

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.*

Henslow's Bunting (*Ammodramus henslowi*) **Found Breeding at Plymouth, Michigan.** — On July 27, 1893, while mowing grass in a hay field, I discovered a bird which by its peculiar song and habits was a new species for this locality. It had a nest, among the tall grass, which contained eggs, but unfortunately they were broken by the mowing machine. The bird was very uneasy, repeatedly hiding in the tall grass and only leaving its hiding place when the mowing machine knives were nearly upon it. It stuck to the standing grass until the last swath was cut, after which it would dive under the fallen hay, where I tried repeatedly to capture it alive, and after failing in this, I procured the specimen with a gun. After careful examination I pronounced it the Henslow's Bunting, but to make the identification sure, I later presented the specimen to the United States National Museum, and received the following in reply from Mr. Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds.

"In reply to your letter of the 2nd inst. [March 2, 1896] addressed to Mr. Ridgway (who is absent in Florida), I have to say that your identification of the specimen sent as a Henslow's Bunting is correct. This species ought not to be seen in Michigan. Cook's Birds of Michigan does not record any specimens taken in the State. The bird is very liable to be overlooked, but when once you learn its song you will be quite sure to find more of them. The eggs are quite uncommon in collections. Major C. E. Bendire, the Curator of Oölogy here, can give you more definite information on this point. We are pleased to accept your offer to give the specimen to the National Museum, and you will receive due acknowledgment in a few days."

I then sent the following description of the eggs to Major Bendire. Eggs white, dotted at the large end with reddish spots, and thinly dotted with reddish specks at the small end. Nest composed of fine dry grass, and lined with the same material. To this Major Bendire replied as follows:

"In answer to yours of the 9th inst., I have no doubt whatever that the nest and eggs you describe are those of Henslow's Bunting; your description of the same fits them exactly, and since you secured the bird at the same time (which I have seen), it makes this almost positive. There can be little doubt that the eggs in question are those of Henslow's Bunting; and so far as I know, I believe this is the first instance of this bird having

been found breeding in Michigan. We have but very few fully identified eggs of this species, and they are still rare in collections, and your find is a very interesting one."

During the past seasons since I found this bird, I have carefully searched the meadows for more specimens of Henslow's Bunting, but without success. The one which I found is now in the United States National Museum, and is labeled Henslow's Bunting (*Ammodramus henslowi*), Accession No. 30409. — JAMES B. PURDY, *Plymouth, Mich.*

Occurrence of *Zonotrichia albicollis* in California. — On October 27, 1896, Mr. Henry Ward Carriger of Sonoma, Sonoma Co., Cal., secured a specimen of the White-throated Sparrow, a male in almost full plumage. It was observed along a small creek at the edge of the foothills in company with several Golden-crowned Sparrows and greatly resembled them in its actions. The specimen proved to be well nourished, and is the first occurrence of this species recorded from Sonoma County, and adds another record of this bird for California. — C. BARLOW, *Santa Clara, Cal.*

How about the Genus *Pipilo* now? — I observe by the Eighth Supplement to our Check-List that we have officially adopted Mr. Ridgway's new genus *Oreospiza*, for that species which we have been calling *Pipilo chlorurus*. This is well, in my judgment; in fact, I could produce some manuscript, in my own handwriting, of date 1862, in which I took the bird entirely out of the genus *Pipilo*; though I never published that screed, chiefly because my mentor at that time, Professor Baird, was vexed at something I did with Bonaparte's genus *Kieneria*. But the present trouble is that in our Check-List, both eds., "*Pipilo*" *chlorurus* has been interjected forcibly in the middle of its supposed genus, with the black or green and white Towhees in front of it, and the brown Towhees behind it; with the interesting result, that *Oreospiza*, the heterogeneous element or unconformable factor in the case, now splits *Pipilo* apart! Our genera now run (1) *Pipilo*; (2) *Oreospiza*; (3) *Pipilo*. Our species run: No. 589, *Pipilo consobrinus*; 590, *Oreospiza chlorura*; 591, *Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus*. I gladly leave this case to the tender grace of any one who will admit his responsibility for putting "*Pipilo*" *chlorurus* in that fix. I decline to assume any responsibility myself; the bird will be found in several of my works since 1872 in what I took to be its proper position. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Bahaman Swallow in Florida. — In a collection of birds purchased several years ago of Mr. W. E. D. Scott I have lately found a Bahaman Swallow (*Callichelidon cyaneoviridis*) the original label of which reads as follows: "Register 12558, W. E. D. Scott, Tarpon Springs, Florida, September 3, 1890; W. S. Dickenson." It is a young bird in practically