100 yards of the water. ♀♀ sat very close, starting directly under foot, running a few yards with trailing wings & spread tails sometimes pretending to be surrounded. Both sexes utter a curious double chirp 'ti-ti' almost exactly like that of a cricket.

Auk, XII, July, 1895, pp. 313-4.

*Rare Birds near Buffalo, New York.*

*Ammodramus savannarum passerinus.* GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—

This little Sparrow is a rare summer resident in Western New York. I have been on the lookout for it for six or seven years but without finding it until last spring. On May 2, 1894, I was riding my wheel just outside the city when my ear caught the peculiar note of this species. I stopped to investigate and soon flushed a Grasshopper Sparrow. I returned to the spot next day and secured a specimen and saw five or six others. Later in the season, on and about the first of June, I searched on several occasions for the nest of two pairs which frequented the same field, north of the city. And still later in June I saw one of these Sparrows near Abbott's Corners, and another near North Boston.

*James Savage, Buffalo, N.Y.*

Auk, XIV, Apr., 1897, p. 227.

*Some New Records from Central New York.*

*Ammodramus savannarum passerinus.* — A specimen of this bird was killed on the hills south of Oneida Village, July 2, 1895, by Messrs. Wm. R. Maxon and T. F. Wilcox. *Egbert Bagg, Utica, N.Y.*

*Bird News from Central New York.*

*Ammodramus savannarum passerinus.* GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.— Mr. W. R. Maxon finds this bird common in the hills south of Oneida. He has taken several specimens in successive summers. Additional records.

*Egbert Bagg, Utica, N.Y.*  
Auk, XVII, April, 1900, p. 178.

*Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York,  
with special reference to Embody's recent list.*

14. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus.* GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.— Mr. Embody is quite correct in regarding this as "not an uncommon summer resident." In fact where it does occur it is tolerably common; but it was unknown from this district up to July 5, 1895. (See Auk, XIV, 227, 1897, and XVII, 178, 1900). It is nearly as common as the Savannah Sparrow. At Peterboro, however, Mr. Miller took only one specimen during ten years' collecting.

*By William R. Maxon.* Auk, XX, July, 1903, p. 264-5.

1962. *The Yellow-winged Sparrow*. By Lynds Jones. *Ibid.*, pp. 8-9.  
—In Iowa. *Orn. & Oologist's Semi-annual*, Vol. 1. *No. 2*.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

62. *Coturniculus passerinus*.

*First plumage*: male. Upper surface, including sides of neck, dark brown, each feather edged and tipped with pale fulvous, — no chestnut marking. Sides of head ochraceous, spotted finely with dusky. Superciliary line pale buff. Greater and middle wing-coverts dull white. Beneath dull white (in some specimens with a decided yellowish cast). Sides with a few dusky streaks. A broad continuous band of ovate black spots across the breast and jugulum, running upward in a narrowing line to the base of the lower mandible. Several specimens in my cabinet, collected at Nantucket, Mass., in July, 1874. This species in the first plumage may be at once separated from *C. henslowi* in the corresponding stage by the conspicuous band of spots upon the breast, and by the darker and more uniform coloring of the upper parts.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878. p. 119.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Coturniculus passerinus. YELLOW-WINGED SPARROW.

This little field bird continues in song up to the middle of July or later, sometimes even into the early days of August. It seems most persistent in song in hot, dry summers, when, on the most fervid days, its fine notes sound sibilant and insect-like about the parched fields. **Auk, I, Oct., 1884. p. 330.**

A Few Nests Collected at Cornwall, Vt.  
Spring-1889. C. H. Parkhill.

Yellow-winged Sparrow (*Ammodramus sava-  
arum passerinus*), which is by no means a com-  
mon bird in this locality, and I consider it  
quite a rare breeder, as this is the first and  
only nest that I have any notes on from this  
section. Collected July 17th. The nest which  
was a very slight affair was situated on side  
hill, well concealed in the tall grass. It was  
composed of a few dried grasses, barely  
enough to keep the eggs from the ground, and  
contained five eggs nearly ready to hatch.

C. H. Parkhill.

O & O. XIV. Oct. 1889 p. 150

kenlowii

Massachusetts.

*Ammodramus henslowii.*

1892.

June 1. Concord. In the evening a little after sunset as I was walking up to Mr. Merwin's I heard a Henslow's Sparrow singing in the meadow behind Fergusson's, but the bird was silent when I returned at 9.30 P.M. although the night was very warm and bright with the light of a half moon.

Aug. 3 I must not omit mention of one interesting and persistent singer, viz. a Henslow's Sparrow which was uttering his simple *tol-ē* or *tol-ij* with great energy in the narrow strip of meadow just below the bridge as I passed on my way home. True as this song apparently is when one is near the bird, it carries to a surprising distance, tonight with the wind favoring I got it distinctly fully 400 yards away.

Ammodramus henslowii.

Concord, Mass.

1893. As I passed the mouth of Dugan Brook (in my open canoe)  
July 12. two Henslow's Sparrows were singing. One appeared to be rather near the river, the other well back towards the high ground. Both were in the Dugan Brook meadow proper, not above near Heath's Bridge where I heard one last year. These are the first that I have met with this season but Faxon found about the usual number in Pantry Brook Meadow one day last month.

1899. In addition to the bird noted on May 11th near the Barrett farm I heard four additional males singing near Concord in June, three on the 10th in Carlisle, the fourth on the 25th in the meadow below Cyrus Clark's in Concord.

Office of Blake Brothers &amp; Co.

28 State Street.  
Boston, June 24 1897

Dear Mr Brewster.

It may be of interest to you to know that I shot a Henslow's Sparrow ♂ in Marshfield yesterday morning (June 23. 1897), on what is known as the "Dixie Meadows" along the "Green Harbor River" about one mile inland from Brant Rock.

My attention was attracted by his song which was new to me, and after a long hunt I caught a faint glimpse of him in the tall meadow grass and was fortunate enough to secure him.

The ovaries were very large (OO) and he was no doubt breeding but I could find no trace of his mate.

Within a few yards of where the bird was shot commences a large patch of sward, marsh grass & hard mud flats which is literally alive with Savannah Sparrows both old & young, and for the past three summers I have heard notes strange to me and have hunted <sup>over it</sup> many times but with no luck other than the slaughter of a few innocent Savannah Sparrows. It is exactly the place described as the home of the Yellow-winged Sparrow but I have not found any as yet.

[Extra to Brewster]

Notes Cleared at Bennington V. T.  
by Mr. & Mrs. Bloom

*Passerherbulus henslowi*. HENSLOW'S SPARROW.—Nested in 1909,  
1911, 1912.

Auk 50, July 1913, p. 437.

COTURNICULUS HENSLOWI IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. — As the northern range of Henslow's Sparrow has not previously been recorded beyond the Massachusetts line, the following notes, which have been kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. Chas. F. Goodhue of Webster, N. H., will be of interest. He writes: "I detected my first specimen on April 17, 1874, in Webster, N. H., and shot another on April 26, 1875, in Boscawen, N. H. On August 16, 1877, I found several pairs in a large meadow in Salisbury, N. H. They were all apparently breeding, and I was so fortunate as to discover a nest containing four young large enough to fly. The nest, which was a bulky structure composed externally of coarse grass and lined with finer of the same, was placed in a bunch of grass where the water was about two inches in depth. These birds were not at all shy, but remained singing on some low bushes until I approached them within a few yards."

I have a specimen which Mr. Goodhue shot on Salisbury meadows, and kindly presented me. — RUTHVEN DEANE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan., 1878. p. 39.

- E. Mass. 1885. <sup>1/2 hr. 18 con.</sup>  
 70. *Coturniculus henslowi* - ~~June 16~~ - July 1,  
 Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885.  
 17. *Coturniculus henslowi* - Princeton, Rutland, all in  
 Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June, 18, 1886.  
 27. *Coturniculus henslowi* - ~~Prin 80~~ <sup>Prin 80</sup> ~~Prin 80~~

Mass. (Westford)

*Coturniculus henslowi*

1886

July 24

Heard a ♂ piping at sunset in a meadow by the roadside. Mr. W. Parkman tells me that he has found the species in Lyngbros.

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887

July 15 <sup>3 ♂</sup> <sup>2 ♀</sup> <sup>\* pipe</sup>

*Coturniculus henslowi* \* piping

Notes on Birds of Winchendon, Mass.  
 William Brewster.

*Ammodramus henslowi*.—Several pairs breeding in a meadow about three miles south of Winchendon.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 390

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season  
 nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

38. *Ammodramus henslowi*.\* | Not common.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County,  
Massachusetts.

*Ammodramus henslowii*. Common about Williamstown, in wet meadows grown up with the steeple-bush (*Spiraea tomentosa*). In Norwood, Massachusetts, a meadow they inhabit is grown with sedges (*Scirpus atrocinctus*, *Carex monile*, *bullata*, *flava*, *scoparia*), red-top (*Agrostis alba vulgaris*, fowl-meadow grass (*Poa serotina*), and rush *Juncus effusus*—species kindly identified by Mr. Walter Deane); and Mr. G. M. Allen tells me the white hellebore (*Veratrum viride*) was the principal growth in a meadow where he once found them in New Hampshire. We found several pairs on the east slope of Stone Hill, and quite a colony on the western slope of Northwest Hill on both the Massachusetts and Vermont (Pownal) side of the State line.

Reginald Heber Howe, Jr. Longwood, Mass.

Auk, XIX, Oct., 1902, pp. 44-5.

Some Rare Rhode Island Birds.—The following species, considered rare for that portion of the country, have been observed by me in the vicinity of Newport, Rhode Island: Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*), abundant in September and October, 1888; Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*), a number seen in October, 1888; Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*), one specimen, September, 1888; Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*), one specimen, Oct. 11, 1888. — WIRT ROBINSON, 2d. Lieut., 4th Artillery, Fort Adams, R. I.

*Auk*, VI. April, 1889. p. 194.

*Ammodramus henslowii*.—A Correction.—In 'The Auk' for April, 1889, p. 194, I reported the occurrence at Fort Adams, Newport, R. I., of *Ammodramus henslowii*. My identification was afterwards found to be incorrect, but through oversight the record has not been changed until now. — WIRT ROBINSON. *Auk*, XVI, Oct., 1899, p. 356.

Auk, 4, Oct. 1887, p. 350.

Central New York Notes.—HENSLOW'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus henslowi*). An adult male of this bird was taken by me near Syracuse, on June 30 of this year. Attention was drawn to the bird through its peculiar song, delivered from a tall weed in a field.

*Morris W. Green, Syracuse, N. Y.*

Henslow's Sparrow on Shelter Island, N. Y.—On November 20, 1901, as I was crossing a rather barren, hilly pasture field, with a somewhat sparse covering of grass, I was much surprised on flushing a small brown sparrow, on which I had almost placed my foot in taking a step, which I at once recognized by the peculiar corkscrew flight as *Ammodramus henslowi*, having observed and taken numbers of them in the Southern States. A snap shot at long range (my astonishment at seeing the species so unexpectedly having banished at first all thought of shooting) wounded, but failed to kill, and the bird dropped flutteringly into another bunch of grass, and was out of sight in an instant. Knowing their habits, I thought the specimen lost to me, but rushing to the spot and stamping quickly about, thanks to the scanty grass, the specimen was flushed again, and finally secured, making the first record for eastern Long Island. The bird was a female, and in good condition. I took an Ipswich Sparrow on the same day, and another Nov. 22, and on December 18 a Lapland Longspur.—  
W. W. WORTHINGTON, *Shelter Island Heights, New York.*  
Auk, XIX, April., 1902, p. 204.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

61. *Coturniculus henslowi*.

*First plumage.* Top of head, neck, upper parts of back and rump, olivaceous brown; crown with a broad black-spotted stripe on each side. Feathers of interscapular region with heavy central spots of dull black. Beneath pure delicate straw-color, lightest on the abdomen, deepest, with a strong buffy tinge, on the throat, breast, and sides; *no spots or markings of any kind on the under parts.* Outer edging of primaries and secondaries dull cinnamon; wing-coverts buff. Lores and spot upon the auriculars dusky. Bill colored like that of the adult. From two specimens in my cabinet, collected at Concord, Mass., June 19, 1878. With the single exception of *Chrysomitris tristis*, this is the only species of the *Fringillidæ*, so far as I am aware, in which the young in first plumage are entirely immaculate beneath.

*Autumnal plumage:* young female. Bill black. Crown, cheeks, and superciliary line, anteriorly, reddish-buff. A narrow maxillary and inframaxillary stripe and a small spot behind the auriculars, black. Top of head with two broad stripes of dark brown upon the sides. Post-orbital space, neck, nape, and back anteriorly dull olive-green, the nape dotted finely with dusky. Tertiaries, upper tail-coverts, and feathers of interscapular region with broad, rounded, central spots of black, shading round their edges into dark chestnut, and tipped narrowly with ashy-white. Outer surface of wing similar to the adults, but paler. Under parts pale reddish-buff, fading into soiled white upon the abdomen. A broad *continuous* band of black spots across the breast, extending down the sides to the crissum. Throat flecked faintly but thickly with dusky. Chin, jugulum, and central abdominal and anal regions unspotted. From a specimen in my cabinet, collected at Osterville, Mass., November 6, 1874. In the absence of sufficient material for comparison, I am unable to say whether this specimen represents the typical autumnal plumage or not. The black bill is, to say the least, a remarkable feature, and one not found in either the adult or young in first plumage.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, July, 1878. p. 118-119.

Worcester Co., Mass.

Coturniculus heustowi.

1885

Late singing.

Aug. 2

Two ♂s singing in a small brushy meadow, springy but not wet, in a deep hollow between two great bare hills. (Princeton - 10 A. M.)

A single ♂ singing in a larger meadow along a brook - grass recently cut - bird sitting on bush - about a mile north of our farm, North Rutland, 5 P. M.

A single ♂ singing in rather wet meadow by the roadside near North Rutland post office (5.30 P. M.)

A four birds singing vigorously and incessantly. Day cloudy and cool. Forbush with me

Mass. (Princeton, Worcester Co.)

Coturniculus heustowi

1886

Singing on Stone wall.

June 18

Heard three males singing, one on the top of a stone wall bordering a small rather wet swale between steep hillsides; the other two in a broader swale immediately below Redemption Rock. The first bird was singing steadily at about 9 A. M. the wind blowing a gale at the time and nearly all other birds silent. The other two were heard late in the evening twilight when the Grass Finches were nearly still. In both localities there were extensive beds of meadow ferns but no bushes.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Coturniculus heustowi

Ashby--- One in a little bit of springy meadow in a pasture on the side of Mt Watatic at an elevation of about 1000 feet; another in a larger meadow sprinkled thickly with blackberry and other low bushes within about 400 yards of Mr. Brooks' house in Ashby. The former bird was singing intermittently at about five o'clock on the afternoon of June 26th, the latter was not once heard during the day time, but every evening began singing at about the same time as the Whippoorwill and sung incessantly at intervals of from three to seven seconds each as late as we remained up to hear it, or on the average until about 11 o'clock P.M. Once during the night I woke and heard it still singing, probably about two or three o'clock in the morning.

that he has found this species  
breeding near Worcester this  
season.

Mass. (Princeton, Worcester Co.)

*Coturniculus heslowi*

1886

Singing on stone wall.

June 18

Heard three males singing, one on the top  
of a stone wall bordering a small rather wet  
swale between steep hillsides; the other two in  
a broader swale immediately below Redemption Rock.  
The first bird was singing steadily at about  
9 A. M. the wind blowing a gale at the  
time and nearly all other birds silent.  
The other two were heard late in the  
evening twilight when the Grass Finches  
were nearly still. In both localities there were  
extensive beds of meadow ferns but no bushes.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

*Coturniculus heslowi*

Ashby--- One in a little bit of springy meadow in a  
pasture on the side of Mt Watatic at an elevation of about 1000  
feet; another in a larger meadow sprinkled thickly with blackberry  
and other low bushes within about 400 yards of Mr. Brooks' house  
in Ashby. The former bird was singing intermittently at about  
five o'clock on the afternoon of June 26th, the latter was not  
once heard during the day time, but every evening began singing at  
about the same time as the Whippoorwill and sung incessantly  
at intervals of from three to seven seconds each as late as we re-  
mained up to hear it, or on the average until about 11 o'clock P.M.  
Once during the night I woke and heard it still singing, probably  
about two or three o'clock in the morning.

Ashby, Mass.

*Coturniculus henslowi*

June 27 - 1885

This bird was afterwards heard on the evenings of the 28, 29 & 30<sup>th</sup> singing steadily from about 8 to the time we went to sleep or 10.30 to 11.30 P.M. [at intervals singing from 3 1/2 to 10 seconds, usually about 4 periods] from 8 to at least 11 P.M. although the sunset was rather dark & there was no moon. The song carries a surprising distance. We could hear it distinctly at 200 yds and faintly at 400 yds. though at the latter distance the first half was sometimes lost. I heard it after going to bed my window being open on the side towards the meadow after standing this song. At a distance of 100 yds. it sounds faint like sl-it. Beyond 200 yds. like sl-if. Near me, say within 50 yds., there is a third syllable as I sl-it. I cannot get the accent on the last syllable. The song is the slightest song I know.

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
Oy, Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Haxton

35. *Ammodramus henslowi*. HENSLOW'S SPARROW.—Two pairs in a low, wet piece of ground in Sheffield. They were not shy. The males sometimes sang in the grass and sedge, wholly out of view, at other times mounted on tall weeds, shrubs, or low trees. Mr. Maynard compares the song to the syllables *see-wick*, but to my ear there was a liquid sound in the first part—*lee-sic*, with a strong accent upon the first syllable. When heard at a very short distance it seemed almost tri-syllabic—*f'-lee-sic*. The song is delivered rapidly, the head thrown back as the notes are emitted.

*Auk*, VI. Jan., 1888, p. 44-45.

Ashby, Mass.

Coturniculus houstoni

June 27 - 1889

This bird was afterwards heard on the evening of the 28, 29 & 30<sup>th</sup> singing steadily from about 8 to the time we went to sleep or 10.30 to 11.30 P.M.

A male in a bushy meadow near the house singing incessantly at intervals varying from 3 1/2 to 10 seconds, usually about 4 seconds from 8 to at least 11 P.M. although the sunset was rather dark & there was no moon. The song carries a surprising distance. We could hear it distinctly at 200 yds and faintly enough at 400 yds. Though at the latter distance the first half was sometimes lost. I heard it after going to bed my window being open on the side towards the meadow after attending this song until about 10 o'clock I concluded that up to about 100 yds. it sounds front like sl-it. Beyond 200 yds. like sl-if. Then, when I was within 50 yds., there is a third syllable as sl-it-it. I cannot get the accent on the last syllable. The song is the slightest song I know.

Ammod. houstoni

Concord, Mass.

Aug. 3 - 1892

Song sl-ē or sl-if, at intervals

of 5 to 7 seconds. Two birds

singing in three meadows just below Heath's bridge

in the evening twilight.

With a light breeze forming its transportation this slight

song reached my ears faintly up to a distance of fully 500 yds. It might be

vulgarly rendered as sl-it-it

Auk, VII, Oct., 1895, pp. 391-2.

Henslow's Sparrow in Indiana.—In July, 1894, while camping with Mr. Wallace Craig, we found this small Sparrow was common in a field of weeds near the southeast corner of Bass Lake in Starke County, Indiana. Two were secured, both males, which were singing while perched on the tallest weed tops. July 24, 1895, while camping on the Kankakee River, near Wilders, Indiana, we found this Sparrow was abundant in an extensive field of tall weeds. Mr. Craig shot at one and it fell wounded in the weeds where it was very hard to find for it tried to keep hidden in the grass. The weed on which he had been standing was one of the tallest in the neighborhood, although not over three feet high, and it had evidently been used by the bird a great deal, judging from the amount of excrement on the grass below it.

The Yellow-winged Sparrow was found in the same locality and was more numerous than the Henslow's, and, when perched on weedtops or fence posts, was tamer. They could easily be distinguished from the Henslow's by their notes. The following is from our notebook written by Mr. Craig while we were camping at Wilders: "Henslow's Sparrows seem to be quite numerous and found over a considerable area in the prairies. They sing frequently and may be heard in almost, if not quite, the hottest part of the day. The song is very simple, being a very rude attempt at producing music. It consists, so far as I have been able to determine, of two insect-like notes; it may be represented by the syllables *stitch lick*, uttered in quick succession, and once, when I had fired several shots without hitting anything, I thought the birds

said 'such luck,' 'such luck.' The notes, as has been said, are insect-like in character, especially the first one, which is very lispings, the last note having more volume. The notes are not loud, but may be heard at some distance, and are somewhat ventriloquistic, seeming to come from some general direction but not from any definite spot so that it is impossible to locate the birds easily by their notes."

