

**Alaska Longspur in New Mexico.**—In the recent book entitled 'The Birds of New Mexico' by Florence Merriam Bailey, I fail to find any mention of the Alaska Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus alascensis*) having been taken within the borders of the State.

I collected a female, No. 86128 Coll. Acad. Nat. Sciences, Phila., March 25, 1929. It was feeding with a flock of Chestnut-collared Longspurs near Slaughter's Lake, an artificial lake for watering sheep, ten miles southwest of Picacho, Lincoln Co., New Mexico, at an elevation of 5500 feet.—WHARTON HUBER, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Nelson's Sparrow Nesting in Minnesota.**—A nest and eggs of Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammospiza nelsoni*) were collected on June 21, 1929, in Kittson County, Minnesota, the county occupying the extreme northwest corner of the state. The bird was known to nest in this area from a juvenile bird collected in Marshall County during June of 1928, and the present record came as the result of a week's concentrated search.

The section of the county where the nest was found is made up largely of extensive, swampy lakes bordered here and there with strips of tamarack. Poplar thickets and a few bits of prairie occupy the higher ground. A number of the shallow lakes have been entirely overgrown with a more or less floating layer of sphagnum, and on this, wiry sedges are thriving so as to give the uncertain expanse the appearance of a perfectly firm, level meadow. It was along the border of such a meadow of about two square miles in extent that the nest was found. The meadow itself was covered with about six inches of water but the nest was built just above the water level where the soil, although very damp, was free from standing water. It was constructed of coarse grass lined with finer grasses and rested on the ground, being not in the least sunken. A tiny dead willow a few inches high supported one edge of the nest but no definite clump of vegetation surrounded it. The three eggs were perfectly fresh and were identical in size, measuring .72 by .50 inches. Their ground color was a quite definite bluish-green. A rather dense wreath of light brown specks mixed with purplish encircled the large end while the remainder of the egg was sparsely but evenly speckled with light brown.

Before the nest was disturbed, several hours of waiting were necessary to allow the bird to return in order that she might be collected immediately upon flushing from the eggs. The female bird, nest, and eggs are now in the Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.—W. J. BRECKENRIDGE AND WM. KILGORE, *Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.*

**The Genus *Brachospiza* not Distinct from *Zonotrichia*.**<sup>1</sup>—In 'The Auk,' vol. 15, 1898, p. 224, Mr. Ridgway created the monotypic genus *Brachospiza* for the reception of *Fringilla capensis* Müller, and from that date forward, the name has been universally applied to the single, wide-

<sup>1</sup> Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.