

of the head, the white outer tail feathers and the white tips to all of the others except the middle pair, the black spot in the middle of the breast were all conspicuous. I also noticed a small white spot on either side of the head and a few faint streaks on the sides of the breast something like the collar of a young Canada Warbler, but very indistinct. These characters I did not find mentioned in Chapman's 'Handbook' with which I compared my bird, but Dr. Witmer Stone tells me they are typical of the species. He also tells me that this is the first record of the Lark Sparrow for Cape May County and that there are only a very few others for the State.—C. BROOKE WORTH, *St. David's, Pennsylvania.*

**Lark Sparrow at Cape May N. J.**—On September 10, 1927, I flushed a Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) from the roadside near the lighthouse at Cape May Point, N. J. It flew onto a telephone wire and then to a low fence post giving me ample time for examining it with binoculars.—WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia*

**Snow Bunting in Georgia—Correction.**—In the note on the occurrence of this species in Georgia published in the July 'Auk' an error was made in reading my manuscript. The locality was Grovetown not "Georgetown."—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mt. Pleasant, S. C.*

**Nesting of the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Passerherbulut nelsoni subvirgatus*) in Maine.**—On June 24, 1926, Captain Herbert L. Spinney and the writer set about the task of finding the nest and eggs of the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow. This bird has for some years been known to breed in the salt marshes at the mouth of the Kennebec River, in the town of Phippsburg, and there we made the search.

Though the nests and eggs of this bird were not expected to differ in any marked degree from those of the common Sharp-tail of the Middle Atlantic States, so far as we are aware they have not been described or reported.

On a previous occasion we have described these marshes as situated between granite ridges with spruce the dominating vegetational feature of the region.<sup>1</sup> The particular marsh where we made this search is a raised marsh, or one having the center somewhat higher than the margin. Through it, a branching creek from the adjacent ocean meanders providing, with a few "salt ponds," suitable conditions for the growth of the "thatch," *Spartina alterniflora*, while the higher parts of the marsh are well covered with *Spartina patens*, and in the more moist sections with "black grass" *Juncus Gerardi*, and *Triglochin maritima*.

The birds of our quest were frequently seen at various points along the edges of the creek, or flying across the dryer parts of the marsh in their passage from one part of the creek to another. Males were frequently seen to perch on stranded stumps, stakes or tall plants, where they remained

<sup>1</sup> 1897, Norton, Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist. ii: 100, 101.

to sing until disturbed by some jealous Savannah Sparrow or until the singing impulse subsided. These singing posts were usually well bedaubed with the droppings of the birds showing that they were much used. Earlier in the spring, on several occasions, we had seen the males tower suddenly from the salt ponds to a height of about thirty feet and burst into spasms of song as they hovered on quivering wings until the spasm subsided, when they dropped quickly back to the concealment of the "thatch." These habits, which seem to be characteristic of several members of the genus have been described by Dr. Jonathan Dwight in his presentation of this subspecies to science.<sup>1</sup>

As we found many of the singing stands in the drier parts of the marsh and the jetsam stranded there by earlier spring tides offered excellent concealment for the nests our search was begun there. With whip-like canes we zig-zagged over the marsh, thrashing at every patch of dry stranded jetsam, and promising tuft of grass, with the result of flushing two Savannah Sparrows from their nests, but no trace of the object of our quest, and no undue anxiety from the males, frequently seen at the singing places rewarded our long beat. Becoming convinced that the dry ground clothed with *Spartina patens* was fruitless, our efforts were directed to the wetter places. On approaching a group of the larger salt ponds joined by treacherous miry connecting links, we cautiously entered one of these hyphen-like mires. Here a patch of young *Spartina alterniflora* with leafy but unflowered culms was growing up through a dead mat of *Spartina patens* which had sprawled out over the mire affording a ground cover half a foot in depth. As we struck this mat quickly with the rod in hand, an Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow darted out, and rising but a few inches above the ground flew in the manner characteristic of the species when flushed from a feeding place; she pitched at about 20 yards into the cover at the margin of one of the pools. Soon she rose from the same spot, and hovered at about a foot above the top of the grass, facing the nest and observing our movements, then dropped back to the same spot. Soon she came skulking back toward the nest, crossing open bare spots in full view.

During all of these proceedings she uttered no audible sound. The nest was completely covered by the reclining mat of *Spartina patens* and was entered and left by a narrow passage parallel with the direction of the culms of that grass. It was suspended by the sides from the culms of the "thatch," *Spartina alterniflora*, with its bottom about two centimeters above the wet soggy ground. Its depth outside was 80 mm., its length (parallel with the passage of ingress and egress), was 100 mm., and its width 90 mm. Its depth inside was 60 mm., length 60 m. and width 50 mm. It was built of the blades of *Spartina alterniflora*, and the culms of *Spartina patens*, and lined with the fine, filiform blades of the latter grass. The four eggs were about one third incubated; they were ovate in shape, greenish white in color, with some variation in depth of tint.

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<sup>1</sup> 1887, Dwight, Auk, IV; 239.

Three were thickly spotted with mars brown which covered much of the ground color. The fourth was light greenish white, very thickly and finely speckled with mars brown, and with a blackish line partly encircling the larger end. In this specimen the ground color predominated over the pattern. The measurements of the eggs are, 19 x 14.5; 19.5 x 14; 20 x 14; 19 x 14.5. In color, with their red brown and relatively fine markings they resemble more closely eggs of the Song Sparrow than those of the Savannah Sparrow with their russet brown tints and coarse blotches.

The nest and eggs are preserved in the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History, Portland, Maine.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum of Natural History, Portland, Maine.*

**White-crowned Sparrow and Yellow-breasted Chat in Southwestern Saskatchewan.**—Mr. P. A. Taverner, writing on "Some Recent Canadian Records" in the April, 1927, issue of 'The Auk,' mentions the Cypress Hills in southwest Saskatchewan in reference to the White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) and the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). Although I have lived here, at the southeast end of the hills, since 1901, and have since then studied the bird life of the vicinity fairly closely, it was not until 1922 that I first heard and saw the Chat. In 1924 I heard the bird again, likewise in 1925. In 1926 between this ranch and the town of Eastend, a distance of five miles, there were four, representing presumably as many nesting pairs. I have seen female birds occasionally, but never succeeded in finding a nest. This year again I have noted three singing males in the same area. It might interest Mr. Taverner to know that one of these was located within a stone's throw of where he camped during his visit here in 1921.

Mr. Taverner remarks that "the breeding of such a northern species as the White-crowned Sparrow in the same locality, without appreciable separation by altitude, with a southern bird such as the Yellow-breasted Chat, presents a notable confusion of geographic faunas." On my own land I can walk in a few minutes from the willow bush fringing the river, which the Chat frequents, to a wooded ravine where the White-crowned Sparrow nests regularly. The altitude of the river bottom at this point is about 3000 feet; the White-crown breeds invariably in the coulees, and favors the lower levels only during the spring and fall migration seasons.—LAURENCE B. POTTER, *Gower Ranch, Eastend, Sask.*

**Philadelphia Vireo and Bay-breasted Warbler in the Adirondacks.**—Mr. and Mrs. Philip Livingston and myself, on three visits (June 24, July 3, 16) to the North Fork of the Boquette River, Adirondack Mountains, New York, found the Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireosylva philadelphica*). Our attention was first attracted by a song close to that of a Red-eyed Vireo but in which Mr. Livingston detected differences which we thought worth investigation. The birds—we accounted definitely for three individuals on July 3—were found in a grove composed chiefly