While camping at Bass Lake in 1894, we heard one of these birds at 11 P. M., the night being clear and moonlight.—JAMES O. DUNN, *Chicago*, III.

— Notes from Southern New Jersey —

*Ammodramus henslowii*. HENSLOW'S SPARROW. — While engaged in collecting a few shore birds on the 22nd of May, 1894, upon Peck's Beach, I ran across a nest of this Sparrow. It was placed at the brink of a small sand dune, the top of which was about six feet above the level of the beach. The nest was sunken flush with the sand and directly against the roots of a solitary bunch of grass. The bird did not leave the nest until I had approached within three feet and almost touched her breast with my finger, when she flew to the edge of a thicket of bayberry and holly bushes some distance away, and, while protesting vigorously, did not come near or call up her mate. The nest, of bleached sedge grass with a lining of fine grass stems, contained four partly incubated eggs of a very light greenish to grayish white, thickly speckled and spotted with chestnut and hazel, with a very little vandyke brown here and there. The markings were confluent at the larger end in two and at the smaller end of the remaining two eggs. One egg also shows many olive gray shell markings. They measure  $.71 \times .63$ ,  $.70 \times .62$ ,  $.70 \times .62$ ,  $.70 \times .62$ , and are short ovate to oval. — FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Chester Co., Pa.*

Boturmiculus heslowi

Nesting in Mass.

Lexington, Mass.  
June 1, 1883

In a large meadow near the Concord Turnpike about four miles east of Concord Batchelder killed a ♀ ~~Heslow's~~ Sparrow. I heard a male singing three several years since. To-day we found only this female. She was among some low blueberry brush on the edge of a ditch and alighted on the edge of a thicket bordering some woods, perching in the top of a low bush. Upon picking her up we found the yolk from an egg broken inside her by a shot, expelling from the anus. We searched closely for a

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Boturmiculus heslowi

1885.

June 16

In the meadow bordering the turnpike in Lincoln, Chadbourn and I found and shot a pair of these Sparrows to-day. The ♂ was not singing but as we approached sprang from the ground chipping sharply and continuously and alighting on the stem of a tree continued to chirp until C. killed him. As we were wrapping him in paper I heard another chirp within eight or ten yards and walking quickly to the spot flushed her, for it was the ♀. She flew

must but could find none.  
I found three Sparrows laying  
at Washington nearly ~~two~~ four  
weeks ago. (See card.)

about 100 yds in the canal  
got fresh manure and alighted  
in some tall blue-joint bordering  
a ditch. Flashed a second time  
he alighted on a rock where I  
thought he proposed to be  
incubating and doubtless had  
either eggs or recently hatched  
young. He recalled the spot  
where the Hatched with the  
utmost care but in vain. As  
usual the ground was hillside  
and dry (although bordering a  
rock meadows) with cranberry vines,  
blueberry vines, and dwarf ferns.

July 1. Heard a ♂ singing in  
a back corner of the vine meadows  
on the Hubbard farm (next the  
Frank's), Concord. He began shortly  
after sunset, & with the Grass Finches  
and Sparrows Sparrows in the neighboring  
sandy fields, continued at intervals  
until it was nearly dark. As the  
still evening air pleased him  
he finally at last threw himself  
yards away. Upon examining the  
meadows next morning I found it  
they and bubbling with abundant trees  
& short grass. I could not find the bird.

Mass. (Concord)

*Coturniculus henslowi*

1887

Time of breeding

July 15

Three ♂♂ singing on Partry Brook meadows.  
Also flushed a ♀ with worm in bill & a few  
yards further on a young bird with tail  
grown out & able to fly well. Shot old ♂ &

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST AND EGGS OF *COTURNICULUS HENSLOWI* OBTAINED NEAR FALLS CHURCH, VA. — Nest rather rude and irregularly shaped, composed externally of coarse grass, lined with exceedingly fine grass-tops circularly disposed and well finished but without any horse-hair; no other material than grass was used in its construction. The nest is about four inches in diameter, about two inches in height, and two inches inside diameter; it was placed in the center of a large clump of wild clover (*Trifolium agrarium*) and rested directly on the ground without any appearance of a cavity. The clover had grown up about a foot or more in height and completely surrounded the nest, which was only discovered by parting it. The female was secured as she flew from the nest. The eggs, four in number, are much blotched and speckled all over with a mixture of madder-brown and sepia, the color becoming more confluent on the larger end; there are also a few dashes and dots of very dark sepia, almost black, scattered among the spots. One of the eggs has a number of large blotches of a lighter tint than the spots scattered all over it so as to almost form a ground tint for the spots. The ground color is a delicate greenish-white. The measurements, in hundredths of inches, are as follows: .75 x .60, .75 x .58, .75 x .56, .75 x .60. These eggs, taken June 3, contained large embryos within four or five days of hatching. As I took full-fledged young last year on the 12th of July, they undoubtedly raise two broods in a season.

The above described nest and eggs were taken in the locality where Mr. Ridgway found the birds last year (see this Bulletin, Vol. IV, p. 238). They are more or less common in all suitable places, probably a dozen pairs breeding in this and the adjoining meadows.

Since writing the above, two fully fledged young birds have been taken (June 6) in the same place. The birds have been also seen and heard singing at Ball's Cross Roads in Virginia, about two miles nearer the District than the other locality. Besides the characteristic note of *tee-wick*, they have quite a song, which may fairly be represented by the syllables *sis-r-r-rit-srit-srit*, with the accent on the first and last parts. This song is often uttered while the bird takes a short flight upward; it then drops down again into the tangled weeds and grasses where it is almost impossible to follow it. — PIERRE LOUIS JOUY, *Washington, D. C.*

anal glands.?)  
u, they  
about now.  
u, one on  
my tail

Mass. (Concord)

*Coturniculus harrisi*

1877

Time of breeding

July 15

Three ♂♂ singing on Partry Brook meadows.  
Also flushed a ♀ with worm in bill & a few  
yards further on a young bird with tail  
grown out & able to fly well. Shot old ♂ &  
found testes of enormous size & seminal glands<sup>2</sup>  
at anus swollen & turgid. Inference, they  
must breed twice, the second laying about now.

The ♂ sat while singing on tall weeds, one on  
one, the other on wild parsnip, & were very tame

branch of a tree in the immediate neighborhood of where the bird was  
"As soon as he reached the river he invariably alighted on the topmost  
the manner in which he secured his prey.  
four or five months, giving me, therefore, ample opportunity of noting  
it safe to assert that he did not miss a day during my entire stay of some  
where I lived, once in the morning, and again towards evening. I think  
same bird) usually made two trips daily to the river in front of the house  
"The particular Eagle of which I write (for I am sure it was always the  
miles south of Jacksonville.  
1879 at Fruit Cove on the St. John's River, in Florida, fifteen or twenty  
of interest. His observations were made during the winter and spring of  
tracts from a letter from Mr. John W. Baker of Brooklyn, N. Y., may be  
the hands of most of the later ornithological writers,\* the following ex-  
of the rather unenviable reputation that the Bald Eagle has obtained at  
The BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) as a HUNTER.—In view

sis-r-r-rit-srit-srit, with the accent on the first and last parts. This song  
is often uttered while the bird takes a short flight upward; it then drops  
down again into the tangled weeds and grasses where it is almost impossi-  
ble to follow it.—PIERRE LOUIS JOUY, Washington, D. C.

Lunenburg, Mass.

Coturniculus henstowi

1886

Young flying

June 6

"On Sunday June 6 in Lunenburg, Worcester Co., Mass. I stood within 20 ft of a Henstow's Sparrow and heard it sing. Altho flushed a young bird from the grass" (H. A. Purdie letter of June 8. 1886.)

Mass. (Middlesex Co.)

Coturniculus henstowi ✓

1886

June 8

Shot a ♂ in a clover field on upland but with a depression a few rods square in the center filled with wild meadow grass, short & wispy, but without water & scarcely damp. This bird was singing steadily at noon, the day clear & warm.

" 16

Heard by males singing between Wayland & Concord, one near Wayland on the border of Sudbury Meadows; four a mile or so beyond Skin Acre Corner; and one on the French farm near the Stead's. Two were singing

Coturniculus henstowi.

Their haunts at Concord.

Concord, Mass.

June 18, 1888

Visited the colony of Henstow's Sparrows at Concord. Their haunt is a tract of meadow some twelve acres in extent drained so effectually by a broad, deep brook that is nowhere actually wet though generally damp & spongy. On one side of the meadow is a stretch of higher ground, slightly hilly & uneven but more or less moist in the hollows. Over this little grass grows but velvet sphagnum moss carpets the ground and among the thickly thicketed clumps of wild rose and other shrubs the Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum*) rears its tall graceful head. A few narrow ditches, overgrown with bushes and ~~abounding in the grass~~ ~~concealed~~ ~~not~~ ~~intersect~~ this tract and drain its surplus water into the brook as well as affording a few concealed ~~prob~~ holes of a most treacherous character which are apt to entrap the unwary trespasser.

Here a few pairs of Henstow's Sparrows breed yearly. Once I shot all but one ♂ but three places were filled the following spring. So, day I found two pairs both with young. The ♂ was singing from the one stalk on the thicketed rose bushes, the ♀ feeding their young. I discovered the first brood by passing the ♀ nearly under my feet. I supposed at first that we had a nest but upon looking soon started a young

bob-tail which flew about 100 yds., feebly but  
 still in the erratic way peculiar to the species.  
 I searched long & carefully but in vain.  
 Returning to the place where it flew I  
 flushed two more young, and the episode  
 was repeated for not a trace could I find of  
 where when I had marked them down.  
 The other brood was in a wetted clump of  
 wild roses, the ♀ was with them; the started first,  
 then one of the young flushed, flying straight  
 away in a rapid, and at 20 yds. distance  
 plucking down like a hawk. I distinctly saw  
 him alight on a bare space and then take  
 a course to a tassel. Upon approaching the  
 spot I found a small hole beneath the tassel  
 in entrance to a perfect labyrinth of tunnels  
 made by the meadow mice. I then re-  
 turned in all directions, but failed to find  
 the old birds meanwhile set on the bushes  
 near by chirping incessantly. The next two  
 notes, Tom & hissing which common to most  
 sparrows, the other a fuller trill similar to  
 that given by P. oceanus. (The song of the ♂ is  
 a simple, feeble, unmusical chirp.) They were  
 very tame permitting an approach to within  
 the or timber feet. When pursued they took refuge  
 in the clumps of rose hedges and lay very close, rising  
 only when nearly trodden on. Their flight was  
 erratic & slow in deep undulations like a yellow-bird.  
 They flew about 100 yds. & alighted like a hawk.  
 They flew in a very peculiar  
 hopping, undulating & unexpected. This peculiar  
 flight is always used when they are flushed but  
 to-day while watching them from a place of  
 concealment I repeatedly saw the ♂ fly from one  
 part of the meadow to another in a direct nearly  
 even course but more rapidly than most sparrows.  
 The ♀, invariably returned to their point when I  
 concealed myself. I think they brought them

Gunenberg, Mass.

*Coturniculus heslowii*

1886 Young flying

June 6 "On Sunday June 6 in Gunenberg,  
 Worcester Co., Mass. I stood within 20 ft  
 of a Heustow's Sparrow and heard it sing.  
 Altho flushed a young bird from the grass"  
 (H. A. Purdie letter of June 8. 1886.)

Mass. (Middlesex Co.)

*Coturniculus heslowii* ✓

1886

June 8 Shot a ♂ in a clover field on upland but with  
 with a depression a few rods square in the center  
 filled with wild meadow grass, short & wiry, but  
 without water & scarcely damp. This bird was singing  
 steadily at noon, the day clear & warm.

" 16 Heard six males singing between Wayland & Concord,  
 one near Wayland on the border of Sudbury Meadows;  
 four a mile or so beyond Skinners Corner; and one  
 on the French farm near the studios. Two were singing  
 near together in one place & two in another. There  
 were on the borders of large meadows when there

bob-tail which flew about 100 yds., feet  
still in the erratic way peculiar to  
I searched long & carefully but in  
Returning to the place where it got  
flushed two more young, and the  
was repeated for not a trace could I  
when I had searched them  
in other brood was in a well-thatched  
wild rose, the ♀ was with them; the other  
then one of the young flushed, flying  
away in a rapid, and at 20 yds  
pursuing down like a hawk, I distance  
him alight on a bare space and  
a mouse to a hawk. Upon approach  
spot I found a small hole beneath the  
an entrance to a perfect labyrinth of  
made by the meadow mice. I then  
then in all directions, but failed to  
the old birds unambiguously set on  
near by chirping incessantly. The new  
notes, low & hissing like common  
sparrows, the other a fuller, harsher  
that given by P. Savanna. (The song of  
is simple, feeble, & unimpassioned.) The  
very tame permitting an approach to  
the or timber fast. When pursued they  
in the clumps of rose haws and lay very close  
and when nearly trodden on their flight  
whirls & also in deep undulations like a  
they flew about 100 yds, & alighted like a  
tripping suddenly & unexpectedly. This per-  
flight is always used when they are  
to-day while watching them from a place  
convenient I repeatedly saw the ♂ fly  
part of the meadow to another in a direct  
was caught but were swift than most  
the ♀, invariably returned to their young  
concealed, usually, I think they brought

was a plentiful mixture of ferns and  
see but the bushes two were in a  
small meadow plentifully grown up  
thickly with sheep laurel, blueberries, and  
Spiraea. Then last I interwined,  
shooting one of them. The other  
in directly had a mate with young  
nowhere seen for it chirped  
incessantly as long as I remained.  
It made no attempt at concealment  
but flew from bush to bush & was  
very tame & rather bold. The chirp  
was a low but high-pitched chirp  
repeated rapidly.  
This Sparrow like the Savanna  
fly late into the evening twilight.  
It also sings much though the  
last midday hour. It invariably  
preludes or follows low hiss or wud  
Halk when singing, falling, erect and  
throwing up the head into air  
abrupt jerk when the ♀ is  
withheld. Savanna Sparrows were singing  
in the same meadows on previous  
but this I have seen nowhere  
do.

Lunenburg, Mass.

Coturniculus heslowii

1886 Young flying

June 6 "On Sunday June 6 in Lunenburg,  
Worcester Co., Mass, I stood within 20 ft  
of a Heustow's Sparrow and heard it sing.  
It flushed a young bird from the grass"  
(H. A. Purdie letter of June 8, 1886.)

Food of the young -

Record, Mass.

June 19, 1878

I shot two young Henslow's Sparrows in the meadow at Concord to-day. They were very small to be on wing. The rectrices were just sprouting and the wing-feathers were not nearly fully-developed. The stomach of one contained three large red ants and a beetle; of the other numerous small beetles. [For full notes on habits etc. of young see card dated June 18, 1878]

Coturniculus henslowi in Florida . . .

. . . Wm Brewster.

See under C. lecontei.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, April, 1882, p. 121.

282. Henslow's Sparrow. Nesting in Northern Conn. By C. M. Jones. Ibid., VI, pp. 17, 18.—Coturniculus henslowi met with several different years, and two nests found, at Eastford, Conn.

781. Henslow's Bunting. Coturniculus henslowi (Aud.) Bp. Editorial. Ibid., Nos. 3-4, p. 2.—Refers to various previously recorded instances of its occurrence in Massachusetts, and the capture of a specimen at Amherst, June 7, 1884, where the bird is 'almost common.' Also record of the capture at Amherst of the Red-headed Woodpecker. Stearns's Bul. Mass. N. H. I



*Ammodramus caudacutus*

1890 Mass.

June 7 Revere Beach - Faxon & I discovered a colony in a small salt marsh S. E. of Oak Island just inside the beach ridge. We flushed at least six birds and doubtless there were many more and we did not beat closely and only crossed one end of the marsh. They were along ditches (not tide creeks) and the edges of salt ponds bordered by dense, matted, fine and short grass (not ~~red~~ sedge such as occurs on the tide creeks). They differed markedly in general appearance and, we thought, somewhat in behavior, also, from the sub-origatus (several of which we had found earlier in the day along the tide creeks) looking very much larger and nearly or quite as brown when flying as Savanna Sparrows for which, indeed, we mistook the first bird started. They were shyer than sub-origatus, flushing more easily, flying further and showing themselves rather more in the tops of the grasses but also taking to ditches and running swiftly ahead in much the same way when pursued. One alighted on the top of a stake. We heard no song nor even a chirp from any of them. The single bird shot was a ♂ with testes of full size and anal glands much swollen. The flight of this species seemed to me heavier and perhaps more undulating & less bee-like than that of sub-origatus. It is much like that of Passer domesticus & the bird on alighting plumps down in somewhat the same way.

Breeding colony

Habits

Flight

" 19 Spent most of the day among the colony at Oak Island. It contains more birds than I supposed & fully 25 or 30 pairs as nearly as I could estimate. They are distributed all over the meadow bounded by the two roads and two railroads & in another ~~and~~ larger meadow west of Crescent Beach and separated from the Oak Island meadow by a road we also found six or eight birds during a very hasty and superficial examination. Faxon started only one, however, in crossing the great marsh from Sargent to Oak Id. & that one was, he thought,

(# 2 (continued)

*Ammodramus caudacutus*

1890 Mass.

(June 19 Revere Beach) a hiborigatus probably a belated migrant.

In the Salt Island meadow we found seven nests, two 7 nests empty, one with one fresh egg and another lying on the ground Number of outside nearly a foot away, two with four eggs each, one set eggs in set rotten & evidently deserted, the other incubated a few days, one nest with four eggs at 10 a.m. and 12 M., with two young and two eggs at 4.30 P.M. The seventh nest contained five young almost fully feathered and grown and certainly within two or three days of taking wing.

All seven nests were similar in composition but they varied Position widely in position and surroundings. Two were placed squarely on the ground within 20 yds. of one another one in the middle of a dense <sup>mat</sup> bed of Juncus Gerardi well above the reach of the tides on one of the highest points in the marsh, the other near the edge of a tide creek barely above high-water mark and among the coarse sedge that grows along these creeks. Both of these nests were perfectly concealed from above and every side, the first by <sup>nest</sup> living grass which grew almost as densely as fur on an otter's back & to the height of about 20 inches, the second by a broken down bunch of dry sedge <sup>under</sup> which there was barely room for the bird to enter. The other five nests were all raised well above the ground among the upright stems of coarse sedges, the clear space beneath their bottoms varying from one to three or four inches. Four of these were perfectly concealed from above as well as from all sides, three by the tops of the clustering grasses in which they were placed, the fourth by a ~~mat~~ mat of drift sedge which had been lodged on the tops of the grasses by an unusually high tide. This last nest was in the middle of a bed of coarse creek sedge between the railroad and the marsh. The other three nests were among fine salt grass

[\* Identified by C. E. Faxon]

1890 Mass.

Nests

(June 29 Rensselaer) on the edge of salt ponds.

The seventh nest was on the edge of a ditch built in the very top of a clump of fine, short, <sup>dry</sup> grass and as open above as the nest of a Red-winged Blackbird which it greatly resembled in position and general appearance although it was of course smaller & composed of much finer materials. This was the nest which had one egg outside on the ground. It caught my eye from a distance of several yards.

Two of the birds were sitting. When flushed for the first Behavior of time they started about six or eight feet ahead of me sitting birds rising in the usual manner without any preliminary running or tumbling about on the ground although the eggs of one of them were so near hatching that two of them had turned into clucks at our last visit late in the afternoon. Neither bird chirped or came back about us but both, after flying thirty yds. or so, alighted, one in a ditch, the other on a bare mud flat and began running and dodging among the mud lumps and grass in the usual characteristic way. One after being flushed several times in succession flew to a cluster of old barrels among which it hid so closely that we walked entirely around them before driving it out. After we had visited these nests several times at short intervals the birds became shy & would fly from them when we were 20 ft. or more away.

We found the nest with rotten eggs in an odd way and probably quite by accident. A ♂ Sharp-tail alighted in a certain place and sang several times sitting in the top of the grass. Faxon fixed his eyes on the spot, walked directly to it, parted the grass and there was the nest and eggs directly beneath.

