

Another Deformed Bill.—On page 279 of the April number of 'The Auk', 1904, is figured and described an abnormal bill of *Corvus americanus*. This brought to mind a bill deformity in the English Sparrow in my collection, of which I herewith append a description:—

Passer domesticus, ♂, Snyder Collection, No. 5399, San Jose, Calif., Jan. 3, 1900, coll. by Ernest Adams. Plumage and lower mandible normal; both mandibles of usual color. Upper mandible: Length, 18.5 mm., width, 6 mm.; depth 4 mm.; notched on both sides, the notch being back 4.5 mm. from tip. Tip of mandible broken off abruptly. Mandible from base to tip of equal depth and width throughout.—W. E. SNYDER, *Beaver Dam, Wis.*

Clay-colored Sparrow in the Cariboo District, British Columbia.—On the 3d July, 1901, at 158-Mile House, Cariboo District, I shot two sparrows which I identified at the time as *Spizella breweri*. I now find these to be Clay-colored Sparrows, *Spizella pallida*,—another instance of the infusion of the Great Plains element so noticeable in that District.

These were both singing males but they were not breeding though the sexual organs were greatly enlarged. I had worked the locality where they were taken very thoroughly for about two months previously without hearing their very peculiar song, which as soon as heard at once drew my attention.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Comox, B. C.*

Henslow's Sparrow in St. Clair County, Michigan.—Up to the present season Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) has been treated by me as a rare summer resident in southeastern Michigan. The only authentic record of the occurrence of the species here was made by Mr. Jas. B. Purdy of Plymouth, Wayne County, who detected a pair breeding in a hay field near his home on July 27, 1893, and discovered the nest in the tall grass, containing eggs which were destroyed by the mowing machine. Mr. Purdy secured the female. (*Auk*, 1897, p. 220).

On the Canadian side of Lake St. Clair, near the mouth of the Thames River, Mr. W. E. Saunders found a small colony of about ten pairs on May 24, and June 12, 1898. On July 2 he met with two males near Sarnia, Ontario, which is directly across from Port Huron. (*Bull. Mich. Ornith. Club*, Vol. II, p. 38.)

The above records sum up all available data with regard to this species here.

Lake St. Clair, in southern St. Clair County, is bordered by an extensive stretch of grassy meadows which practically extend the entire circuit of the lake. This territory is flat, very wet in places, and is intersected with an occasional slough or dredged cut bordered by a growth of willows. In this section of the country I was convinced that Henslow's Sparrow would be found, if anywhere, especially with the Ontario records on the Canadian side.

On June 18, 1904, Mr. Percy A. Taverner and I were working in the

locality and were passing down the line of willows along an extensive canal. A strange faint note arising from out of the meadows beyond arrested our attention, the author of which we could not discover. It struck me that this was the object of our search although I had never met with the species before. This supposition proved correct, as a few minutes later Taverner was able to flush a small bird, which he secured, proving it to be a female Henslow's Sparrow. We found a small colony of these birds in this portion of the meadows—about twelve pairs as far as we could judge. The two females taken demonstrated that they were breeding by the bare abdomen and the tough thickened skin of the belly. In the limited amount of time at our disposal no nests were found; indeed, it was a difficult matter to locate the birds themselves, much less the nests. In the vast expanse of meadow the search was in vain. By careful concentration we could detect the *se-slick* notes of the birds arising from out of the medley caused by the Meadowlark, Bobolink, and Red-winged Blackbird, but to an unaccustomed ear the notes would easily be passed over or ignored.

The birds favored perching on the tops of the various weed stalks, golden-rod, asters, etc., that invested certain portions of the field. Once flushed the birds would fly in a peculiar wavering manner a short distance, drop suddenly into the tangled grass, and were with extreme difficulty put up again. Mouse-like they would worm their way through the matted grass and were shortly in a different direction from the place one expected to find them. Towards sunset the birds were more active and the notes would arise from various points. I did not hear them after sunset.

We visited this colony again on July 23 and 24 and August 21. On the latter date the birds had moved up to higher ground where a tangle of golden-rod and other weeds made a good cover. On September 25 thorough search failed to reveal even a single bird. On October 2, in Wayne County, we were passing through a neglected piece of meadow when I flushed a small sparrow which, by its peculiar flight I realized was an *Ammodramus* of some species. This bird quickly dropped into the grass and we searched for an hour before Taverner flushed it again in a distant portion of the field and secured it. This bird proved to be a male Henslow's Sparrow—a much more brightly plumed bird than the June specimens; the dark streaks of the sides showed up very plainly against the ochreous wash on the breast.

I think that *A. henslowii* will prove to be a much more abundant species in this section of Michigan than is supposed, though very locally distributed.—BRADSHAW H. SWALES, *Detroit, Mich.*

The Northern Parula Warbler in Southern Michigan.—I am enabled by the courtesy of Mr. J. Claire Wood of Detroit to record the first specimen of the Northern Parula Warbler (*Compsothlypis americana usneæ*) taken in Wayne County, Michigan. On September 25, 1904, Mr. Wood