

uniform fuscous. In the Junco under consideration, the third feather was practically all white, with the exception of a very narrow dusky streak along the lower, outer edge, and a mottled dusky and white coloring across the upper part of the inner vane. The fourth feather was dusky with the upper portion of the outer vane and the shaft white. This corresponds with the markings of tail feathers of specimens of *J. aikenii* in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia which I examined.

So far as I have been able to determine, the White-winged Junco has not been recorded east of Wisconsin. Yet it is the only species of Junco possessing white wing bars, and this particular bird was carefully examined in the hand. Considering the case of the Slate-colored Junco banded in Minnesota which was recently taken by Mr. Bowdish at Demarest, N. J., it seems within the realm of possibility that a White-winged Junco might also have strayed far to the east.—MABEL GILLESPIE, *Glenolden, Pa.*

The Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) in Maine.—Dr. Charles W. Townsend and I saw a Lark Sparrow, presumably of the Eastern subspecies (*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*) on the island of Matinicus off Penobscot Bay, Maine, August 12, 1925. We saw the bird clearly at close range through 8-power binoculars and identified it beyond question by its size, the white outer corners of the tail, and the characteristic head markings. Dr. Townsend is very familiar with the species, having seen eight or more individuals in the East besides many of the western subspecies in the West. The only record of the Lark Sparrow that I have been able to find for the state of Maine is that of a bird observed September 9 and 10, 1918, on Monhegan Island by Dr. John W. Dewis and recorded in Maynard's 'Records of Walks and Talks with Nature,' vol. 11, pages 35 and 40. This bird was identified by the late Judge Charles F. Jenney, who, I remember, saw the species at Monhegan in other years also, though he seems never to have published the records. The occurrence of the Lark Sparrow, which, according to the 'Check-List,' does not breed east of western Pennsylvania, on such outlying islands as Matinicus, Monhegan, and Grand Manan (see Townsend, 'Auk,' xli, 160) in the autumnal migration is worthy of note.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) in Massachusetts.—On November 18, 1925, at noon, I found in one of my traps a bird which, after careful examination, I called a female Dickcissel. It corresponded in all respects to Chapman's description in his 'Birds of Eastern North America,' except that it had distinct yellow patches on the bend of the wings. Mr. Forbush, however, to whom I wrote about the bird, indicates that this is one of its characteristic markings.

As the occurrence of this bird in New England seems to have been very unusual of recent years, it may be worth while recording this instance in

'The Auk'—42774 is the number of the band on the leg of this particular bird, which made strenuous objection to wearing a bracelet.—WM. P. WHARTON, *Fiveoaks Farm, Groton, Mass.*

Note on the Nesting Habits of the Tree Swallow:—During the progress of an attempt to define the line in New England (if, indeed, any such exists) separating the area in which Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) raise one brood, from the area in which they raise two broods, annually, the writer has noted the reluctance with which this species nests colonially in some localities and its willingness to do so in others.

If we erect a several-compartment bird-house on our premises on the theory that we shall get a colony of Tree Swallows because a few miles distant an acquaintance has been successful in so attracting several pairs, we are likely to be disappointed, although before nesting begins the birds may be seen flying in and out of every hole in the edifice.

Writers describing the nesting habits of this species usually find them most numerous where dead trees standing in or close to the water abound, for here old Woodpecker holes in which the birds nest are frequent. Many writers refer to such groups of nesting Tree Swallows as colonies, and perhaps most ornithologists will agree that they are such, but, accompanying such statements, I find no references to just how close together the nests are placed, or just what is meant by the word "colony." This has led me to inquire as to the extent compartment bird-houses are used colonially by this species, which in turn has raised the question of why one person cannot get more than a single pair of birds to occupy such a bird-house each season, while another succeeds year after year in doing so. I have had several reports from correspondents of "all compartments occupied," but in most cases investigation reveals that such occupancy has to do with conditions preceding actual nesting, for by June all the Swallows have left, barring a single pair. This, however, is not always the case, for occasionally each compartment in a bird-house, even of ten divisions, is occupied by a nesting pair. Such a case is reported by R. W. Means of Topsfield, Mass. A barrel erected in Peterboro, N. H., as a compartment bird-house for two seasons housed two pairs of nesting birds.

A lesser degree of colonization is common, and this more widely spaced nesting is due largely to circumstances referred to below. It is doubtless true that tree growth with its old Woodpecker holes will not permit the intimate nesting conditions present in a compartment bird-house. Man also, though he may have a hundred pairs nesting close by, seldom spaces his single houses nearer than ten feet apart. Mr. Edward F. Woods writes me that on his place at Bournedale, Mass., within an area of less than three-fourths of an acre he has had for years as many as 150 pairs of Tree Swallows nesting, many of the houses ranging from seven to twelve feet apart. George C. Atwell of Strafford, N. H., reports thirteen pairs nesting in an area of three-fifths of an acre, the two nearest nests being thirteen