# 14

*Ammodramus caudacutus*1890 Mass

(June 19 Renne Beach). These breeding Sharp-tails show thunderbolt Behavior on wing much more freely than do autumn birds. In fact during our stay among them to-day a minute rarely elapsed when one or more was not seen and frequently two or three would be in flight at once. The characteristic flight was short Flight and hovering the bird rising to a height of six or eight feet and after fluttering along for a few yards dropping again into the grass. Sometimes one would go 100 to 200 yards, however, in which case it generally moved swiftly in long, gentle sweeps or undulations resembling closely those of an English Sparrow. A bird every few minutes would take what looked like a song flight rising to the height of 15 or 20 ft. its wings moving with a rapid crossing motion and then <sup>slowly</sup> descend on a gentle incline finally closing its wings and dropping to the ground as if that. ~~In the former case~~ ~~of one of these "towering" birds we distinctly~~ heard this flight closely resembled the song-flight of the Marsh Wren (*C. palustris*) but we heard only one Sharp-tail sing while thus engaged although several uttered an unmusical cup-cup a few times in succession. Others certainly went through the performance without making the least audible sound. In addition to the modes of flight above described we several times saw a bird rise to a height of 15 to 20 feet and fly 100 yds. or more in a perfectly straight, level course, moving <sup>and feebly</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> slowly as a Rail and sometimes dropping its feet and legs in a similar manner. A

# 5

*Ammodramus cordacutus*1890 Mass.

(June 19 Ronan Beach) bird feeding young in the nest always Bird feeding  
 flies in this way being going and returning. It also young in  
 uttered the cup-cup almost incessantly when on nest  
 its way to the nest but never while leaving it.

On the outward trips it usually carried an Removing  
 excrement sac of the young in its bill dropping excrement  
 it 50 yds. or so from the nest. On the inward  
 trips it brought a little lump of food the character  
 of which we could not ascertain. It invariably  
 went to the same place, a spot about 100 yds.  
 from the nest in the open marsh, and both  
 going & returning took almost exactly the same  
 course. It alighted directly at the nest and  
 flew directly from it. Its trips averaged about  
 one per minute each way.

These Sparrows are far from persistent singers. at Song  
 times fully 15 minutes would pass without a sound  
 from they one of the dozens which we knew to be  
 in the grass near us. When one began, however, he  
 would usually start others and for a few minutes  
 there would be general singing all over the marsh.  
 The song is the faintest and carries the poorest of  
 any bird song that I have ever heard. One must be  
 within 30 yds. to get it all under the most  
 favorable conditions and if the wind is blowing  
 it cannot be heard distinctly at much over  
 15 yds. Nevertheless it is varied and at times  
 decidedly musical and phrasing. What we took  
 to be the typical song begins with a re-ee-ee  
 almost exactly like that of the Yellow-winged Sparrow  
 and ends with an il-ik or il-i-i-oh guttural

1890 Mass.

(June 19 Rever Beach) but at the same time liquid in tone Song and resembling the terminal portion of the song of the Marsh Wren (*C. palustris*). One bird which we heard under exceptionally favorable conditions sang continuously for several seconds uttering a medley of varied sounds which included in addition to those described several which we did not hear from any of the other birds. I wrote down the portion of this bird's song as follows: zee-e-e-e, st-iff, st-iff, zee-e-e-e, it-i-oh, traw, st-iff, this sequence given in slow, measured tones. The single flight song heard reminded both our flight and Taxon of the flight song of Stranella song but it was, of course, feebler.

The Sharp-tail usually sings from the tops of a cluster of tall grass but sometimes perches on a stake. It sits as erect as a Hawk and quite as motionless. I could not detect any quivering of the wings or tail and was not even sure that the throat swelled perceptibly although I watched several birds through a glass at less than 20 yds. The bird has one peculiar habit in connection with its singing viz. it rarely sings more than twice consecutively and often only once, from the same perch, taking <sup>numerous</sup> short flights from place to place.

In addition to the song we heard ~~three~~ two Notes different notes. (1) chup or chup-chup given both on wing and in the grass the tone varying, sometimes soft & resembling one of the down-birds chirps but harder & more wooden at others harsh and

1890 Mass.

(June 19 River Beach) Somewhat like the low note of the Notes  
 Song Sparrow. (2) trip, the family note of the Sparrows  
 and precisely like that of a dove or more of one  
 familiar species. As a rule, however, these Finches  
 when not singing are remarkably silent birds.  
 In describing the song I omitted to state that Song  
 the zē-e-e-e-e part carries the furthest and  
 hence is often the only portion which reaches  
 the ear of the listener. It is exceedingly like  
 the song of the Yellow-wing and as this  
 is practically identical with the terminal part  
 of the Savannah Sparrow's song it would be  
 very easy to mistake the Sharp-tail's song heard  
 at a distance of one 30 or 40 yds. for the  
 distant song of a Savannah Sparrow. The st-iff,  
st-iff notes recall the song of Henslow's Sparrow.  
 Thus it would be not wide of the mark  
 to say that the Sharp-tail's song seems to  
 combine a part or all of the songs of the  
 Henslow's and Yellow-winged or Savannah Sparrow's  
 and the Song-billed Marsh Wren's.

The Sharp-tail is a retiring if not shy bird. The Shy det-  
 only way we could hear them sing and see them position  
 flying about us without alarm was to conceal  
 ourselves by lying flat on our sides or faces in  
 the grass and keep perfectly still for a long  
 time. When we walked about on the marsh  
 we surely flushed them or caught an occasional  
 glimpse of a bird budding across an opening  
 or skulking under the bank of a ditch.

*Ammodramus caudacutus*

1890 Mass.

June 25 Falmouth. Found three nests with 4, 4, and 5 eggs respectively, <sup>within 30 yds. of one another</sup> in a three nests narrow strip of marsh bordering a large pond which, although connected 4, 4 & 5 eggs directly with the sea by a short creek of slight fall, had perfectly fresh water. The water plants, however, were of species found only in brackish ponds and the scarious grasses composing the sedge on the marsh were all such as are common and characteristic forms on the salt marshes near Boston.

The nests were all built among the stems of short, upright grasses, their bottoms 2 to 3 inches above the ground which was wet and shiny but in no instance actually covered with water. One nest was under a broad flake of broken down grass cemented together into a firm mat by dried mud or slime, on one side however it was entirely open so that the eggs could be easily seen from a distance of several yards.

Another nest was under a similar mat of <sup>dead</sup> slime-glued grass and leaves, but not trusting to this alone, the bird had bent down the living grass on every side interweaving the tips so as to form a perfect screen ~~on every side~~ as well as a canopy ~~which~~ extended out an inch or more over the entrance which was a hole in the side not much larger than that of a Marsh Wren's nest.

The third nest was among short wiry grasses, about half green, half dry, the tops of which were bent down and interwoven so as to form a perfect dome-shaped roof nearly as solid and thick as that of a Marsh Wren's nest. There was a small entrance on one side which was not roofed over (i. e. the entrance was not)

All three birds were sitting. One flushed at 20 ft., another under foot, while I saw third on the nest craning her neck out to look at me (this last was the open nest). All three birds flew some distance when flushed. Two alighted on the ground & began running, the third in the top of a dead bayberry. None of them chirped. No ♂♂ heard or seen.

Mass.  
Milton

Ammodramus caudatus.

1890

July 8.

This afternoon I went with my brother Charles to the Neponset marshes just below Milton Lower Mills (i.e., a little higher up the river than those big marshes near the Atlantic station) and found a nice little colony of Sharp-tails. Saw about six birds. They were in full song, although the thermometer stood at 92. I think this indicates that they are underway with their second brood. The locality is on the Milton side of the river at the foot of "Milton Hill". Like the Rever locality, the marsh is rich in Juncus gerardi and creeks and ditches, & I fancy these are essentials - the Juncus indicating a level above high-tide & the ditches affording the favorite place for retreat & perhaps for feeding.

Found nothing near Atlantic yesterday.

Walter Faxon ne Ceter  
July 8<sup>th</sup> - 1890.

Birds of Southern New Brunswick  
M. Chamberlain.

7. *Ammodromus caudacutus*. SHARP-TAILED FINCH.—On June 21, 1881, five individuals of this species were taken by Mr. H. A. Purdie, Mr. Fred. W. Daniel and myself, on a marsh near Hampton. This marsh is watered by the Kenebecasis, a tributary of the St. John, and lies some twenty-five miles up the former river. The junction of the two rivers takes place about five miles from the mouth of the St. John. The marsh is some twenty miles, air line, from the nearest point on the Bay of Fundy shore, and at the time we visited it, the water running past it did not taste in the least brackish.\*

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 105

AMMODROMUS CAUDACUTUS.—A SOMEWHAT INLAND RECORD ON THE ATLANTIC COAST.—On June 21, 1881, in company with my friends Messrs. Chamberlain and Daniel, of St. John, N. B., I found a few pairs of Sharp-tailed Finches in the tall grassy marshes bordering the Kenebecasis River at Hampton, which is about twenty miles to the north of the above named city and the Bay of Fundy, and about at the head of tide water. The birds were singing, and undoubtedly breeding, but a severe hunt for their nests was unsuccessful. Although a closely allied variety (*nelsoni*) is known to occur in certain western States, I think our maritime form has not before been observed away from the immediate coast on the Atlantic seaboard. It might however be looked for up our rivers and creeks as far as or a little above the flow of tide water. See this Bulletin, II, pp. 27, 28; III, pp. 48, 98; V, p. 52.—H. A. PURDIE, *Newton, Mass.*  
Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 122.

NORTHERN RANGE OF THE SHARP-TAILED FINCH (*Ammodromus caudacutus*).—My friend, Mr. William Stone of Cambridge, has recently presented me with five specimens of the Sharp-tailed Finch which he shot at Tignish, Prince Edward's Island, on August 2 and 3, 1876. The locality where they were taken, as he describes it to me, was exceptional,—a wide waste of marsh, dry, and at some distance from the sea, grown up to bushes, with a few scattered dead pine stubs, remnants of a former forest. Throughout this tract these birds were abundant, the males singing on all sides from the tops of the bushes. The individuals examined are all adults in very pale, worn breeding plumage. Dr. Coues, in his "Birds of New England" (Proc. Essex Inst., Vol. V, p. 282), gives *Ammodromus maritimus* as occurring at Rye Beach, New Hampshire, but this record, he informs me by letter, was a mistake, the bird which he found there being *A. caudacutus*. The finding of the Sharp-tailed Finch in numbers at Tignish, taken in connection with the fact of its recent detection at Scarborough, Me., by Mr. N. C. Brown [see above], renders it extremely probable that it may occur regularly, at suitable localities, all along the intermediate line of coast.—WILLIAM BREWSTER.

Bull. N. O. C., 2, Jan., 1877, p. 28.

Summer Residents on Southwest  
Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

549. Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Shot seven or eight specimens at Castine, and two or three at Bobson's Island.

Quincy, 15, Nov. 1890. p. 162

THE SHARP-TAILED FINCH (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) IN MAINE. — Dr. Brewer strangely misquotes me on page 48 of the present volume of the "Bulletin," in reference to the Sharp-tailed Finch (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). In my note to which he refers, no mention is made of the capture of a "single" specimen in Scarboro', Me., nor indeed of the capture of any specimen at all. What I did say (see Bulletin, Vol. II, p. 27) was that I had found the species a rare inhabitant of a part of Scarboro' Marsh.

Late in October, 1876, I observed a few individuals of this species on Pine Point, — a sandy strip of land which forms the seaward extremity of the great Scarboro' Marshes. Aside from the fact that this was considerably to the east of their previously known range, I was surprised to find them here, for I had carefully examined the Point and its vicinity, at other seasons of the year, without detecting a single specimen. Accordingly, during the season of 1877, I made the Sharp-tailed Finch the object of almost daily expeditions, from early spring until late autumn; but, in confirmation of my suspicions, not a bird was to be found until about October 1. At that date great numbers appeared on the marshes and sea beaches adjacent to Pine Point, and for a couple of weeks they fairly swarmed in their favorite haunts. They were noticeably less numerous during the latter part of the month, and by November 1, only stragglers remained. I captured the last of the season on November 15.

To the best of my knowledge, then, although abundant during the autumnal migration, the Sharp-tailed Finch is not to be found in this vicinity during the spring and summer months. — NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.* **Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878, p. 98-99.**

AMMODROMUS CAUDACUTUS A SUMMER RESIDENT IN SOUTHERN MAINE. — Although it rather reflects upon my previous thoroughness as a field observer,\* I suppose the ornithological public ought to be informed that *Ammodromus caudacutus* remains to breed in the Scarboro' marshes, after all. I say to breed, and the presence there of some half-dozen pairs during the past summer (1879), will probably be accepted as good evidence of nidification, though I have not actually seen any nests. The bird is so shy and lurking in habit that a few scattered pairs would hardly be detected amongst the rank grass and weeds of the marshes, during summer, were the faint song of the male not heard; and I am forced to believe, in spite of my previous negative evidence to the contrary, that the species ought to be included among the regular summer residents of this locality. — NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

\* See note on this species, in this Bulletin, Vol. III, pp. 98, 99.

**Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 52.**

NOTES ON BIRDS NEW TO THE FAUNA OF MAINE, ETC. — Of the following five species, three are here for the first time recorded as birds of Maine, another as found for the first time so far in the interior, and another as found for the first time breeding on the New England coast.

1. *Ammodromus caudacutus* Swain. SHARP-TAILED FINCH. — I have found this species, now, I believe, for the first time recorded as a bird of Maine, a rare inhabitant of a certain part of the great marsh in Scarborough.

*N. C. Brown, Portland.*

**Bull. N. O. C. 2, Jan., 1877, p. 27.**

The Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) in a Fresh-Water Marsh.—I am informed by my friend, Mr. Lewis M. Todd, of Calais, Me., that during the autumn of 1886 he captured one of these Sharp-tails on a marsh some distance above the falls on the St. Croix River. The water at that point must be free from saline flavor, as the falls prevent the sea water from reaching it.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

**Auk, 4, July 1887, p. 261**

*Ammodromus caudatus*. - <sup>18 feet</sup> <sup>6th Pond.</sup> Aug. 26 Rye Beach, N. H. 1870.

Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

*Ammodromus caudatus*. - Aug. 29.

Ammodramus caudacutus

1884.

Nougitt, Mass.

June 17. At Nougitt (a watering place on  
Brossards Bay, six miles from New  
Bedford) I found about six pairs of these  
birds breeding in a small area of marsh  
surrounding a salt pond. The marsh was  
rather broken and hummocky and intersected  
by ditches. The Sharp-tails were mostly found  
in or near these ditches. When flushed they  
would fly only a few rods and then drop  
into a ditch where they would run ~~very~~  
swiftly & ~~maneuver~~ like mice as they often

Ammodramus caudacutus

1884.

River Marshes, Mass.

June 13. - <sup>Spelman's I</sup> Shot two on the marshes north  
of Oak Island. Both were males.  
One (in Spelman's coll.) is in autumn  
plumage, or, at least, something very  
nearly like it, the breast being  
immaculate. We found these birds  
about pools of salt water; one stalked  
through the grass like a mouse & was  
hard to flush. The other flew freely &  
acted like a Savannah Sparrow. We saw  
no others though we beat miles & miles.  
Mass. (Spowick)

Ammodramus caudacutus

1888

Late occurrence in autumn

Oct. 30

Shot a typical specimen of caudacutus  
near the mouth of Spowick River. It rose  
from an open space between two beds of tall  
salt sedge on a marshy island. It was the  
only Sharp-tail I could find there

Took advantage of a thickening  
 piece of bank by shuffling  
 well but of light saw with it.  
 I met the local parrot they  
 would stop and see me  
 out from behind some property  
 he cut or type of grassland of  
 the obscure humeral purple  
 still they would at length come  
 out in plain light & look about  
 the birds. They are slender  
 & graceful in shape and the  
 well is unusually long for a  
 Sparrow. The belly shows well  
 the bird is unmistakable when  
 well seen. Their flight is  
 more undulating and direct  
 than that of Sparrows and  
 the wings have a buzzing, like the  
 of a rail. It is on the same  
 of a rail. I am not sure  
 but I think there is a great  
 deal of similarity between  
 the two. The feathers are  
 all fringed and they must  
 be in contact. They must  
 slip off their feet & are  
 some distance before starting  
 for any flight. I found  
 although in woods & closely

*Ammodramus caudacutus*

1884.

Revere Marshes, Mass.

Spelman & I

June 13. - Shot two on the marshes north  
 of Oak Island. Both were males.  
 One (in Spelman's coll.) is in autumn  
 plumage, or, at least, something very  
 nearly like it, the breast being  
 immaculate. We found these birds  
 about pools of salt water; one stalked  
 through the grass like a mouse & was  
 hard to flush. The other flew freely &  
 acted like a Savannah Sparrow. We saw  
 no others though we beat miles of marsh.

Mass. (Spowick)

*Ammodramus caudacutus*

1888

Late occurrence in autumn

Oct. 30

Shot a typical specimen of *Ammodramus caudacutus*  
 near the mouth of Spowick River. It rose  
 from an open space between two beds of tall  
 salt sedge on a marshy island. It was the  
 only Sharp-tail I could find there

Birds of Bristol County, Mass  
F. W. Andros.

*Ammodramus caudactus* (Gmel.), Sharp-tailed  
Sparrow. Summer resident, rare.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140

Ammodramus caudactus.

Saugus and Revere, Mass.

1891, Oct. 8. See Journal.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

*Ammodramus* *caudocinctus*

June 4<sup>8</sup> Fairfield  
x (9<sup>as</sup>)

" 9<sup>8</sup> (nest 4 eggs) 10<sup>1</sup> with nest 5 eggs 11<sup>2</sup> nest 5 eggs } Say brook  
x

" 14<sup>5</sup> 15<sup>4</sup> nest 5 eggs 17<sup>1</sup>

more numerous than *A. maritimus* in the Fairfield marsh, much less so at the mouth of Oyster Point (Say brook), comparatively scarce but yet not uncommon in the marshes at the mouth of the Connecticut. Although the two species are often seen or heard side by side in these marshes their local distribution is not literally identical. The Seaside is scattered broadcast over most of ground while the Sharp-tail is in Mass., affect the vicinity of creeks & ditches in which they take refuge when flushed. The latter species, also, nests almost invariably here in beds of a peculiar short fine grass of a vivid light green color which at this season lies prostrate or "bedged" in masses as dense and smooth as fur. The Seaside is a hole avoids this grass but it nests freely in every other kind of grass which these marshes contain even among the cat tail flags. The Sharp-tail usually lays 3 eggs; the Seaside rarely more than 4. *A. caudocinctus* had nearly ceased singing when I reached Say brook. Indeed we heard it there only on June 9. The song was essentially as in Mass.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

64. *Ammodromus caudacutus*.

*First plumage*: male. General coloring, both above and beneath, bright reddish-brown, nearly as in the superciliary stripe of the adult. Feathers of interscapular region streaked centrally with dark brown; nape brownish-olive, unspotted. Two broad stripes of dark brown on the sides of crown. Wings and tail scarcely more reddish than in adult. Sides of head with fewer dark markings. Sides of breast somewhat thickly streaked with dusky; otherwise unmarked. From a specimen in my collection, taken at Rye Beach, N. H., August 20, 1869. It is not a little remarkable that in a family whose young are nearly without exception more thickly streaked or spotted than their parents, — and often, indeed, conspicuously marked in this manner, when the parent is entirely plain, — this bird in first plumage should exhibit less streaking beneath than the adult, which has not only a *continuous* band of dusky markings across the breast, but also the sides thickly marked in a similar manner. In view of this fact, the further development of the young is most interesting. When the autumnal plumage is acquired, the dusky streakings upon the sides of the breast are entirely lost, and do not again appear until after the spring moult, when, as previously stated, they are distributed over much larger areas. A nearly analogous case of development is afforded by the Arctic and Wilson's Terns, whose young have the bill and feet at first pale red or yellow, afterwards dusky or nearly black, and again, when fully adult, deeper and clearer red than when first from the nest.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, July, 1878. p. 119-120.

