

Breeding of Macgillivray's Seaside Sparrow in South Carolina.—
'The Auk' for July, 1924, pages 482-484 Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., has given a lengthy account of the breeding of this bird (*Passerherbulus maritimus macgillivrayi*), the birds Mr. Sprunt has assured me were identified by a well known ornithologist.

In May, 1924, I visited the same general region twice with Mr. Edward von S. Dingle and Dr. Charles P. Aimar, where I shot one bird, and watched at close range a large number, but I could not detect a single example of Macgillivray's among them and I have been familiar with the bird as far back as 1886. Mr. Sprunt and Mr. Dingle have collected a good series, all breeding birds, including a young bird just from the nest and able to fly, which was taken by Mr. Sprunt. All of these I have examined critically, but not one of the adults bears any resemblance to *macgillivrayi*, nor does the young bird. These birds are identical in color and size with the Seaside Sparrows that were discovered breeding long years ago at Cabbage Island, Warsaw Sound, near Savannah, Georgia by Mr. Gilbert R. Rossignol, Jr., who sent me a large series of the birds as well as their nests and eggs. Again in 'The Auk' for October, 1926, pages 549-550 Mr. Sprunt has given the dates of the birds arrival as well as their departure from the breeding grounds. In my book, 'Birds of South Carolina,' published in 1910, I stated the following: "I have been unable to find this form breeding on our coast, yet it is possible that it does so, since the young in first plumage occur during the second week in July, and the adults in worn breeding plumage are to be seen during the third week in July. A distinct northward migration takes place about April 16 [or earlier], and continues until April 27, when all the birds have gone north, of course to their breeding grounds."

Mr. Sprunt says (Auk, Oct. 1926, pp. 549-550) that the Macgillivray's Sparrows [so-called] arrive on their breeding grounds about the middle of March and that eggs are laid as early as April 29. It will be clearly seen that when this bird is actually breeding Macgillivray's Seaside Sparrow is migrating within a hundred yards of my house!

A similar case is that of the Red-eyed Towhee which breeds only in the northern counties of South Carolina. When this bird arrives early in October it is of course in perfect winter plumage while its southern relative the White-eyed Towhee has just begun to moult its summer plumage and I could cite many other instances. I have a superb series of Macgillivray's Sparrows representing the fresh, unworn plumage as well as the worn, disreputable plumage, but it is always diagnostic as I well know. Some of the specimens are inky black and one has been to Cambridge, Mass., for examination five different times!

The birds that breed at Warsaw Sound have been referred to *macgillivrayi* by many well known ornithologists, but unfortunately they are not and I do not concur with the opinions of those who have so stated. The only Macgillivray's I have seen that were really breeding are those that were taken by Dr. Louis B. Bishop at Pea Island, N. C. The fact of Mac-

gillivray's Seaside Sparrow breeding between *P. m. maritimus* to the north and another race which is closely similar to the northern bird on the south suggests to my mind that Macgillivray's Sparrow is a species, at any rate its breeding is indeed an anomaly.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Swamp Sparrow in Western New York in Winter.—During the winter months I keep plenty of weed seeds scattered on the snow near my back porch and in January, 1925, about twenty Tree Sparrows and five Song Sparrows were feeding there regularly every day. The morning of February 1, they were joined by a Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) and almost anytime during the next three days it could be seen there in the weed seeds or up on the porch picking up bits of raw peanuts that had been dropped by the Chickadees and Nuthatches from their feeding place on the porch. At night it roosted under the porch and was last seen February 4. I think that it became the victim of a cat that I found prowling around my back door the next morning.—VERDI BURTCH, *Branchport, N. Y.*

Nesting of the Prothonotary Warbler under a Porch.—Professor Butler's note in the October 'Auk' upon an odd nesting site of the Prothonotary Warbler brings to mind another instance of the same kind.

In June, 1910, in company with the late Frank Morley Woodruff, the writer visited the bottom lands of the Kankakee River near Koutts, Indiana. Here the Prothonotary was a common breeding species.

There were several weather beaten shacks along the river, evidently for the convenience of folks who like to fish. These were raised on posts so that the floors might be dry in seasons of high water. Beneath the verandah of one hung an empty lard pail, which, probably, had been in use as a minnow bucket. A dozen fish-hooks, more or less, were curved over the rim of the pail and so were suspended all around it. In this receptacle, filled with nesting material nearly to the top, one could see, through a crack in the verandah floor, a brooding female Prothonotary. One's eye, applied to the crack, held the bird within a six-inch range.

This nest, after the brood had flown, was secured by Mr. Woodruff and placed in the collection of the Chicago Academy of Sciences.—EDW. R. FORD, *Grand Rapids, Mich.*

The Bay-breasted Warbler in the Adirondacks of N. Y.—In 'The Auk' for January, 1927 (p. 111,) is a note by Jay A. Weber on the breeding of the Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) in the vicinity of North Hudson, N. Y. As supporting evidence that this Warbler may be a regular though apparently not common summer resident and breeder in the Adirondacks, I may report that on July 14, 1924, at Pillsbury Lake, which is about 11 miles northwest of Speculator, southern Hamilton County, I found the species in full song and shot a specimen in order to verify the identification. Again in July, 1925, I recorded the species as present at Grampus Lake, about six miles west of Long Lake village,