

Nelson's Sparrow in Maryland.—Though Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramospiza caudacuta nelsoni*) has been recorded on the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts south to Titusville and Cedar Keys, Florida (the coastal regions of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida being apparently the chief wintering grounds for this race) until the present, there seems to have been no definite report for the State of Maryland. On October 6, 1928, while collecting near Ocean City, Maryland, we found Sharp-tailed Sparrows common in a stretch of marsh below the inlet leading into Sinepuxent Bay. Among other specimens secured on this occasion there is an immature male Nelson's Sparrow collected by Lincoln. On October 14 at Cornfield Harbour, about a mile above Point Lookout where the Potomac River joins Chesapeake Bay, we found Sharp-tailed Sparrows again common, and collected three additional specimens of *nelsoni*, all males, one being adult and two immature. In both instances the birds were associated with true *Ammodramospiza caudacuta caudacuta* in coastal marshes but in areas where fresh water rather than brackish water conditions prevailed. —ALEXANDER WETMORE AND FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Washington, D. C.*

Natal Down and Juvenal Plumage of the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow.—In studying the series of six Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrows (*Ammodramospiza caudacuta subvirgata*) in juvenal plumage, collected by Mr. V. E. Gould and myself near Wolfville, Nova Scotia, I have found a few discrepancies in published descriptions. The specimens range from nestlings with the juvenal feathers just breaking the sheaths to fully feathered individuals with their tails nearly full grown. The specimens are now in the Cornell University collection, numbers 3334 to 3339.

When Dwight separated this race (*Auk* IV, p. 234, 1887), he described the juvenal plumage, from birds out of the nest, as follows, "General color chestnut buff, darker above and variegated with black. Traces of two or three faint dusky streak on sides. Dorsal feathers, tertials, wing coverts, and stripes on the head, black with chestnut buff edgings. Primaries and secondaries black, faintly edged with ashy. Traces of dusky auriculars and post-ocular streak. Tail similar to adult but edged with buff."

My specimens compare fairly well with this description but the streaks on the sides of the breast are hardly discernible in any but the most fully fledged birds and the general color compares more favorably in young birds with Ridgway's ochraceous buff and in the older specimens with his ochraceous tawny. The dusky areas of the face in the fully fledged young are caused by the tips of the feathers being black and in the younger birds, when only the tips show, these dusky areas appear as black lines. The buffy tips to the feathers of the upper parts are so wide that they give the appearance of being entirely yellowish.

The natal down is still clinging to the tips of the feathers of the juvenal plumage in the four youngest specimens. Compared with Ridgway's 'Color Standards and Nomenclature,' the natal down varies from brownish black on the head to mouse grey on the rump. It is entirely absent from

the ventral and crural feather tracts and somewhat unevenly distributed on the capital, dorsal, humeral, and femoral tracts, and on the greater coverts. It is heaviest on the sides of the head and on the rump.

A description by Lewis (Auk 37, p. 588, 1920) of the living young birds in a nest at Yarmouth is as follows, "A stripe over each eye and one in the center of the crown were buffy; the rest of the upperparts were fuscous, the feathers were tipped with buffy, the sides of the throat were buffy, the sides of the breast whitish streaked with fuscous, and the sides of the belly whitish." This description does not correspond to Dwight's description nor with my specimens nor with my notes on the young in the nest, in several particulars, especially the underparts.

The date, June 12, 1920, on which Lewis found this nest with young "partly feathered and nearly ready to leave the nest" is also unusual, it being early for Nova Scotia.

At this stage in their development, they must have been about a week old. Allowing twelve days for incubation and three for nest building, the birds must have started building May 21st. At this date the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrows have ordinarily not yet arrived in the Province. The earliest first arrival dates which I have are June 3, 1923, and June 4, 1925. Quoting a letter from Mr. R. W. Tufts, who has been familiar with the birds in Nova Scotia for at least thirty years: "I never saw the Sharp-tail until so late that I always felt that I had missed the first one, and felt that the late 'first seen' was of no value. I have accurate and clear recollections of this fact and it was about June 1st that they showed up."

He visited the region about Yarmouth Harbor May 29, 1925, and spent part of two days searching for nests without even seeing a bird. Returning June 17 of the same year, he found the meadows containing the usual number of birds and found several nests with fresh or slightly incubated eggs. At Wolfville, from 1925 to 1928 R. W. Tufts has found quite a number of nests between June 20 and July 1, all containing eggs in various stages of incubation. Some sets June 29 and 30 were fresh or only slightly incubated. I found nests July 16, 1928 and July 20, 1928 and those out of the nest and with the tail partly grown are dated July 21, 1928 and September 8, 1928.

Savannah Sparrows are common over all these areas, arriving the first of April and raising several broods. Is it not possible that Lewis may have found a nest of this species since both the date and the description of the young fit it better than they do the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow?—A. L. RAND, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University.*

Gambel's Sparrow in Illinois and Michigan.—In looking over the Gregory collection, Mr. A. J. van Rossem found two specimens which he believed were Gambel's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*). A comparison of these with the skins in the Field Museum of Natural History proved that he was correct. One is an adult male taken at Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois, on May 14, 1922. The other, an immature male,