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

I am indebted to Mr. N. C. Brown for a specimen of a male Sharp-tailed Finch, which he collected at Scarborough, Me., October 19, 1877, showing slight traces of albinism. A few white feathers may be seen over each superciliary stripe and also on the secondaries and coverts of one wing.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 28

1890

June 29 Faxon visited the nest in which two young hatched while we near it on June 19. It contained to-day one young bird fully feathered & ready to leave. The others had doubtless gone. This fixes the time of young in nest at about 10 days.

*Am. caudacutus*

## Brief Notes J. C. Leachman.

On the 12th of June, found a nest of sharp-tailed Sparrow on salt meadow. Nest contained one egg. There were three others outside of the nest and near it. Visited the nest again on the 14th, and found five eggs outside and none in the nest. Two of the eggs were three feet or more away from the nest on top of the fine

grass that was bent down. Took the eggs, but left the nest. Visited the nest for the third time on the 15th, and found top of the nest torn out and several feet away. Went to the nesting site four days after and found that the nest had disappeared with the exception of a few blades of seaweed. Did not see any birds about, the last time.

O. & O. XIII, Sept. 1888 p. 137 - 138.

957. *Sharp-Tailed and Sea-side Finches*. By Everett Smith. *Ibid.*, Dec. 18, p. 405. — The Sharp-tailed stated to be found as far north as the Tantremar marshes, near the head of the Bay of Fundy. The Seaside is added to the fauna of Maine on the basis of its recent capture at Shark Island.

*For. & Stream, XXIII*

58. *The Sharp-tailed Finch—Ammodromus caudacutus* — its eggs and Eggs. By T. M. Brewer. *Ibid.*, IV, pp. 41, 42, Jan. 1879. — General account of its geographical distribution, nesting habits, etc. *Oologist*

1937. *Nesting of the Sharp-tailed and Seaside Finches*. By C. S. Schick. *Ibid.*, No. 8, August, 1888, pp. 102-103. *Hawkeye Orn. & Oologist, Vol. I.*

59. *Nesting of the Sharp-tailed Finch (Ammodromus caudacutus)*. By G. S. Smith. *Ibid.*, IV, pp. 66, 67, April, 1879. — Account of nesting habits, with special reference to the salt marshes near Boston. *Oologist*

Revival of the Sexual Passions  
in Birds in Autumn.

*Ammodramus caudacutus*.

R. H. Howe, jr.

Auk, XVI, July, 1899, pp. 286-287.

See under Progne Subis.

**Massachusetts Notes.**— On October 24, 1910, I shot a partial albino Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Passerherbulus caudacutus*) on a salt meadow at Nantucket, Mass. I had seen it several days previous but was unable to secure it then. The upper parts are blotched with several patches of pure white feathers. The coverts of the left wing are also pure white while the feathers on the right wing are only margined with white. The tail, crown and primaries are normal in color as are also the underparts and nearly all the rest of the bird.

Early in November, 1909, two White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons gambeli*) were shot at a stand on Sesaeaha Pond, Nantucket. I heard of their being killed last spring and was told by the man who had one of them mounted that they were Lesser Snow Geese. However, this bird has recently been presented to the Boston Society of Natural History and has proved to be *Anser albifrons gambeli*. It is a young bird and the white at the base of the bill is only just beginning to appear. Also the tips of the feathers of the underparts show faint traces of black. There are only three other records for New England, and these are all from Massachusetts. A male was shot at Quincy some time about 1848-50 and was presented to the Boston Society of Natural History.<sup>1</sup> At present there is no trace of this bird. Dr. T. M. Brewer, in 'A Defence of his Catalogue of the Birds of New England,'<sup>2</sup> says: "*Anser gambeli*, between 1836-46, was much more common than it apparently is now, but even now there is no lack of evidence of its presence. . . . A fine specimen in immature plumage has been recently taken in Gloucester and is now in the collection of Mr. William Jeffries of Boston." The bird referred to was shot October 20, 1876, at West Gloucester, and at the time was supposed to be *Anser albifrons gambeli*; it turned out, however, to be a Blue Goose. This also is now in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History and is the only one ever recorded from this State. Possibly after all *A. a. gambeli* was not as common even between 1836 and 1846 as Dr. Brewer supposed. The second authentic record was one shot at Plymouth, November 26, 1897, by Mr. Paul W. Gifford.<sup>3</sup> It is an adult specimen and is to-day in Mr. William Brewster's collection. Of these few records the third is the most interesting, for it is an adult bird that was caught alive in a wounded condition early in August, 1907, at Great Neck, Ipswich, by Mr. A. B. Clark.<sup>4</sup> This bird is still alive and I believe several unsuccessful attempts have been made to cross it with a wild Canada Goose.

In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXVII, No. 3, page 339, Mr. R. Heber Howe, Jr., mentions a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) being shot at West Barnstable on Dec. 30, 1909, as the ninth record for the State. I have five more unrecorded specimens making a total of fourteen. The first one was shot on the Neponset meadows, near Canton, on September 9, 1893, and is in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. The other four were all shot in 1909, at Chatham, and as far as I can find they are the only ones known to the local gunners ever to have been taken there. Of these four the first was taken January 9, 1909, by Mr. Russell Bearse in a braekish marsh while he was duck shooting by moonlight. This is now owned by Mr. W. E. Freeman of Arlington. The second was shot by Mr. W. A. Carey of Boston on October 2, and is now in his collection. He was shooting quail along the edge of a cranberry bog when the dog flushed this bird. The third was caught alive on October 25 by a setter dog in a bit of salt marsh, and is now in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. The fourth was killed by Mr. Frank Eldredge on October 20. This one was shot on Monomoy Island, in a salt meadow where Mr. Eldredge was after shore birds. It seems very remarkable that these last three should have all been taken within the space of about three weeks time and all within an area of a few square miles. Undoubtedly the King Rail is more abundant than is generally supposed, and although it is thought that it may breed within the limits of the State, no authentic case has yet been recorded. However, this recent abundance may lead in the near future to some such discovery.—S. PRESCOTT FAY, Boston, Mass.

<sup>1</sup> Cabot, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. III, 1851, p. 136.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, Vol. II, April, 1877, p. 46.

<sup>3</sup> Auk, Vol. XVIII, pp. 135, 136.

<sup>4</sup> Auk, Vol. XXV, 1908, p. 80.

Auk 28, Jan-1911, p.

120, 21, 22.

**The Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Other Birds at Plymouth, Mass.**— The winter had been quite severe and on February 2, 1912, the harbor was nearly frozen over, only the channels, some distance off shore, being open. The shore was covered with snow and broken ice. Gulls and ducks were numerous around the open water in mid-harbor.

Where a small stream entered the harbor, I noticed quite a modification of the otherwise prevalent, boreal conditions. Waste water from some mills enters this stream, evidently raising the temperature considerably, for a mist hung over the stream and the beach was bare of ice and snow for some thirty feet on either side of the brook where it entered the harbor. The birds seemed to have taken advantage of this very local, climatic condition.

About a hundred Herring Gulls were feeding about the mouth of the stream; fifty Horned Larks were busy gleaning edible bits and two had a spirited contest for a choice morsel, while at times they twittered to each other in low, musical tones; and a bright and active Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow was noticed among the Larks. I observed it for some time, and it came within eight feet of me, searching for food among the sea-weed and stones, and rested for a minute or more upon a large beach stone. The creamy-buff appearance, of the back and head markings, breast and underparts, longitudinal gray side streaks, the contour of the bill, and the sharp-tipped tail feathers were distinctly visible. I was pleased to note this species on our coast in severe mid-winter.

I am reasonably sure that this sparrow was not *maritimus* which species has some late, northern records, as its larger size and different bill would serve to identify it.

I continued my observations at this point about an hour and while here a male Golden-eye whistled overhead, so near that his attractive dress and white spot near eye were distinctly seen. Also a fine adult, male Great Black-backed Gull was noticed with some Herring Gulls near a channel.— CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, Taunton, Mass,

Aug. XXIX, Oct. 1912. J. 543-44

# THE AUK:

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF  
ORNITHOLOGY.

---

VOL. XIII.                      OCTOBER, 1896. pp. 271-8. NO. 4.

---

THE SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*AMMODRAMUS  
CAUDACUTUS*) AND ITS GEOGRAPHICAL  
RACES.

BY JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR.

*Plate IV.*

THE SHARP-TAILED SPARROW is a bird that can boast of considerable antiquity among North American species and it has been figured more than once by early writers, but the two geographical races that have been described of late years are now figured for the first time on the accompanying plate. The specific name dates from 1788, when the bird was called by Gmelin *Oriolus caudacutus* (Gmelin, Syst. Nat., I, pt. i., 1788, 394). His description, however, is practically a translation into Latin of Pennant's description of a bird he calls the Sharp-tailed Oriole (Pennant, Arctic Zoöl., II, 1785, 261), which Latham also describes (Latham, Synop. Birds, I, pt. 2, 1782, 448, pl. xvii), giving a fairly recognizable colored plate and stating that he is indebted to Pennant for the drawing of the bird as well as for the description. Neither Pennant nor Latham made use of any scientific name and therefore Gmelin becomes the authority for

a name that still survives. That it is applicable to true *caudacutus*, and not to either of the subspecies, becomes most probable when we read Gmelin's description in conjunction with Latham's plate, both based on the same material, a specimen from New York in Mrs. Blackburn's collection. We read, "pectus, femora et crissum pallide flavescentia, maculis fuscis," a statement which seems to indicate the paler buff and distinct streaking of *caudacutus* as compared with *nelsoni*, and other parts of the description contribute to show that pale *subvirgatus* was not the bird in hand,—these being the three forms to which the old description might apply.

Wilson, apparently unaware of previous recognition, figured and described an undoubted *caudacutus*, which he named *Fringilla caudacuta*, Sharp-tailed Finch (Wilson, Amer. Orn., IV, 1811, 70, pl. xxxiv, f. 3), and Audubon also figured and accurately described the species (Audubon, Orn. Biog., II, 1834, 281, pl. cxlix, V, 1839, 499; Birds Am. III, 3, 1841, 108, pl. clxxliv.). It is again poorly figured by DeKay (Zool. N. Y., pt. ii, 1844, 164, pl. 67, f. 154) and from him received the curious name of 'Quail-head,' so called from a fancied resemblance to the markings of the Bob-white.

The name *caudacutus*, once applied, seems to have been adopted by all later writers, save Nuttall (who saw fit to call the bird *Fringilla littoralis* for reasons best known to himself), and consequently the bird has not been burdened with the multiplicity of names that so often fall to the lot of early described species.

In 1875 a smaller, brighter colored race was separated under the name *nelsoni* (Allen, Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H., xvii, March, 1875, 293) on the evidence of a number of specimens obtained by Mr. Edward W. Nelson and others on the Calumet Marshes near Ainsworth, Illinois, in September and October, 1874. This has proved to be the inland representative of its strictly littoral relatives.

In 1887 I described a race from the marshes of New Brunswick, Canada (Dwight, Auk, IV, July 1887, 233) to which I applied the name *subvirgatus*. It is a comparatively pale race that seems to have closer affinities with *nelsoni* than with its nearer breeding neighbor *caudacutus*, and its recognition raises interesting questions of distribution yet to be solved.

\* In 1891 a race called *becki* was described from California (Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, 1891, 483) on the strength of a single specimen. This proved to be a straggling *nelsoni* so that *becki* became a mere synonym.

I have briefly sketched the history of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow and its races and only touched upon a few essential points, because it is beyond the scope of the present paper to treat the subject exhaustively. It is rather my purpose to emphasize by collation the facts of which we are already possessed and call attention to the gaps in our knowledge of these birds, well-known as they may seem to be.

#### PLUMAGE.

First of all let us grasp the characters by which the three forms may be distinguished. I went over them at some length in my early article and to-day, after a lapse of nine years, having examined fully five times as much material as was originally before me, I find that there is little to modify the conclusions then reached.

*Ammodramus caudacutus* is, at all seasons, so distinctly streaked below with black, that seldom does a specimen present itself that can for a moment be confounded with either of the other races, when once this difference is appreciated by specimens in hand. Besides, the birds are large, with large bills and are richly colored when in unworn plumage, although with all the members of this genus the feathers are rapidly and extensively abraded. There is considerable individual variation, and, it may be noted, winter specimens from South Carolina are as a rule richer in color and more heavily streaked than northern birds.

*Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni* is a small form, this being most readily apparent in the bill and length of wing. In coloration it is very similar to *caudacutus*, though usually richer in browns and buffs, especially the ochraceous, buffy yellow wash of the breast and flanks. The streaking below is obscure, the lines dusky, suffused and narrow as compared with the other forms. In spring plumage, and occasionally in the fall, the lines are more definite yet characteristically narrow.

*Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus* is intermediate in size between *caudacutus* and *nelsoni*. It lacks the distinct streaking of

the former and the bright colors of the latter, being a pale grayish looking bird, and the edgings of the back feathers are ashy or pearl-gray, according to season, instead of pure white, as in *nelsoni*. The accompanying plate is intended to show these differences, and on it are figured the type of *subvirgatus* (No. 1261 ♂ adult, Hillsborough, New Brunswick, July 19, 1886, J. Dwight, Jr.), and a breeding male *nelsoni* taken by Dr. Louis B. Bishop in Towner Co., North Dakota, July 5, 1895 (L. B. B. No. 2071). It seems preferable to thus compare two breeding males rather than figure the type of *nelsoni* which, taken in the autumn, is very possibly a migrant. The coloring is most excellent save in the tarsus and foot of *nelsoni*, which should be of a purplish flesh color. The bills do not show the differences in size that usually are obvious.

In order to bring out as definitely as possible the points of difference (appreciable at any season in all birds, save those in first plumage) between these allied races I will present them in parallel columns :

	<i>caudacutus.</i>	<i>nelsoni.</i>	<i>subvirgatus.</i>
Lateral crown stripes.	Deep brown.	Deep, rich brown.	Paler, greenish brown.
Nape and back.	Browns prevail.	Browns prevail.	Grays prevail.
Outer edgings of back feathers.	Ashy or buffy.	White and conspicuous.	Ashy or pearl-gray and obscure.
Edgings of secondaries and tertiaries.	Rusty.	Bright, rusty buff.	Paler.
Breast and sides of head.	Buffy and ochraceous tints intense.	Buffy and ochraceous tints more intense.	Tints pale.
Breast and flank streaks.	Distinct black and broad.	Obscure, or suffused and narrow.	Obscure, or suffused and medium width.
Abdomen.	Clear white.	Clear white.	Dingy white.
Bill.	Large and long.	Small and short.	Medium.
Measurements.	Largest size.	Smallest size.	Medium size.

Typical birds are easily recognized when birds of like season are compared, but difficulties arise in determining certain fall migrants or winter birds (of which there are a large number in collections) that show intergradation between *nelsoni* and *subvirgatus*. They are taken on the Atlantic coast at various points

and we can only suppose they come from unknown breeding grounds. When we realize that *nelsoni* has not been recorded as breeding east of about 87° W. long. while *subvirgatus* has not been found west of about 70° W. long., there is ample ground for such supposition.

## DISTRIBUTION.

*Ammodramus caudacutus* is restricted in the breeding season to the salt marshes of the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Massachusetts. North of the latter named State, in the limited marshes of the New Hampshire and Maine coasts, it is probable that *subvirgatus* would be found. In fact a few stragglers have been secured that, singularly enough, approach more nearly to *nelsoni* than to *caudacutus* as would naturally be expected. One specimen is from Cambridge, Mass., May 31, another from Revere, Mass., June 7, and a third from North Madison, Conn., June 9. These birds may have been late migrants but the probability is they were breeding. It is obvious therefore that breeding specimens from the Maine coast are greatly to be desired. A few *caudacutus* linger through the winter as far north as New Jersey (Stone, Birds E. Pa. and N. J., 1894, 114), the bulk passing to the South Atlantic States and even reaching Tarpon Springs, Florida, on the Gulf coast (Scott, Auk, VI, 1889, 322).

*A. c. nelsoni* has been sparingly found during the breeding season in Northern Illinois, in Wisconsin, in Minnesota, in Kansas, in the Dakotas, and in Manitoba. It seems to be a comparatively rare species and spring records are few and far between. Large numbers of migrants are found, however, at many points on the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to South Carolina, they have been taken at Corpus Christi, Texas (Chapman, Bull. Am. Mus. N. H., III, No. 2, 223), and a straggler to the vicinity of San Francisco, California, was described as a new race, to which reference has already been made. It is probable that the birds found at Galveston (Nehrling, Bull. N. O. C., VII, 1882, 12) were of this race and not *caudacutus* as recorded, and the same may be true of the record of *caudacutus* for Ottawa, Ontario (E. E. Thompson, Auk, VI, 1889, 204).

*A. c. subvirgatus* is peculiar to the fresh and salt water marshes of the Maritime Provinces of Canada, especially those bordering on the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Strangely enough it has never been taken in Nova Scotia, although it undoubtedly occurs there, for I have observed it within two or three miles of the boundary line when rambling over the meadows of the Petitcodiac River in New Brunswick, not far from the type locality. Since my discovery of the birds about ten years ago I have found them breeding at Tignish, Prince Edward Island, where they were recorded as *caudacutus* long before *subvirgatus* was separated (Brewster, Bull. N. O. C., II, 1877, 28), at Bathurst, N. B., and at Rivière du Loup, Quebec, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence. They have also been found a few miles west of the last named place at Kamouraska (Dionne, Oiseaux de Quebec, 1889, 82). West of this I have not found them, neither at L'Islet nor on the marshes between the city of Quebec and Ste. Anne de Beaupré. Consequently there appears to be a wide gap between the headquarters of this form and those of *nelsoni*,—over one thousand miles. In migration the birds pass as far south as South Carolina (Brewster, Auk, VII, 1890, 212) mingling with the true *caudacutus* and *nelsoni* when Massachusetts is reached. I have already spoken of three birds of this race that apparently were stopping to breed in southern New England. One was recorded as *nelsoni* (Henshaw, Auk, III, 1886, 486) and it might well be compared with some of the pale *nelsoni* from the west, but I can absolutely match it with occasional specimens from the type locality of *subvirgatus*, which themselves approach very close to exceptionally pale *nelsoni*. This is to be expected in any large series of birds, especially those which are split into races, but if it should be proved that *subvirgatus* regularly breeds on the same ground as *caudacutus*, the question of considering *nelsoni* as a separate species with *subvirgatus* as its eastern race may be seriously discussed.

#### HABITS.

A few words about the habits of these birds may not be amiss although there is little to add to what has already been written

by numerous observers. The three races are very much alike in habits and their chief trait is secretiveness. True *caudacutus* may be found on salt marshes hiding successfully under the sheets of sea-weed and drift brought by the tide and left to dry on the banks of the ditches, or nimbly racing through the short grass and weeds peculiar to such localities. Their wheezy gasp of a song may be heard from tussock, stake or block of drift wood and on the least alarm, the birds vanish, generally preferring not to take wing. During the migration they are more reckless in exposing themselves and often cling to tall reeds or perch on them when pursued. They usually go in small bands associated with the other races and with *Ammodramus maritimus*, a species that is a bosom friend at all seasons. The nests are hidden in drift or protected by a tussock of grass.

Of *nelsoni* little seems to be known. Mr. E. W. Nelson has a little to tell of their habits and even states that they "utter a short unmusical song" in the autumn (Nelson, Bull. Essex Inst., VII, 1877, 107). He found them abundant on the Calumet Marshes, near Chicago, Illinois, and observed a few in June, probably breeding. Hitherto no nest has been taken, although a correspondent writes that he secured one some years ago in this very locality. As he sold the nest and eggs, and has lost all the data, and I have been unable to trace the purchaser, I think it best to say no more about it and wait for an authentic set to be secured, before attempting a description. A brief account is given of this race by Goss (Birds of Kansas, 1891, 449) and he speaks of the song as "a short weak unmusical twittering warble." He observed two young in first plumage, of which no specimens have as yet been taken, so far as I know.

Since my description of *subvirgatus* was published nine years ago I have had opportunity nearly every summer to study this bird and yet there is but little to add to my original observations. The birds are scattered rather abundantly in the breeding season over immense tracts of meadow land along the Petitcodiac River in New Brunswick. I have traced them for twenty miles and notice that they most frequent certain damp spots and utilize the narrow ditches as highways. These meadows are diked off from the tide, and are in no sense salt marshes where the tide creeps at will. A

*nelsoni*

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) at Toronto, Ontario.— On the 22d of September, 1894, whilst I was Snipe shooting near Toronto, I noticed several small Sparrows, flitting out of the rushes before my dogs, whose manner of flight was new to me. Two of these I shot and found them to be of this species,— the first I had ever seen or heard of in the Province. During the remainder of that autumn I kept a sharp lookout for them but saw no more.

On the 10th of June, 1895, I saw a small bird flying up the shore of Lake Ontario from east to west; it was then about thirty yards high, but as it neared the marsh at the eastern end of Ashbridge's Bay, it gradually lowered as if intending to alight. However, I killed it. This was a female with ova about as large as No. 12 shot; in the autumn of that year I saw only two others though I watched for them carefully.

In 1896 I saw only one and that was on the 28th of October. This bird was in a marsh about three miles from where I have seen all the others.

During the autumn of 1897 none appeared until the 9th of October; from that date until the 29th one or more were seen every day but they never became common.

In the autumn of 1898 the first appeared on the 23d of September, when I saw one; on the 24th several were seen, and from that time until the first of October they were quite common; on some days I must have seen fifty or sixty of them.

They frequent just one spot in the marsh and are, owing to their secretive habits, rather difficult to find; when driven out of one clump of rushes they fly a few yards and drop into another, which affords them perfect concealment. I have not yet heard one of them utter a call note or a chirp of any kind.

Since I first saw them I have looked for them continually through the spring and summer months, but with the exception of the female taken on the 10th of June, 1895, I have failed to find any.—C. W. NASH, Toronto, Canada. *Auk*, XVI, July, 1899, p. 277.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming.  
Part II. Land Birds.  
*Auk*, x xiv, Jan., 1907, p. 80.

207. *Ammodramus nelsoni*. NELSON'S SPARROW.— Rare migrant, two taken September 22, 1894, and a female, the only spring record, June 10, 1895, by Mr. Nash, are in my collection; these were examined by Dr. J. Dwight, Jr., who said they were not typical but nearer *nelsoni* than *subvirgatus*. I have seen in all eleven local specimens; latest date October 28, 1896.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Auk*, XVI, 1899, 277.

**Nelson's Sparrow in Vermont.**— While watching the fall migration of sparrows on October 8, 1916, Mr. George H. Ross and the writer collected two adult male specimens of *Passerherbulus nelsoni nelsoni*. These are the first records for this bird in Vermont as far as the writer can ascertain. The birds were obtained in sedges in the wettest parts of swampy meadows adjacent to Otter Creek which runs from the Green Mountains into Lake Champlain. One of the birds was taken in Rutland and the other in Clarendon, about three miles apart. They were not in company of any other birds.— GEORGE L. KIRK, *Rutland, Vt.*

*Auk* Volume XXXIV. July 1917, p. 341.

Occurrence of *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni* in Massachusetts.—The Nelson's Finch was originally described by Mr. Allen, from near Chicago, and has been supposed to be strictly confined, in the breeding season, to fresh water marshes. Recently Mr. Ridgway has called my attention to specimens of this race from the salt marshes of Cambridge, Mass., which raise some interesting questions in regard to this form. The specimens are three in number, collected by myself as far back as 1871. Two were taken October 7, and their occurrence at this season, though interesting as adding a new bird to the Massachusetts list, need not occasion surprise, since the bird has been taken frequently near Sing Sing, New York, by Dr. Fisher, and is known to occur elsewhere on the Atlantic coast during the fall migrations.

The third specimen, however, occupies a different status. It was taken May 31, the lateness of which date would seem to preclude the possibility of it being a migrant. In fact, if I am not mistaken, I took eggs, supposed then to belong to *caudacutus* proper, on the very day in question.

The specimen appears on comparison to possess all the characteristics of the inland race, and though not so typical as some examples from Chicago, is scarcely to be distinguished from others.

The occurrence of this single specimen on the coast at this season may of course be entirely accidental. The bird may have drifted in, and finding the locality to its liking, may have remained to breed, mating perhaps perforce with one of the coast form. Those having Sharp-tailed Finches in their collections will do well to examine their series thoroughly with a view to the elucidation of the status of the two forms.—H. W. HENSHAW, *Washington, D. C.*

*Auk*, 3, Oct., 1886, p. 486.

*Ammodramus c. nelsoni*.

Saugus and Revere Marshes, Mass.

1891. Oct. 8. See Journal.

*Springfield, Mass., by Robert O. Morris.*

*Ammodramus nelsoni subvirgatus*. On the sixth of October last, an Aadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow was taken in Longmeadow, near Springfield. This is the first time the presence of one here has been proved, but I believe that its appearance in this vicinity is not so rare as is supposed.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

*Auk* 26, Jan-1909, p. 84.

Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni and A. c. subvirgatus in Connecticut.—I have in my collection eighteen specimens of *Ammodramus* taken here between Oct. 4 and 13, 1890. Ten are true *nelsoni*, four *subvirgatus*, and the others intermediates.

*File under*  
A. C. nelsoni.

They were found in the meadows near the Connecticut River, and seemed partial to certain localities. The height of the migration was apparently on the 10th of the month when thirteen were secured, two more being seen that were not captured. On other days only from one to three birds could be found.

On the day when the larger number were killed, the birds appeared somewhat stupid, flying from the thick grass when disturbed and perching on the wild oats where they remained quiet. At other times they were wild and difficult to obtain.—Jno. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

Auk, VIII, Jan, 1891, p. 115-

Capture of *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni* in the Lower Hudson Valley, New York.—For a short time in the autumn, included in the time between the 25th of September and the 10th of October, Sharp-tailed Finches are comparatively common over certain portions of the low meadows which border the Croton River near its mouth. Some dozen or more specimens have been secured in the last four or five years, and without exception all of them were of the smaller inland variety. They are easily distinguished from the typical maritime species, by their smaller size, shorter bill, and darker plumage. They are evidently migrants, as none of them have been observed in this vicinity in summer.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Sing Sing, N. Y.*

**Hudson Highlands.** 79. *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni* Allen. NELSON'S SPARROW.—The Sharp-tailed Sparrows recorded by me from the Hudson Highlands have recently been referred by Mr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., to this form, although he considers them to be intermediate between subspecies *nelsoni* and *subvirgatus*, approaching a little more closely to *nelsoni*.

*Mearns, Auk, VII. Jan. 1890, p. 56.*

**Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) on Long Island, N. Y.**—It is with satisfaction that Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow is herewith recorded as taken within Long Island boundaries. This species was included in the 'List of the Birds of Long Island, New York,' which appears in the last number of 'Abstracts of the Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New York,' with some hesitation, since search through the literature, collections of birds and generously offered field-notes of others failed to confirm my assumption that it was certainly a migrant. Dr. Bishop found it on the

Connecticut shore of Long Island Sound, in late September and October, and it was therefore made an exception, and included, as was clearly stated in the note on this species (p. 82), without its having ever been taken on Long Island. A specimen was first secured by the writer on October 5, 1907, at Rockaway Beach.—WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

*Auk 25, Jan. 1908, p.*

Ammodramus c.nelsoni.

The Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Ammodramus  
caudacutus) and its geographical races.

by Jonathan Dwight, Jr.

Auk, XlII, Oct., 1896, pp.271-3.

See under Ammodramus caudacutus.

*subringatus*

*Ammodramus c. subviegatus.*

1890 Mass

May 26 Revere Beach marshes. - On May 21 Faxon went over these marshes arrived  
pretty thoroughly and found only one bird which he shot. To-day Bull arrived  
we visited them together and started between twenty and  
twenty-five different birds. In fact they were as abundant as  
I have ever seen them in autumn. The first bird seen was on  
the edge of a salt pond, all the others were found along the  
narrow, winding creeks which intersect the marshes in every direction.  
Near their mouths these creeks are often 15 to 20 ft. wide but they Description  
narrow rapidly as one follows them back and frequently branch of haunts  
into <sup>wood</sup> still smaller ones, which are only two or three feet wide and  
finally become lost, altogether in subterranean passages or take their  
rise in little pools or swampy areas of a few yards square. Their  
depth is very uniformly about 4 ft with muddy banks of about 4  
ft. and from the edges of the banks ~~are~~ gently incline up to the  
level of the salt marsh. At high-tide these creeks are nearly or  
quite bank full; at low tide the water is only a few inches deep  
with ~~black~~ mud and eel grass exposed in many places. The banks  
are more sloping but always at least perpendicular and usually  
more or less overhanging, the water eating them out beneath. Along  
their edges on the gentle incline above mentioned grows a tall  
rank sedge very different from the short, fine, fur-like grass  
which covers the marshes proper. This sedge is seldom mowed and  
in autumn the Sharp-tails find it a safe and congenial shelter.  
At this season, also, it affords them a fairly good concealment  
for although the stalks have been all prostrated by the winter's  
winds and snows they nevertheless form a dense mat raised  
four or five inches above the muddy surface of the ground  
where these *Fulica* come over about and feed.

We usually started our birds - sometimes singly, frequently Habits  
in twos, occasionally three or four together - from the  
matted sedge above described. They would at first fly only

\*2. (Continued)

*Ammodramus c. hibernicus*

1890 Mass.

(May 26

Rever Beach marshes) a few rods along the bank and then almost invariably pitch down into the creek and alight on the mud under the overhanging bank, on the side which we were following. Frequently they would dip down ~~at once~~ beneath the bank, <sup>at once</sup> and perform this flight close over the mud or water. Their subsequent flights were nearly always along the bed of the creek although they occasionally ran over the bank to cut off a loop and drop in the reach beyond. When started a number of times in succession and driven to the very head of the creek they would either double back past us or fly out into the marsh and drop in the short grass. One bird flew to a cluster of stables where hay had been stacked and alighted on the top of one of these stables where ~~James~~ shot him.

Habits

After the first flight if not followed or much alarmed the bird would run only a few yards and in a minute or two show himself on the mud or wet grass near the middle of the creek, hopping slowly ~~about~~ and feeding, every now and then standing erect and still to look about him, or, climbing the steep bank, would raise his head and breast among the grass and remain for several minutes perfectly motionless, evidently aware that his buffy throat and cheeks matched the color of the bleached sedges sufficiently closely to make him fairly secure from detection. Some individuals if slowly and carefully approached, <sup>at first</sup> were very tame indeed allowing us to get within a few yards where they were among the sedge and ~~once~~ or twice to stand nearly over them as they fed on the mud or wet grass in the channel of the creek, merely erecting themselves from time to time as already described and looking at us with an expression of mild curiosity and wonder.

Very different, however, was the behavior of the shy

3 (Continued)

*Ammodramus c. subvittatus*

1890 Mass.

May 26

River Beach Marshes individuals or of a bird once thoroughly alarmed. On alighting it would run steadily and with surprising speed dodging into every nook and cranny and taking advantage of every overhanging place to conceal its progress, appearing and disappearing like a startled mouse. Such a bird would often run nearly as fast beneath the bank as we could walk above it while it would seldom show itself long enough to afford one a snap shot. When overtaken at last it would fly a few rods still keeping as much under the bank as possible and alighting would at once begin running again.

Habits

The flight of this Sharp-tail bears much resemblance to that of the Savanna Sparrow but it is less erratic, especially at the start, and the wings are moved more rapidly with that peculiar humble bee seen in the Marsh Wrens & some other birds. It is nearly always slightly undulatory and when the bird crosses a wide open space of water or marsh is performed in <sup>a series of</sup> long, gentle undulations. As it rises from the grass or flits along the course of a creek this Sharp-tail looks very pale and gray in color but the strong buffy tinge of the head and breast are conspicuous when the bird stands facing the observer. It is remarkably slender and trim in shape with nothing of that plump or fluffy appearance common to so many Sparrows. The feathers of the crown, as far as I have seen, are never raised in a crest.

I heard the call-note several times, a low but peculiarly wiry triep. A wounded bird chipped in softer tones as I was trying to catch it and finally escaped under the bank. We did not hear, or at least identify, any song.

Call notes

When among the broken-down sedge along the banks of the creek the Finches usually flushed about twelve

"4 (Continued)

*Ammodramus c. subvirgatus*

'893 Mass.

June 26 Rever Beach Marshes: to fifteen feet ahead of us but sometimes they would rise nearly under foot while occasionally we would pass them within a few feet without starting them. When hard pressed and probably wearied by a number of successive flights they sometimes took refuge in one of the deep, narrow, artificial drains which occur frequently throughout the Rever Marshes. I do not know how these drains could have been dug\* but they are usually not over a foot wide and often less than six inches although four or five feet deep and perfectly straight. Many of them are closed over at the tops either by the caving together of the edges or by a thick mat of grass, forming subterranean tunnels with <sup>only</sup> occasional openings <sup>above</sup>. The birds would enter either tunnel by one of these openings or at the points where the tunnels connected with the creeks and over in view of course perfectly safe from further pursuit.

We searched in vain to-day for the true cardacutus all the specimens shot or pointedly identified being typical subvirgatus. One bird was seen, however, which looked darker and browner than the others & which may have been cardacutus.

June 7 Rever Beach Marshes. - Crossed the marshes from Sangers to Oak Id. and saw four birds two of which we shot. One was typical, the other a curious specimen with dark dorsal straggling & perhaps intermediate between subvirgatus & cardacutus. One of the birds that escaped was typical. The other was not seen well. There were along tide ditches, the fourth in short grass near a pool, very tame running on ahead stopping every few feet & standing erect to look at us. Both specimens shot were ♂♂ with testes of maximum size. The first bird seen sang a few notes & then flew across a creek. Song not well enough heard to warrant description.

\* Mr. Faxon tells me that they are dug by means of a peculiar shade like tool made especially for the purpose.

Mass Ammodramus subvirgatus  
Revere Beach Marshes.

1890

Oct. 9

" Oct. 8 was the day we were going to hunt for Nelson's Sparrow' if you had not run away. As it rained on the 8th, I went down to the marshes on the 9th (yesterday). The great marshes are now closely shorn, except the fringes of the long Spartina grass which grows between tide-marks along the creeks and ditches, and in a few quite extensive areas. This grass is cut very late in the summer being used only for litter. This Spartina is now the haunt of the Sharp-tails. I fancy they are feeding on the seeds. Just as in summer the Juncus gerardi (which grows about high-tide level) indicates the feeding-grounds of these birds, so now does the Spartina serve as a key to their whereabouts. And a veritable jungle it proves to the collectors. By twelve I had secured 16 specimens (how is that for sharp-(tail)-shooting?). From a cursory examination I take one of them to be candacutus typicus, twelve or thirteen subvirgatus, and two or three run to the nelsoni style. All but two were got between Franklin Park and the Salem turnpike, on the Sayre's side of the big creek. The only one shot near the Oak Island breeding grounds proved to be subvirgatus."

Oct. 13

" I went to the Revere marshes again on the 13th. The Sparrows were not so abundant as on the 9th. I killed only four-two candacutus (one of them partial albino), one subvirgatus, and one nelsoni. I compared the nelsoni with one from Illinois in the M. C. Z. - one of the types from which Allen drew up his original description (acc. to the catalogue). They agree exactly. Our Mass. Nelsoni's are typical even if not so characteristic as some of the So. Carolina specimens. It is a strange pass isn't it, when we have got to distinguish between typical and characteristic ?

" W. Foster in letter  
7 Oct. 10, 1890.

Menegruach, N. B.

*subvirgatus*  
*Ammodramus caudacutus*

1885

Aug. 13

Swarming on the extensive salt marshes bordering a winding river or creek, the banks of which are dykes. The ♂ is singing freely. Variations of the song in different birds were tchē-ē-ē-il-ok, tchē-ē-ē-il-ik, or tchē-ē-ē-il-i-ik. The tchē-ē-ē is harsh, prolonged, and drawing, sounding not unlike the wick of a scythe in heavy grass. The terminal notes are abrupt, liquid and gurgling like the notes of *Ammodramus*. They cannot be heard at a much greater distance than 100 yds., although the harsh portion of the song was distinctly audible at twice that distance. It came

Dwight, Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.

*Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus*. ACADIAN SHARP-TAILED FINCH.—A few birds in a salt marsh at Tignish were the only ones I could discover, although I searched in many other localities. As Mr. Wm. Stone found this form abundant at Tignish in 1876 (recorded as *A. caudacutus*, for *subvirgatus* was not then separated, Brewster, Bull. N. O. C., Vol. II, Jan. 1877, p. 28), I was surprised not to find it more abundant. I saw likely ground along East River, but did not have time to explore it, and the birds very possibly may be locally distributed here and at other points also.

Auk, Jan, 1893. p. 11

to the east today from all sides over the  
broad marshes forming a dull mono-  
tone like the shrilling of certain grass  
hoppers. The singers were perched on  
the tops of tall weeds and were flying  
about continually from place to place  
in the marsh. I have never heard  
the bird sing before, or seen it  
half as numerous elsewhere.

Dwight, Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.

*Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus*. ACADIAN SHARP-TAILED  
FINCH.—A few birds in a salt marsh at Tignish were the only ones I could  
discover, although I searched in many other localities. As Mr. Wm.  
Stone found this form abundant at Tignish in 1876 (recorded as *A. cauda-*  
*cutus*, for *subvirgatus* was not then separated, Brewster, Bull. N. O. C.,  
Vol. II, Jan. 1877, p. 28), I was surprised not to find it more abundant. I  
saw likely ground along East River, but did not have time to explore it,  
and the birds very possibly may be locally distributed here and at other  
points also.

Auk, Jan, 1893, p. 11

Mass. (Revere Beach)

Ammodramus c. subvirgatus

1888

Habits in autumn

Oct. 23

Visited Revere with Mr. Dwight to search for these Sparrows. Found about fifteen all in tall sedge bordering creeks in the salt marshes behind the beach. Shot twelve & found all of them to be typical subvirgatus. They were rather fat as a rule. All seen were in tall sedge on the edge of the water, none on the open marshes or about the salt pools where caudacutus breeds. They usually rose freely (at least 10 to 15, frequently 25 yds off) when first started but after being disturbed once the majority lay rather closely rising within ten yds. Flight slightly undulating & bee-like, the wings buzzing rapidly, like a

Ammodramus c. subvirgatus.

Saugus and Revere Marshes, Mass.

1891, Oct. 8. See Journal.

John Lee" as some birds of the same,  
I found them hard to hit because of  
the undulating motion. They do not fly  
fast. None were heard to utter any  
note. They look bluish when flying.  
He hunted them at high tide when  
the water among the sedge was perhaps  
a foot deep. His sedge is now of a  
rich moist red. It forms a narrow  
strip along the creek where the  
mosses cannot get at it owing to  
the mud. The ground where it grows  
is usually lower than the marsh.

Ammodramus c. subvirgatus.

Saugus and Revere Marshes, Mass.

1891, Oct. 8. See Journal.

Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus : See note by  
John H. Sage "Ammodramus c. nelsoni and  
A. c. subvirgatus in Connecticut," under  
Ammodramus c. nelsoni.

AUE, VIII, Jan, 1891, p. 115.

Ark. XIV, Jan. 1897, p. 93.  
Acadian Sparrow in Yates County, N. Y.—Oct. 7, 1896, I took a male  
Acadian Sparrow (*Ammodyramus caudacutus subvirgatus*) and saw one  
more. The one I took was identified by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr. I  
think there were more of them here, as the marsh grass was full of small  
Sparrows, but I was only sure of seeing two of the Acadian.—VERDI  
BURTCH, *Penn Yan, N. Y.*

The Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Scott's Seaside Sparrow on the Coast of South Carolina. — Among a large number of Sharp-tailed Sparrows which have been collected for me on the coast of South Carolina, I find no less than five typical examples of *Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus*. Three of these were taken at Frogmore by Mr. Hoxie in the spring of 1886 (♀ March 19, ♂ April 19, ♂ April 20), the remaining two near Charleston by Mr. Wayne in the autumn of 1889 (♀ Oct. 25, ♂ Oct. 30). My South Carolina series, as a whole, indicates that typical *caudacutus* is the prevailing form, *nelsoni* next in numbers, and *subvirgatus* the least common. It furnishes no evidence that any one of these forms breeds in the State. There is, I think, no previous record — at least no specific record — of the occurrence of *subvirgatus* in South Carolina.

I have also a Seaside Sparrow (a female) killed near Charleston by Mr. Wayne, Oct. 29, 1889, which Mr. Allen considers "quite far on the way towards *peninsulæ* and \* \* \* perhaps nearer this form than it is to *maritimus*," and which Mr. Wayne assures me is very much darker than any specimen that he has hitherto taken. All the autumn and winter examples which he has sent me, except the one just mentioned, are typical *maritimus*. I have seen no breeding Seaside Sparrows from any locality on the coast of South Carolina, but the form which I found breeding in the salt marshes at St. Mary's, Georgia, in 1877, was unmistakably *maritimus*, not one of the dozen or more birds that I preserved (several of them were taken with nests and sets of eggs) showing the slightest approach to *peninsulæ*. In view of these facts it is hard to explain the occurrence of *peninsulæ* in autumn or early winter\* at points north of St. Mary's, unless it may be assumed that a few individuals of this subspecies occasionally wander northward in autumn, from their breeding grounds on the Gulf Coast.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Auk, VII. April, 1890. p. 212.**

\* Mr. Allen has recorded (*Auk*, V, Oct., 1888, p. 426) a "typical *A. m. peninsulæ*" shot at Sapelo Island, Dec. 14, 1887. I have also two specimens from the same locality (♀, Dec. 1, ♀, Dec. 3, 1887) which although not quite typical, must be referred to *peninsulæ*.

that in autumn all three forms are found scattered along the Atlantic coast or near it, *nelsoni* occurring infrequently as far north as Cambridge, Mass., true *caudacutus* as far as Portsmouth, N. H., and the new form still farther north. I have no material from farther south than South Carolina, although Sharp-tails are known to occur in the Gulf States, and very likely all three races may be found there at the proper season. I propose naming the northern race

*Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus*, subsp. nov. ACADIAN  
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW.

SUBSP. CIAR.—Similar in size and coloring to *A. caudacutus* but paler and much less conspicuously streaked beneath with pale greenish-gray instead of black or deep brown. Bill averages smaller. Compared with *nelsoni* it is much paler and grayer, generally larger and with a longer bill.

Adult ♂ in breeding plumage (No. 1261, Hillsborough, Albert Co., New Brunswick, July 10, 1886. I, Dwight, Tr.)—Above ash-gray tinged and Antilles in winter.

FAMILY RECURVIROSTRIDÆ.

GENUS *Himantopus* BRISS.

*Himantopus* BRISSON, Orn. V, p. 33, 1760.

*Himantopus mexicanus* (MÜLL.).

*Charadrius mexicanus* MÜLL. Syst. Nat. Suppl. p. 117 (1776).

*Himantopus nigricollis* GOSSE, Bds. Jam. p. 386 (1847).—LEMB. Aves Cuba p. 102 (1850).—A. & E. NEWTON, Ibis, 1859, p. 258 (St. Croix).—BRYANT, Pr. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. VII, p. 121 (1859) (Bahamas); *ib.* BREWER, p. 308 (1860) (Cuba).—MARCH, Pr. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1864, p. 67 (Jamaica).—SUNDEV. Oefv. K. Vet. Akad. For. 1869, p. 602 (Porto Rico).—LAWR. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. I, p. 197 (1878) (St. Vincent); *ib.* p. 238 (Antigua); *ib.* p. 242 (Barbuda).—CORY, Bds. Bahama I. p. 153 (1880).—A. & E. NEWTON, Handb. Jamaica, p. 115 (1881).—CORY, List Bds. W. I. p. 26 (1885).

*Macrotarsus nigricollis* GUNDL. J. f. O. 1856, p. 422 (Cuba); *ib.* Repert. Físico-Nat. Cuba, I, p. 357 (1866); *ib.* J. f. O. 1874, p. 113 (Porto Rico); *ib.* Anal. Soc. Esp. Hist. Nat. VII, p. 377 (1878) (Porto Rico).

*Himantopus mexicanus* SALLÉ, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 237 (San Domingo).—BRYANT, Pr. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. XI, p. 97 (1867) (San Domingo).—CORY, Bds. Haiti & San Domingo, p. 146 (1885).

Common in the Bahamas and Antilles.

A NEW RACE OF THE SHARP-TAILED SPARROW  
(*AMMODRAMUS CAUDACUTUS*).

BY JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR.

SEVERAL years ago I obtained in New Brunswick, near the head of the Bay of Fundy, three Sparrows that I labelled *Ammodramus caudacutus*, as a matter of course. They lay unnoticed in my collection until one day last summer, when I was struck by their faded and faintly streaked appearance as compared with New York specimens at the same season. My suspicions were aroused, and during the summer and fall, which I was able to spend in the same locality, I obtained a series of these birds showing so clearly all changes of plumage that I decided to investigate as much other material as I could gather with the help of kind friends. My thanks are due to Messrs. J. A. Allen, Montague Chamberlain, H. W. Henshaw, Robert Ridgway, Geo. B. Sennett, and Dr. A. K. Fisher, for the large series of Sharp-tailed Sparrows now before me,—114 specimens in all. It confirms me in the belief that my birds represent a good geographical race, which forms the connecting link between true *caudacutus* and the inland race *nelsoni*, and it shows, moreover,

that in autumn all three forms are found scattered along the Atlantic coast or near it, *nelsoni* occurring infrequently as far north as Cambridge, Mass., true *caudacutus* as far as Portsmouth, N. H., and the new form still farther north. I have no material from farther south than South Carolina, although Sharp-tails are known to occur in the Gulf States, and very likely all three races may be found there at the proper season. I propose naming the northern race

*Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus*, subsp. nov. ACADIAN  
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW.

SUBSP. CHAR.—Similar in size and coloring to *A. caudacutus* but paler and much less conspicuously streaked beneath with pale greenish-gray instead of black or deep brown. Bill averages smaller. Compared with *nelsoni* it is much paler and grayer, generally larger and with a longer bill.

*Adult ♂ in breeding plumage* (No. 1261, Hillsborough, Albert Co., New Brunswick, July 19, 1886; J. Dwight Jr.) :—Above ashy-gray tinged with olive, the dorsal feathers, scapulars, and three innermost secondaries or tertials largely brownish-black edged with whitish. Greater and middle wing-coverts ashy, with a blackish subterminal spot along the shaft of each feather. Primaries and secondaries brown, edged with greenish-gray fading to white on first primary. Broad superciliary and maxillary stripes pale buff, whitish above the eye, and orange tinged where they meet at a dark brown spot (the extension of a post-ocular streak) just posterior to the ashy auriculars. Bordering the superciliary stripes the head is pale yellowish-brown mixed with black streaks and divided by an ashy-gray median stripe which extends down to and over the sides of the neck in a sort of collar, tinged on the hind neck with pale orange-brown. Faint spot above and below the eye and rectal streak dusky; sides of throat with ashy bridle. Jugulum, sides, and flanks faintly suffused with buff and lightly streaked longitudinally with pale greenish-gray, darker on flanks, the streaking losing itself in the dull white of the breast and sides of the abdomen. Rest of underparts grayish-white. Edge of wing pale lemon. Tail ashy, dusky along shafts of feathers and faintly barred. Upper tail-coverts streaked with dusky. Bill bluish black, under mandible bluish-slate, pinkish at base; tomia whitish. Feet purplish-flesh. Iris dark hazel. Wing,\* 59.4; tail, 48.8; tarsus, 20.6; middle toe and claw, 20.8; bill from nostril, 8.6.

*Adult ♀ in breeding plumage* (No. 1239, same locality and collector, July 15, 1886) :—Resembling closely the male but with richer yellow-buff, orange tinged across the jugulum and about the head, and with secondaries, tertials, and wing-coverts conspicuously edged with pale russet in-

\*All measurements in millimeters.

stead of grayish. Wing, 54.1; tail, 44.7; tarsus, 19.8; middle toe and claw, 21.3; bill from nostril, 8.9.

*Adult ♂ and ♀ in autumn* (Nos. 1500, ♂, and 1502, ♀, same locality and collector, Sept. 30, 1886):—Coloring everywhere richer, grayer, and greener than in breeding dress, but streaking fainter and grayer. Above rich greenish-gray, the dorsal feathers and scapulars greenish-brown (instead of nearly black), flecked with dusky, and edged with delicate pearl-gray (instead of whitish). Tertiaries, secondaries, and wing-coverts russet, edged like the female in breeding dress. Primaries nearly black, edged exteriorly with bright olive-green nearly to tips, except first primary, which is edged with white. The brown of the head and the gray of the median line and neck are richer, and the cervical collar greener. Superciliary stripe intensified into a yellow spot on the eye-brow. A deep greenish wash above the eye extends backward and loses itself in the superciliary stripe. The buff of the breast and sides is brighter, and the streaking is pale lead gray in broader stripes. Edge of wing bright yellow. Lesser wing-coverts and alulae edged with yellowish-green, the longest feather of the alula dusky, edged with white.

*Young of the year*:—Identical in plumage with autumn adults, but with slightly smaller bill.

*Young, first plumage* (No. 1240 ♂, same locality and collector, July 15, 1886):—General color chestnut-buff, darker above and variegated with black. Traces of two or three faint dusky streaks on sides. Dorsal feathers, tertiaries, wing-coverts, and stripes on the head, black with chestnut-buff edging. Primaries and secondaries black, faintly edged with ashy. Traces of dusky auriculars and post-ocular streak. Tail similar to adult but edged with buff. This plumage is worn until the autumn dress of the adult is assumed.\*

**HABITAT.** Marshes of southern New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and probably Nova Scotia, and southward in migration along the Atlantic coast.

**Measurements.** Twenty-five ♂ and thirteen ♀, all adults, show the following averages and extremes: Length, † ♂ 142.5 (135.9-147.3); ♀ 138.4 (135.9-141.); extent † ♂ 201.7 (193.-209.6); ♀ 192.3 (190.5-195.6); wing, ♂ 58.2 (55.6-59.7); ♀ 54.6 (52.8-56.1); tail, ♂ 50.5 (47.2-53.3); ♀ 46.7 (42.9-50.3); tarsus, 20.8 (19.8-21.6); bill from feathers, 11.7 (10.4-12.5), from nostril, 8.8 (8.1-9.1), depth at nostril, 5.3, width, 3.8. ‡

\* Compare first plumage of *A. caudacutus* (Brewster, Bull. N. O. C., III, 1878, 119). Seven specimens that I have examined all show more or less distinct streaking.

† Fresh specimens—11 males, 4 females.

‡ The following measurements will prove useful for comparison: *A. caudacutus*, 34 adults: Length, male, 149.1 (144.8-157.5); female, 135.9 (129.5-142.2); extent, male, 205.7 (203.2-213.4); female, 191 (177.8-200.7); wing, male, 58.7 (57.2-62.); female, 55.6 (53.6-57.4); tail, male, 48.5 (43.9-52.1); female, 47 (44.5-50.3); tarsus, 20.6 (19.3-21.8); bill from feathers, 12.2 (11.4-13.2), from nostril, 9.4 (8.9-10.2), depth at nostril, 5.3; width, 4.1.

*A. c. nelsoni*, 24 adults: Length, male, 140.2 (134.6-144.8); female, 135.9 (134.6-137.2)

This new form is not likely to be confounded with true *caudacutus*, for, so far as my material shows, the palest streaked *caudacutus* in any plumage may be recognized at a glance by being more distinctly streaked than any specimen of *subvirgatus*. More material from suitable localities will no doubt show intermediates, but as yet I have seen no connecting links at this end of the chain. At the other end, however, *subvirgatus* passes gradually into *nelsoni*, as a series of fall specimens clearly shows. I have been unable to obtain any spring *nelsoni* for comparison, but judging by the changes of plumage in the other two forms, *nelsoni* ought to be a much brighter and more richly colored bird than *subvirgatus* in like plumage. This is the case with fall specimens, and the points of difference are usually well defined. Compared with the new form at this season, *nelsoni* is characterized by the rich brown of the back with white edging of the feathers, instead of greenish gray with pearl-gray edging; by the deeper brown of the head; by the richer russet of the wing-coverts and inner secondaries, and broader rusty edging of the tertiaries as compared with whitish or buff; by the brighter orange-buff of the jugulum in sharp contrast to a whiter breast and abdomen than *subvirgatus* shows; by distinct (sometimes indistinct, however,) narrow streaks of black or dusky on jugulum and sides in place of broad indistinct gray stripes; by smaller size; by a bill not over 8.4 mm., and generally by a shorter wing.

It is difficult to indicate by description differences that are obvious with specimens in hand, but a preponderance of the characters just given ought to determine without actual comparison all save a few perplexing intermediates. Measurements will often aid in determining these, but with a species like the Sharp-tailed Sparrow that soon wears its plumage ragged and disreputable among the coarse grasses it frequents, measurements, particularly of the tail, are not altogether reliable. The length of bill in *nelsoni* seems to be a pretty good character, as *subvirgatus* (except in young of the year) seldom has as short a bill. To be sure, the differences are slight but quite noticeable to the eye, nevertheless. Although the largest bill of *nelsoni* never equals

extent, male, 198.9 (193.-203.2); female, 193 (190.5-195.6); wing, male, 56.1 (53.9-57.7); female, 54.4 (52.1-56.4); tail, male, 48.3 (45.5-52.1); female, 47.5 (44.5-50.3); tarsus, 20.1 (19.1-20.8); bill from feathers, 10.7 (10.2-11.2), from nostril, 8.1 (7.6-8.4); depth at nostril, 5.1, width, 3.8.

the smallest bill of *caudacutus*, the bills of the three forms intergrade, and it is the short-billed specimens of the new form that are likely to give the most trouble. I notice that nearly all *nelsoni* have lighter colored bills (especially the lower mandible, which is buff) than the majority of specimens of the new race, which generally has both mandibles slaty, but I fear no dependence can be placed upon this fact.

A series of Sharp-tails obtained in the autumn at Sing Sing, N. Y., by Dr. Fisher, is of special interest. From typical *nelsoni*, as rich in color as those obtained in Illinois, these birds show a gradual and complete gradation into *subvirgatus*, the brown of the head and back, and deep buff of the jugulum becoming paler, the white edging of the dorsal feathers passing into gray, and the streaking of the jugulum fading into gray, until the imaginary line dividing all subspecies has been passed and the characters of *subvirgatus* are seen to predominate.

It is to be regretted that the specimens from which I have selected my spring types are in worn and faded plumage, but comparing them with four specimens taken respectively at Point Judith, R. I., April 29, N. Madison, Conn., June 9, Cambridge, Mass., May 31, and Hampton, N. B., June 21, and with two labelled New Jersey, I find them almost identical in coloring and amount of wear. I notice that my summer males are generally paler above and less buffy beneath than the females, although a few of the latter are paler than the brightest males. Can it be that the males expose themselves more to the sun for the sake of singing to their mates, who assume the household cares of a shady nest amid the long grass?

The N. Madison and the Cambridge specimens just referred to have the shortest bills (only 8.1 mm.) of any *subvirgatus* in the series at hand, and the latter has been recorded as *nelsoni*. (Henshaw, Auk, III, 1886, 486.) It is labeled "♂ juv.," which may, perhaps, account for the short bill, and the buff beneath is brighter than the average of the new race, but the pale coloring of the upper parts is identical with my New Brunswick birds. The N. Madison specimen, an adult female, is undoubtedly of the new race and a trifle paler than the Cambridge bird. These two, taken in connection with other short-billed specimens obtained at Cambridge and at Sing Sing in the fall, suggest the inquiry whether some inland marshes may not

furnish a regular supply of connecting links between *nelsoni* and the new race, which is certainly more closely related to *nelsoni* than to true *caudacutus*. It may not be out of place to say here that the latter in fall plumage is more heavily and broadly streaked than in the spring, the orange-buff about the head and on the jugulum and sides, much intensified, but otherwise very much like the spring bird. Its long bill alone (8.9-10.2 mm.) will distinguish it from *nelsoni*, and the streaking from *subvirgatus*.

Strange to say, *nelsoni* was originally described by Mr. Allen (Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., XVII, Mar. 1875), as having "a longer and slenderer bill" than *caudacutus*, an error that is repeated in the latest edition of Dr. Coues's 'Key'. The bird described was in fall plumage and the description of this clearly indicates the character of *nelsoni* at that season.

I discuss the subject of Sharp-tails at length because it has been one involved in some obscurity, and because several records have been made that will no doubt now require to be revised. It was not until 1877 that this species was recorded as far east as Maine, Mr. Brown having found it at Scarboro' in October, 1876 (Bull. N. O. C., II, 1877, 27 and 98), while Mr. Brewster recorded it from Tignish, P. E. I., August 2 and 3, 1876 (*Ibid.* II, 1877, 28). I have seen some of the Tignish specimens, which are of course faded *subvirgatus*. It would be interesting to know what the Scarboro' specimens were. One taken there October 13, 1879, and now before me, is *subvirgatus*. Some remarks by Dr. Brewer (*Ibid.*, III, 1878, 48 and 147) are interesting, for *A. caudacutus* is spoken of as abundant on St. Andrew's Bay. As this is partly in New Brunswick, the birds found there may prove to be *subvirgatus*. In 1880 Mr. Brown records *caudacutus* as breeding at Scarboro' (*Ibid.*, V, 1880, 52). Which race was it? I will also call attention to an article by Dr. Brewer in the 'Oölogist'\* for 1879, where reference is made to the northern range of the Sharp-tails (Bull. N. O. C.,

\*The 'Oölogist' for April, 1879 (Bull. N. O. C., VI, 1881, 47, Minor Ornithological Paper No. 59), is incorrect in stating that *A. caudacutus* was found breeding near Boston. It was a complicated case of misunderstanding and wrong identification which I will not discuss here, but as a matter of fact the birds breeding were nothing more nor less than *A. s. savanna*. The salt meadow referred to was on the 'Back Bay', and was fairly haunted with egg collectors. I visited it several times, and the birds found breeding there were Savannah Sparrows and not Sharp-tails.

VI, 1881, 47). The first record for New Brunswick is made by Mr. Chamberlain who, with Messrs. Purdie and Daniel, obtained five individuals at Hampton, June 21, 1881 (*Ibid.*, VII, 1882, 104 and 122). One of these is now before me,—an undoubted *subvirgatus*. The last record I shall refer to is Mr. Henshaw's (*Auk*, III, 1886, 486) of three specimens of *nelsoni* taken at Cambridge, Mass. That of May 31, I have assigned on a previous page to the ranks of *subvirgatus*; the other two, which I have also examined, were taken October 7, and are undoubted *nelsoni*. Mr. Henshaw suggests that "those having Sharp-tailed Finches in their collections will do well to examine their series thoroughly." This is excellent advice to follow, and I earnestly hope that the new subspecies I propose will solve difficulties that have heretofore presented themselves.

The apparent scarcity of spring examples of this new variety suggests the idea (probably erroneous) that it follows an inland route of migration at this season, especially since its breeding haunts are practically fresh water and inland meadows. One accustomed to the salt marshes where true *caudacutus* makes its home would never dream of finding its northern representative inhabiting fields where the grass is knee deep, and where the Bobolink and the Savannah Sparrow find it dry enough to make their nests. And yet this is the character of the marshes along the Petitcodiac River where I have found the birds in considerable numbers. The Petitcodiac is one of the rivers emptying into the Bay of Fundy when the tide is running out. The Bay of Fundy appears to empty into these rivers when the tide is running in, and long stretches of red mud are rapidly covered with the incoming water which, rising forty feet and more, has acquired world-wide renown, especially in the geographies. The marshes were no doubt overflowed at one time by the tide, but are now protected by low dikes, and drained at low tide by numerous narrow ditches, so concealed by overhanging grass that the unwary collector is liable to disappear when he least expects it. The river, more than a mile in width at Hillsborough, is bordered by the marshes, which often extend over half a mile back from the dikes. In the midst of such surroundings I found the New Brunswick Sharp-tails last summer. They were abundant in certain spots, but not easy to find on account of their retiring dispositions. Even their song is inaudible at the dis-

tance of a few yards, and at its best is suggestive of the bird's being choked in the attempt. It resembles, as nearly as I can represent it, *lic-sē-ē-ē-ooop*, and the gasping *sē-ē-ē-ē* is usually all that is heard unless one is very close to the soloist. It is usually delivered from the top of a weed, where, as the bird sits crouching, he presents an absurd appearance of ill-concealed fright. Sometimes he springs up into the air, particularly towards evening, and setting his wings floats down into the grass fairly gushing with song—such as it is. This performance may be compared with that of *A. maritimus*, for the songs of the two birds are modelled after the same pattern. But I must not take up any more space in describing habits that, so far as I have observed, are little different from those of true *caudacutus*. I was unable to discover any nests. I think, however, that two broods may be reared, as, on my arrival July 15, young were already on the wing, and it was almost impossible to find any females. I was not on the ground during August, but in September the birds were rather scarce. On September 30 they appeared in numbers, probably from some more northern locality, and on October 4 I saw the last of them.

I imagine they are found in their present environment because no salt marshes happen to be convenient. I frequently found them along a swampy brook fully a mile from salt water, fraternizing with Swamp Sparrows and Maryland Yellow-throats among the alder bushes. The locality on the Kenebecasis River, where Mr. Chamberlain obtained his specimens, is of similar character, and he informs me that the bird has been taken at Sackville, where the marshes are similar to, but much more extensive than those of the Petitcodiac. There is every reason to suppose that the bird is found in neighboring localities, but at present I cannot prove it. If I have been successful in introducing to notice a bird that has been fairly in our midst and yet not recognized as a stranger, I shall feel that my efforts have not been in vain, and I hope that this stranger, now that he presents his proper credentials, may not prove an unwelcome guest.

*Auk*, 4, July 1887. p. 232-239

OBSERVATIONS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
MOUNTAINS IN 1886.

BY GEORGE B. SENNETT.

THE locality visited comprises Mitchell and Yancey Counties, North Carolina, and a small portion of Carter County in Tennessee. The greater part of the observations were made from three points in Mitchell County, N. C., viz., Bakersville, Cranberry, which is close to Tennessee line, and Roan Mountain, the summit of which marks the dividing line between the two States. Frequently a bird was flushed in one State and picked up in the other.

The altitudes varied from 2600 feet, the lowest, at Bakersville, to 6400 feet, the highest point of Roan Mountain; that of Cranberry, where I made the longest stay, being 3200 feet above the sea level. The country is densely wooded to the very tops of the peaks, and in general characteristics is so similar to that of Mount Mitchell and vicinity, as described by Mr. Brewster in 'The Auk' (Vol. III, No. 1, pages 97 and 98), that it is desirable to mention only two points of difference. First, the country in the immediate vicinity of Roan Mountain has not as many clearings as has that about the lower slopes of the Black Mountains some thirty or more miles to the south. Secondly, the summit of Roan has extensive table-lands, on which three kinds of vegetation are found, each growing in separate tracts. This vegetation includes groves of balsams (the name used by the inhabitants for spruce and fir trees); thickets of rhododendrons, which are most luxuriant and plentiful here; and tracts of the coarse, thick mountain grass, which grows in immense patches of from one to one hundred acres in extent.

The observations were made during two trips; the first extended from April 15 to 29 inclusive; the second from June 26 to September 4 inclusive. Of the seventy species of birds observed and noted I can claim but eight of them as additions to the lists for this State heretofore given in 'The Auk' by Messrs. Brewster and Batchelder (see Vol. III, Nos. 1, 2 and 3). A few things which are perhaps of interest in reference to the birds already recognized as of this region may also be presented here.

Ammodramus c. subvirgatus.

The Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Ammodramus  
caudacutus) and its geographical races.

by Jonathan Dwight, Jr.

Auk, XIII, Oct., 1896, pp.271-3.

See under Ammodramus caudacutus.

maritimus



*Ammodramus* *maritimus*  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*breeding in Mass.*

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

GYPSY MOTH DEPARTMENT.

Office Director of Field Work,  
12 STANWOOD HALL

17 Russell St.

Malden, Dec. 8 1896

WM. R. SESSIONS,  
N. S. SHALER,  
F. H. APPLETON, } Committee.

E. H. FORBUSH, Director of Field Work.

Mr. Wm Brewster,  
Dear Sir -

In your edition of Minot's "Land and Water Birds" I find in a note on the Seaside Sparrow (*A. Maritimus*) that "a few stragglers have been found in eastern Massachusetts". Minot quotes Mr. Allen to the effect that this species "formerly bred" in the Chelsea marshes.

If I do not trespass on your time, can you give me some information as to the distribution of the Seaside Sparrow in our state and whether its breeding has been definitely recorded.

My reason for asking the foregoing is that I found this species breeding last summer on our southern coast (i.e. of Massachusetts).

Respectfully yours  
J. A. Farley

4. *List of the Birds of Nova Scotia. — Land Birds.* By J. Matthew Jones. *Ibid.*, XII, pp. 65, 66, Feb. 27, 1879; pp. 105, 106, March 13, 1879; p. 205, Apr. 17, 1879; p. 245, May 1, 1879. — An annotated list of 128 species. Gives *Ammodromus maritimus* as "very common," arriving "about the end of March." *Sitta pusilla* and *Quiscalus major* are given on the authority of Colonel Bland, R. A. (see *l. c.*, p. 205), and *Turdus mustelinus* is included on that of Mr. Winton, "a close observer of birds" (see *l. c.*, p. 205). *Empidonax acadicus* is given as "very rare," while *E. flaviventris* and *E. trailli* are omitted. *Siurus ludovicianus* (= *S. motacilla*) is admittedly given by mistake. While several of these "finds" obviously require confirmation, and a number of species that should be included are omitted, the list records many facts of interest and value.

THE SEASIDE FINCH (*Ammodramus maritimus*) IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS. — As the existence of this species in Massachusetts has been challenged, and none are known to have occurred for a number of years, it would seem not amiss to mention that a single specimen of this species was shot by Mr. George O. Welch at Nahant in August last. It was in company with a number of *A. caudacutus*, but was the only one of its kind. It was in the not common plumage described by Audubon as a distinct species under the name of *Ammodramus macgillivrayi*, was sent to Professor Baird, who found it closely corresponding to Audubon's type, which he possesses. It was a young male, and appeared to have come from the north. In "History of North American Birds" (Vol. I, p. 560) it is given as not occurring north of Long Island Sound.

In this connection it may not be uninteresting to add that Mr. Welch found *Ammodramus caudacutus* quite abundant on the shores of St. Andrew's Bay, the estuary of St. Croix River, and lying between the eastern boundary of Maine and New Brunswick. This, if I am not mistaken, is the first time that it has been taken in Maine so far to the east, and not at all, except that Mr. N. C. Brown (this Bulletin, Vol. II, p. 27) obtained a single specimen in Scarborough. Mr. Brewster (*ibid.*, p. 28), on the authority of Mr. William Stone, mentions it as abundant at Tignish, Prince Edward Island. — T. M. BREWER, *Boston, Mass.*

**Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1878. p. 48.**

Seaside Sparrows at Monomoy Island, Cape Cod.—Although I have kept a sharp lookout for the Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) at Monomoy every season, the first to my knowledge was taken by Dr. L. B. Bishop on the salt marshes, April 14, 1890. This bird, which was an adult female, was moulting about the head and lower neck. Dr. Bishop saw several others but not thinking that they were rare shot only the above specimen. I visited the marshes several days after and hunted it carefully without seeing a bird, although I saw several Sharp-tailed Sparrows. From my own observation I am inclined to believe that this bird is rare in Massachusetts, at least on the Cape coast.—JOHN C. CAHOON, *Taunton, Mass.*

**Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 289-290.**

Breeding of the Seaside Sparrow in Massachusetts.—On July 17, 1896, I took a set of four partly incubated eggs of the Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*), together with the female bird, at Westport, Mass. The nest was cleverly hidden within a tussock of the salt marsh.

The Seaside Sparrow is not rare as a summer resident in the Westport River marshes. It is, however, rather colonial, and confines itself closely in the breeding season to certain sections of the marshes. — J. A. FARLEY, *Newton, Mass.*

**Auk, XV, April, 1898, p. 189.**

The Sea-side Sparrow on Cape Cod in Winter, and other Notes. — I have been asked to report the following interesting records. Mr. Henry B. Bigelow and Mr. George C. Shattuck while walking over the salt marsh on Sandy Neck, Barnstable, Mass., on February 9, 1898, started from the grass a single Sea-side Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*). Mr. Bigelow shot the bird at once and found it to be apparently in perfect health and without any marks of any old injuries. The sexual regions being badly torn by the shot, determination of the sex was impossible.

This is the first record of the wintering of this species in New England to my knowledge, for the bird probably wintered, and the capture also suggests the idea that the bird probably bred during the past season. Besides Mr. E. Sturtevant's records of the occurrence of this species at Middletown, R. I. (*Auk*, Vol. XIV, pp. 219 and 322) in May and July, 1889, 1896, 1897, we have Mr. J. A. Farley's record of its breeding at Westport, Mass. (*Auk*, Vol. XIV, pp. 322). Do these records signify the increasing number of competent observers in the field or the movement northward of the species's range from southern Rhode Island to Massachusetts? *Reginald H. Howe, Jr. Longwood, Mass.*

The Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) in Massachusetts. — In a small private collection of mounted birds in Arlington, Mass., I find an adult Seaside Sparrow with the following history: shot by Mr. Eugene H. Freeman on the bank of the Neponset River, at high tide, about half way between Milton Lower Mills and Granite Bridge, on the Milton side of the river. Unfortunately the date of capture is not recorded; it was in the early autumn, however, something over twenty years ago, so Mr. Freeman tells me.

In most of the older lists of the birds of Massachusetts the Seaside Sparrow is said to be a common summer resident of the salt marshes along the coast. This opinion doubtless arose from confounding the Seaside Sparrow with the Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). That such a confusion prevailed is shown by the fact that many of the old lists (e.g., Emmons's 'Birds of Mass.,' Holder's 'Birds of Lynn,' and Putnam's 'Birds of Essex Co.')

exclude *A. caudacutus* altogether! Even Dr. Coues (Proc. Essex Inst., V, 1868, 282), by a lapsus corrected in 'New England Bird Life,' I, 251, recorded the Sharp-tails of Rye Beach, N. H., as Seaside Sparrows, and J. Matthew Jones ('Forest and Stream,' XII, 1879, 106) in his list of the birds of Nova Scotia included the Seaside Sparrow as an abundant summer resident of that Province, arriving there during the latter part of March! From what is now known concerning the breeding range of *A. maritimus*, we are warranted in suspecting that Brewer (Hist. N. A. Birds, I, 1874, 560), too, fell into a similar error in saying that a few pairs of Seaside Sparrows, "identified by Mr. Audubon," bred in the marshes of Stony Brook, near Boston, in 1836 and 1837.

However that may be, the eastern limit of the breeding range of the Seaside Sparrow, so far as now observed, is the western shore of Narragansett Bay, beyond which it occurs only as a very rare straggler. The first unquestionable Massachusetts specimen was killed at Nahant in August, 1877, by Geo. O. Welch, and recorded by Brewer (Bull. Nuttall Orn. Club, III, 1878, 48; Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., XIX, 1878, 260). This specimen (now in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History, No. 221) is a young male with a sharply streaked breast; it was identified by Baird as a Seaside Sparrow "in the plumage regarded by Audubon as a distinct species, and called by him MacGillivray's Finch." Another Massachusetts specimen, an adult female shot by Dr. L. B. Bishop on Monomoy Island, Cape Cod, April 14, 1890, was recorded by J. C. Cahoon in 'The Auk,' VII, 1890, 289. — WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

**The Seaside Sparrow on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in Winter.**— On December 29, 1909, while duck shooting in the salt marshes at Barnstable, Mass., I secured two specimens of the Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*). The birds were found in the tall thateh bordering a large creek about three hundred yards from Sandy Neek. They were the only birds of the species seen during four days spent in the marshes. One proved to be a male, the other a female.

Howe and Allen's 'Birds of Massachusetts' records the capture of one Seaside Sparrow in the Barnstable marshes on February 9, 1898, by Messrs. H. B. Bigelow and G. C. Shattuck, and of another, a male, on February 9, 1901, by Mr. Howe. No later records have come to my notice, so apparently mine is the third winter record of this species in Massachusetts and would suggest that the bird is perhaps not such an irregular straggler there in winter. — ALFRED C. REDFIELD, *Wayne, Pa.*

**Auk 27. Apr-1910 p. 211.**

*Auk*, XIV, Apr., 1897, pp. 219-220.  
The Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) at Middletown, R. I.—  
In looking over a collection of land and water birds taken by Mr. Edward Sturtevant in Rhode Island, I found a specimen of a male Seaside Sparrow which he had shot near Gardiners Pond on the Second Beach Marshes in Middletown on July 18, 1889.

During the past summer I walked over these same marshes, but did not see a bird that justified shooting as a Seaside, among the many Sharp-tailed Sparrows (*A. caudacutus*) that inhabited the marshes. But on July 6, 1896, Mr. Sturtevant took a female *A. maritimus* on the marshes.

Personally, I think that a few of these Sparrows breed on the Middletown marshes yearly, and if this is a fact it moves their known breeding range sixteen miles to the northward, or in other words from Point Judith marshes to Middletown.

I cannot think that after breeding is over, which by July 6 could hardly be, the birds would roam sixteen miles to the northward across ocean. However, we have at least two records of their capture there; if nothing more. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

*Auk*, XIV, July, 1897, p. 322.  
The Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) at Middletown, R. I.—  
I shot an adult male Seaside Sparrow on the Second Beach Marshes at Middletown, R. I., on May 31, 1897, therefore confirming Mr. Reginald Heber Howe, Jr.'s supposition that they breed there. (See *Auk* Vol. XIV, page 219.) This makes three birds of this species that I have taken on these marshes. — EDWARD STURTEVANT, *Boston, Mass.*

Connecticut, June, 1893.

*Ammodramus maritimus*

June 11  $\bar{a}$ - $\bar{g}$ ' $\bar{e}$  $\bar{e}$ - $\bar{a}$  <sup>song</sup> liquid like Redwing's song

light  $\bar{a}$   $\bar{w}$ ' $\bar{t}$ - $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$ - $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$ -sweet-chiralee

12,  $\bar{w}$ ' $\bar{t}$ - $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$ - $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$ - $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$ ,  $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$ ,  $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$

$\bar{a}$ - $\bar{g}$ ' $\bar{e}$  $\bar{e}$

$\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$ - $\bar{w}$ ' $\bar{e}$  $\bar{e}$  sweet tone like Song Sp.

tick

up or  $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$  like Redwing's  $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$   $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$   
Chirp or  $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$  " Song Sp.  $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$   $\bar{t}$  $\bar{e}$

Connecticut, June, 1893.

*Ammodramus maritimus*

June 24<sup>th</sup>  
Fairfield

" 9<sup>20</sup> 6 nests eggs 10<sup>15</sup> 11<sup>20</sup> 12<sup>15</sup>  
\* \* \* \* \* } Saybrook  
" 14<sup>15</sup> nest 4 young nearly 15<sup>100</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>6</sup>  
\* \* \* \* \*

Several pairs at Fairfield in a marsh near the bathing beach, abundant at Saybrook in the salt marshes near the mouth of the River and in the brackish marshes on both sides of the Connecticut River between the N. Y. & N. H. Railroad & the Sound. None were detected in some marshes along the line 2 miles or more above the railroad bridge visited June 19 although these marshes appeared similar in every way to those at the mouth of the river & the water was brackish in all places.

Many nests found with eggs & young in all stages. The first at least 10 days old. The birds were in full song up to our departure June 21. See Journal & report for further notes.

Long Island Bird Notes N. T. Lawrence

6. *Ammodramus maritimus*. SEA-SIDE FINCH.—One specimen (female) taken on the salt meadow at Far Rockaway, February 22, 1884. Another was noted, but not secured, November 25, 1885.

*Auk*, 2, July, 1885. p. 272

*Proc. Linn. Soc. of N. Y.*, 88-89

and near Lawrenceburg,  
Long Island, a Seaside Finch (*Ammodramus maritimus*) was found dead on March 12, this date being also an early record for this species.

*Auk*, 6, Apr., 1889, p. 197.

**Bds. Obs. at Little and Great Gull Islands, N. Y. Aug. '88 B. H. Dutcher.**

15. *Ammodramus maritimus*. SEASIDE SPARROW.—An individual of this species was found on the concrete, August 7, having struck the tower the night before.

*Auk*, VI, April, 1889, p. 130.

**Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.**

**63. Ammodromus maritimus.**

*First plumage.* Above light olive-brown, with dusky streakings, broadest upon the interscapular region, narrower and more uniformly distributed upon the occiput and nape. A broad superciliary stripe of fulvous extending backward to the occiput, finely spotted with dusky upon its posterior half. Sides of head dull olive, with irregular patches of fulvous. Wing-bands of pale fulvous upon the greater and middle coverts. Beneath pale brownish-yellow, fading to soiled white posteriorly. Sides, and a broad continuous band across the breast, spotted with dull brown. From a specimen in my collection, taken at Bath, Long Island, September, 1872.

**Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878. p. 119.**

# THE AUK:

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF

ORNITHOLOGY.

---

VOL. XVI.

JANUARY, 1899.

NO. I.

---

THE DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIONSHIPS OF *AMMO-*  
*DRAMUS MARITIMUS* AND ITS ALLIES.

*pp. 1-12.*

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

*Plate I.*

A FIELD experience with four of our five recognized Seaside Sparrows has been the means of calling my attention to certain apparent anomalies in their distribution and relationships which in the following pages I have attempted to make clear.

The material at my command while not wholly satisfactory, is nevertheless, I trust, sufficient to warrant a provisional explanation of the facts it presents. It numbers some 160 specimens, including series loaned me by Mr. Robert Ridgway from the collections under his charge, by Mr. William Brewster and Dr. A. K. Fisher, and also the examples in the American Museum of Natural History. The specimens loaned me by the gentlemen named constitute so important a part of the material studied that I feel under more than usual obligation to them.

From Mr. Ridgway I have received a series of May birds collected by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny on the coast of Louisiana, and of breeding birds collected by Lieut. Wirt Robinson near St. Augustine, Florida; Mr. Brewster sends specimens from the west coast of Florida, breeding birds collected by himself at St. Mary's, Georgia, and a most puzzling series from the vicinity of Charles-

ton, South Carolina, while Dr. Fisher forwards breeding birds and young in first plumage from Grand Isle, Louisiana.

The questions involved in a study of these birds may be best presented by a brief consideration of our recorded knowledge of the distribution and relationships of the five described forms, namely: *Ammodramus maritimus*, *A. m. peninsulae*, *A. m. sennetti*, *A. m. macgillivraii*, and *A. nigrescens*. Of these five forms, which are here given under their current names, the status of *A. nigrescens* and *A. m. sennetti* is apparently clear and these two birds may be considered before taking up the perplexing questions presented by the remaining three forms.

#### *Ammodramus nigrescens* (Ridgw.).

*Ammodramus maritimus* var. *nigrescens* RIDGW. Bull. Essex Inst. V, 1873, 198; B. B. & R. N. A. Birds, III, 1875, App. 513 (descr. only) *ibid.* I, pl. facing p. 560.

*Ammodramus melanoleucus* MAYNARD, Am. Sportsman, V, 1875, 248; Birds of E. N. A. 1881, 119, pl. V (descr., habits, dist.)

*Ammodramus nigrescens* RIDGW. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. III, 1880, 178; CHAPMAN, Auk, XV, 1898, 270 (habits).

This strongly marked species was discovered by Mr. C. J. Maynard at Salt Lake, near Titusville, Florida, in March, 1892. Only a single specimen was secured at this locality, but he afterwards found it to be "quite common" on the marshes bordering the east shore of the Indian River, opposite Titusville, as recorded in the 'American Sportsman' and 'Birds of Eastern North America.' The information contained in these publications constituted all our published knowledge of the life history and distribution of this species until the appearance of my note on its abundance in the marshes about the mouth of Dummitt's Creek (Auk, l. c.), but Mr. Maynard has furnished me with the following valuable data in regard to its distribution, which, with his kind permission, I print in full: "The Black and White Shore Finch, of which I have, so far as I know, taken all of the specimens in collections, excepting two, that were shot by a friend who was with me in Florida, but who took the two in question after I left, occurs rarely about Salt Lake, Upper St. Johns, Florida, commonly on the northern end of Merritt's Island, on the marshy

islands of Banana River, on the marshes north of this lagoon, west to the Indian River, north along this body of water to the Haulover Canal. It never occurs out of the marsh grass or low water bush. Thus the bird is confined to a belt of country not over a quarter of a mile wide and about ten miles long, if followed through its extent."

When one considers the abundance of this Sparrow and that the region it inhabits is in no sense insolated, but that both to the north and south of the area outlined above there are marshes apparently similar to those it occupies, its restriction to a habitat only a few square miles in extent makes its distribution unique among American birds. In color it is the most strongly characterized form of the group, the black which prevails on the upper parts and so heavily streaks almost the entire under parts, not being equalled in intensity or extent in any of its congeners. Seventeen specimens taken in March, 1898, at the mouth of Dummitt's Creek, are in comparatively unworn plumage and present little variation in color. Their average measurements are: wing, 2.50; tail, 2.04; bill from nostril, .43 inches.

The nearest point at which another representative of this group has been secured is Matanzas Inlet, Florida.

#### *Ammodramus sennetti* (Allen).

*Ammodramus maritimus sennetti* ALLEN, Auk, V, 1888, 286 (orig. descr.); CHAPMAN, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. III, 1891, 323 (habits); RHODS, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1892, 109.

As the second most distinct form in the group and the only one, except *A. nigrescens*, which apparently does not intergrade with its allies, we may next treat of the Seaside Finch resident at Corpus Christi, Texas.

In April, 1891, I found the bird abundant and breeding in the marshes of Nueces Bay. A series of thirteen specimens shows that it more nearly resembles true *maritimus* than it does any other member of the group. It is, however, quite distinct from that form, being distinguished chiefly by its greener color and the black centers to the feathers of the upper parts. To the form geographically nearest to it, the dark Seaside Sparrow

breeding on the coast of Louisiana, the Corpus Christi bird is less closely related than to any other form of the group, except *A. nigrescens*. There is no evidence whatever of its intergradation with any of its congeners and consequently no reason for denying it specific rank.

#### *Ammodramus maritimus* et subsp.

Having disposed of the two forms whose status is clearest we may now approach those whose relationships and distribution present certain apparent anomalies. Before discussing the questions involved in a study of these birds it will be well to first give briefly our recorded information concerning their distribution and the accepted views in regard to their relationships.

#### *Ammodramus maritimus* (Wils.).

In the second edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' the range of this species is given as "Salt marshes of the Atlantic Coast, from Connecticut southward to Georgia. Accidental in Massachusetts." Recent records show the bird to be a regular summer resident in Rhode Island and as far east as Westport, Mass., just beyond the Rhode Island State line.<sup>1</sup> The locality "Georgia," given in the 'Check-List,' is evidently based on Mr. William Brewster's identification of the series of twelve *breeding* birds taken by himself, in some instances with nests and eggs, at St. Mary's, Georgia.<sup>2</sup>

In the second edition of his 'Manual,' Appendix, page 602, Mr. Ridgway gives the range of *maritimus* as "Massachusetts to northern Florida," the latter locality being doubtless based on Lieut. Robinson's breeding birds from St. Augustine and Matanzas Inlet, which I have previously mentioned as included in the series loaned me by Mr. Ridgway.

<sup>1</sup> See Howe, Auk XIV, 1897, 219; Sturtevant, *ibid.* 322; Farley, *ibid.* 322.

<sup>2</sup> Auk, XII, 1890, 212.

*Ammodramus maritimus peninsulæ* Allen.

This race was described by Dr. J. A. Allen from specimens collected by W. E. D. Scott at Tarpon Springs, on the west coast of Florida, in February, 1888.<sup>1</sup> With the Florida birds Dr. Allen identified a series of ten adult and six immature birds collected by Dr. A. K. Fisher at Grand Isle, Louisiana, in June, 1886. Shortly afterward Dr. Allen recorded a specimen of *peninsulæ*, in the collection of G. S. Miller, Jr., which had been collected on Sapelo Island, off the coast of Georgia, Dec. 14, 1887.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Brewster also referred to *peninsulæ* two specimens taken on this same island in December, 1887, and Dr. Allen identified with the same form a specimen from near Charleston, S. C.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. W. E. D. Scott records *peninsulæ* as a very common winter resident near Tarpon Springs,<sup>4</sup> the type locality, where, however, it does not breed. In fact the breeding grounds of this Sparrow on the Gulf coast appear to be as yet unknown. Mr. C. J. Maynard<sup>5</sup> states that he found Seaside Sparrows, doubtless this form, about to breed at Cedar Keys, Florida, in February. The date is surprisingly early but it is quite probable that *peninsulæ* may breed in the marshes at Cedar Keys.

*Ammodramus maritimus macgillivraii* Ridgw. (not of Audubon).

March 25, 1891, I collected at Corpus Christi, Texas, two specimens of a dark Seaside Sparrow which were provisionally referred to *peninsulæ*, with the statement that they were darker than that form and had gray instead of olivaceous edgings to the feathers.<sup>6</sup> They were evidently winter visitants and their breeding ground remained unknown until Mr. E. A. McIlhenny collected a large series of breeding birds on and near Avery's Island,

<sup>1</sup> Auk, V, 1888, 284.<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, V, 1888, 426.<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, VII, 1890, 212.<sup>4</sup> Auk, VI, 1889, 322.<sup>5</sup> Birds E. N. A., 121.<sup>6</sup> Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., III, 1891, 324.

Louisiana. Then it appeared that the birds collected by Dr. Fisher at Grand Isle were also referable to this form. These birds, with the Corpus Christi specimens just mentioned, were considered by Mr. Ridgway<sup>1</sup> to represent *Fringilla macgillivraii* described by Audubon<sup>2</sup> from Charleston, South Carolina, and said later by the same writer to also occur on the coast of Louisiana and Texas.<sup>3</sup> This name had previously been synonymized with that of *Ammodramus maritimus* under the belief that it was based on a specimen of that bird in first plumage.

The following year Dr. Walter Faxon called attention to the fact<sup>4</sup> that Audubon's description of *macgillivraii* having been based on specimens from Charleston, South Carolina, a locality in which *peninsulae* was known to occur, the name *macgillivraii* was obviously applicable to the bird known as *peninsulae* and not to the quite different bird of Louisiana.

In attempting now to explain the peculiar conditions which this brief summary of current views has set forth, one is at once confronted with the difficulty which has beset all students of these birds, that is, the unusually worn plumage of breeding birds. So greatly does this abrasion affect a bird's appearance that almost the entire range of color variation between *maritimus* and the Louisiana bird, respectively the lightest and darkest members of this restricted group, is shown in Dr. Fisher's series of breeding birds from Grand Isle. Specimens in worn plumage, therefore, must be examined with great care and identified only after the closest comparison. Hence in order to clearly grasp the characters separating these three forms it will be necessary to use non-breeding examples. Thus I have selected a series of fall and early spring<sup>5</sup> birds from Long Island, N. Y., Tarpon

<sup>1</sup> Manual N. A. Birds, 2nd Ed., 1896, App. 602.

<sup>2</sup> Orn. Biog. II, 1834, 285.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, IV, 1838, 394.

<sup>4</sup> Auk, XIV, 1897, 321.

<sup>5</sup> It is remarkable, in view of the rapid and extreme abrasion of the plumage of breeding birds, how little the plumage shows the effects of wear and tear during the winter. There is practically no difference between the plumage of September specimens and those taken early in the following spring.

Springs, Florida,—the type locality of *peninsulae*,—and Texas. From the last named State I have only three specimens representing the dark, west Gulf coast form, but the characters they present are shown, by comparison with Mr. McIlhenny's series of breeding birds from and near Avery's Island, La., to be typical. From a careful study of this material it appears that in fresh and unworn plumage the three forms are to be distinguished from one another chiefly by the characters set forth in the appended tabular synopsis. Here it may be briefly said that *maritimus* is greenish olive margined with bluish gray above, with the breast and flanks streaked with bluish gray and margined with buff. In *peninsulae* the upper parts are dull black margined with greenish olive, the breast and flanks being streaked with dusky black margined with buff or bluish gray, while the dark west Gulf coast form has the upper parts deep black bordered by mummy brown and margined with bluish gray, the breast and flanks being distinctly streaked with black and heavily margined with pale ochraceous.

Bearing these differences in mind we may approach the puzzling series of non-breeding birds from South Carolina and Georgia. It contains thirty-one adults and two immature (first plumage) specimens. Fifteen of the adults are perfectly typical, in color, of Long Island *maritimus*. Only one has the wing under 2.40 in., their average measurements being: wing, 2.46; tail, 2.18; bill from nostril, 45 in. They thus closely approach Long Island birds in size (see table of measurements beyond), evidence that they were winter residents from the north.

Of the remaining sixteen adults ten are intermediate between *maritimus* and *peninsulae*, most of them approaching the latter much more closely than the former. Their average measurements are: wing, 2.40; tail, 2.15; bill from nostril, 45. Nine of these birds are in Mr. Brewster's collection, seven of them being labeled by him "*peninsulae*."

I believe these birds to be resident, racial representatives of *maritimus*, marking a stage in the geographical variation in this species, which, on the west coast of Florida, appears as *peninsulae*. A specimen, evidently breeding, collected by Dr. Coues at Fort Macon, N. C., April 15, 1869 (U. S. N. M. No. 55523) is appre-

ciably darker than comparable Long Island birds and apparently indicates an approach to the *peninsulae* type, as it is represented on the Atlantic coast by birds similar to the ten specimens first mentioned. To this intermediate, South Atlantic form of *maritimus* I refer with some confidence Brewster's breeding birds from St. Mary's, Georgia, and Robinson's breeding birds from the vicinity of St. Augustine and Matanzas Inlet, Florida. These birds, I am aware, have been referred to true *maritimus* and their plumage is in such worn condition that it is true they closely resemble, at first sight, Long Island specimens of that species. Carefully compared, however, with equally worn Long Island birds, they are grayer and more streaked below, while the lateral stripes of the crown, areas which seem least to show abrasion, are darker than in *maritimus*, being raw-umber as in *peninsulae*, agreeing in fact, considering their abrasion, very closely in the color of this region with the ten specimens which I have spoken of as intermediate between *maritimus* and *peninsulae*.

Accepting this identification, what shall we call this dark representative of *Ammodramus maritimus* which apparently is a permanent resident on the Atlantic coast from at least St. Augustine to Charleston? Individually they have for the most part been identified as *peninsulae*, and while they have longer bills and are less green above and less heavily streaked below than true *peninsulae*, they are so much nearer to this form than to *maritimus*, that I should prefer to refer them to the former rather than to the latter, or rather than to accept the alternative of giving them a name of their own.

This leaves us with six specimens of the South Carolina and Georgia series which can be referred to neither *maritimus* nor *peninsulae*. Three of these birds are in the collection of the United States National Museum (Nos. 159387, ♀, Oct. 24, 1893; No. 159388, ♀, Oct. 27, 1893; No. 159657, ♀, Oct. 23, 1895, all taken at Mount Pleasant, So. Car.), and three are in Mr. Brewster's collection (No. 19047, ♀, Dec. 3, 1887, Sapelo Is., Ga.; No. 45753, ♂, Nov. 27, 1894 and No. 47656, ♀, April 17, 1897, Mount Pleasant, So. Car.). In the coloration of the upper parts they resemble the dark, west Gulf coast bird, but the black of the feathers of the upper parts is margined with olive

instead of mummy brown, the nape is more olive, and, with the exception of No. 159388, the breast and flanks are much less strongly streaked and less heavily washed with buffy ochraceous, the coloration of these parts agreeing with that of *peninsulae*.

Apparently these two forms of Seaside Sparrow, represented by my series of ten and six birds respectively, are found breeding in the same area, a fact which is evidently proven by two birds in first or nestling plumage. One of these (U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 159389, ♂) was taken by Mr. A. T. Wayne at Mount Pleasant, So. Car., Aug. 10, 1893, and is obviously the offspring of a very dark Seaside Sparrow, being much blacker than any of a dozen New York examples in similar plumage, and in fact agreeing very well with six young birds collected by Dr. A. K. Fisher on Grand Isle, La., June 6-9, 1896. This is evidently the progeny of the dark bird just described.

The other young bird (No. 12437, Coll. Wm. Brewster) was collected by Mr. Walter Hoxie, near Frogmore, So. Car., Aug. 10, 1886. It is much lighter than the Mount Pleasant specimen, with which it agrees in age, and approaches young *maritimus* from New York, differing from it to just about the same extent and in much the same manner as do the *peninsulae-maritimus* adults of this region from adult true *maritimus*. This bird is apparently the offspring of *peninsulae-maritimus* parents. Hence the breeding of these birds and of the dark type in the same region is shown both by the presence of adults and their respective offspring. What their interrelationships may be, and whether they occupy different breeding areas, are questions which can be settled only by observation in the field. Specimens before me apparently show their intergradation but my material does not admit of satisfactory conclusions.

However, admitting that we have two forms, we are now confronted by the question of nomenclature. What names shall we apply to them? The *peninsulae-maritimus* specimens, as I have previously said, should, in my opinion, be identified with *peninsulae* rather than with *maritimus*, but what shall we call the black and gray birds? Unquestionably, it seems to me, they represent *macgillivraii* of Audubon, and while he also placed the Louisiana and Texas birds under this name, there can be no doubt that, as

Dr. Faxon had shown, he figured and described specimens collected near Charleston by Dr. Bachman. In support of this statement see Volume II, page 285 of the Ornithological Biography, on which Audubon states that Bachman presented him with a dozen specimens of this Sparrow collected near Charleston, where J. W. Audubon made the drawing which was afterward published in the fourth volume of the 'Birds of America.' No mention is made in Volume II of Texas and Louisiana, where the bird was evidently not discovered until several years later, being first recorded from these States in Volume IV, page 394, of the 'Ornithological Biography,' published in 1838, or four years after the description of '*Fringilla macgillivraii*' from Charleston.

The specimen upon which this description was probably based is now in the U. S. Nat. Mus. (No. 2894) but is without date or locality. It is a young bird in first plumage, of the same age as the specimen taken at Mt. Pleasant, S. C., Aug. 10, 1893, from which it differs no more than do immature specimens of *maritimus* from one another.

If this view of the case be accepted it will permit us to give the Louisiana bird a name of its own, a course which the specimens involved seem to warrant. And I therefore propose to name it in honor of Dr. A. K. Fisher who, after Audubon, was the first ornithologist to secure specimens of the Louisiana bird. Hence we have

***Ammodramus maritimus fisheri*, subsp. nov.**

*Ammodramus macgillivraii* AUD. (in part) Orn. Biog. IV, 1838, 394.

*Ammodramus maritimus macgillivrayi* RIDGW. Manual N. A. Birds, 2d Ed., 1896, App. 602.

*Ammodramus maritimus peninsulae* ALLEN (in part), Auk, V, 1888, 284.

*Ammodramus maritimus peninsulae?* CHAPM. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., III, 1891, 324.

*Char. Subsp.*—Upper parts deep black, in fresh plumage the feathers bordered by mummy brown and margined with bluish gray, the breast and flanks streaked with black and more or less heavily washed by pale ochraceous.

Type, No. 163,722, U. S. Nat. Mus. Collected by A. K. Fisher, M. D. Collector's number No. 2622, ♀ ad., egg in oviduct, Grand Isle, Louisiana, June 9, 1886.

*Range.*—Coast of Gulf States, breeding from Grand Isle, La., westward, probably to northeastern Texas, southward in winter to Corpus Christi, Texas, and Tarpon Springs, Florida.<sup>1</sup>

In the appended table a comparison of the diagnostic characters of all the forms of the restricted *maritimus* group in fresh plumage is given. As before remarked, abrasion so alters a breeding bird's appearance that in some cases badly worn specimens are practically unidentifiable. Of the 17 breeding birds collected by Dr. Fisher on Grand Isle and by Mr. McIlhenny on and near Averys Island, all but four are more or less suffused with pale ochraceous on the breast and flanks, the most diagnostic character presented by *fisheri*, and about half the series are still more or less distinctly streaked with black below. It is in unworn plumage, however, that the differential characters of these birds are most evident, and it is on specimens in this condition that the appended table comparing the four forms of the restricted *maritimus* group is based.

TABLE OF DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS OF SEASIDE SPARROWS OF THE  
*Ammodramus maritimus* GROUP.

*Crown.*

*Maritimus.*—Sides olive with occasionally black shaft-streaks, median line well defined, bluish gray.

*Peninsulæ.*—Sides dull black, margined with raw umber, median line ill defined, bluish gray.

*Macgillivraii.*—Sides deep black, margined with mummy brown, median line ill defined, bluish gray.

*Fisheri.*—Sides deep black, margined with mummy brown, median line ill defined, bluish gray.<sup>2</sup>

*Nape.*

*Maritimus.*—Pale greenish olive.

*Peninsulæ.*—Greenish olive.

*Macgillivraii.*—Tawny olive.

*Fisheri.*—Mummy brown.

<sup>1</sup>No. 43472, ♀, Tarpon Springs, Nov. 2, 1891. Coll. Wm. Brewster, is clearly referable to *fisheri*.

<sup>2</sup>Ridgway's 'Nomenclature of Colors' is used throughout this paper.

*Back.*

*Maritimus*.—Olive, margined by bluish gray.

*Peninsulæ*.—Dull black, margined by greenish olive.

*Macgillivraii*.—Deep black, bordered by greenish olive and margined with bluish gray.

*Fisherii*.—Deep black, bordered by mummy brown and margined by bluish gray.

*Breast.*

*Maritimus*.—Streaked with bluish gray, margined with buff.

*Peninsulæ*.—Streaked with dusky, margined with buff or bluish gray.<sup>1</sup>

*Macgillivraii*.—Streaked with dusky, margined with buff.

*Fisherii*.—Streaked with black, widely margined with pale ochraceous.

*Flanks.*

*Maritimus*.—Obscurely streaked with bluish gray and faintly washed with buff.

*Peninsulæ*.—Streaked with dusky, margined with grayish or olive buff.

*Macgillivraii*.—Streaked with dusky, margined with buff.

*Fisherii*.—Streaked with black, widely margined with pale ochraceous.

*Average measurements.*

	Wing.	Tail.	Bill from nostril.
<i>Maritimus</i> . . . . .	2.52	2.25	46.5 in.
<i>Peninsulæ</i> . . . . .	2.32	2.09	42 "
<i>Macgillivraii</i> . . . . .	2.36	2.18	46 "
<i>Fisherii</i> . . . . .	2.29	2.12	45.8 "

<sup>1</sup> Eight of sixteen specimens have the breast more or less washed with buff.

lecontei

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James W. Fleming.  
Part II, Land Birds.  
*Auk*, xxi, Jan., 1907, p. 80.

206. ***Ammodramus leconteii***. LECONTE'S SPARROW.— One specimen taken by Mr. George Pierce May 5, 1897, is in the collection of Mr. J. H. Ames.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Auk*, XIV, 1897, 411.

### Canada.

**Northward Range of *Ammodramus lecontei***.— On May 22, 1908, I saw two Leconte Sparrows on a low marshy flat in the delta of the Athabasca River, on the south side of Lake Athabasca, opposite Fort Chipewyan. Tried for some time to flush a bird, and finally, hearing a faint squeaking in the dry dead grass, rushed noisily forward, and succeeded in scaring one male up on a dead stump and shooting it. I considered this to be rather far north for this species, until I saw a specimen collected by Mr. Harry W. Jones, at Hay River, at the western end of Great Slave Lake, June 23, 1908.— R. M. ANDERSON, *Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City*.

*Auk* 26, Jan-1909, p. 80.

*Auk*, XV, April, 1898, pp. 188-9.

Occurrence of Leconte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) at Ithaca, N. Y.— While searching the large marsh at the head of Cayuga Lake

for fall migrants, I succeeded in securing a specimen of Leconte's Sparrow. The bird was taken at the edge of the marsh, where a stream had washed up the mud, making a higher and drier bank, and where, in consequence, the grasses were thicker and less aquatic in character. The specimen I obtained was a young bird, in the first plumage after the nestling plumage, thus, in all probability, showing that it had been bred at no very great distance from where it was taken. The date of its capture was October 11, 1897. Further careful search, both on the same day, and for many days thereafter, failed to reveal any more of the species.— LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES, *Ithaca, N. Y.*



Lark Finch and Baird's Bunting on Long  
Island, N. Y.

At Montauk Point, L. I., Nov. 13, 1899, I secured a small Sparrow that proves to be Ammodramus bairdi. The sex I was unable to determine, as it was too badly injured by shot. Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., who has examined the specimen, writes me that it is "chiefly in juvenal plumage passing to first winter." So far as I am aware this is the first instance of its occurrence that has been reported from the Atlantic coast. — ARTHUR H. HELME, *Brooklyn, N. Y.* - *Auk*, XVII, July, 1900, p. 296.