

January 11, 1925. Thirty or more flying. Mixed sexes.

March 27, 1926. A male skinned today was not in bright plumage and testes not enlarged. Some have eggs now.

March 7, 1926. A female gathering and carrying food, must have young in nest.

April 4, 1925. Shot four from a bunch of about twenty, all males.

Other notes from the same source confirm the fact that the older males consort after the nesting season has ended but I have never noted a mated male other than in high brilliant plumage and while I cannot state positively that the less brilliant males do not mate such would seem to be the case.

During the school term, in Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Florida, these birds frequent the playgrounds and drop down from nearby trees to obtain discarded pickings from lunches while the children may be close about, and throughout the little city flocks of these birds are a common sight on vacant lots and along the grassplots adjacent to sidewalks and street ways. They nest throughout the city usually in trees of dense foliage, mangos and palms preferably, and commence their building activities in March. On April 1, 1926 I took three fresh eggs from a nest in a mango tree which grew by the sidewalk in a much built-up part of the city. One cannot argue a point without full data on both sides but as I have observed *M. m. major*, in Florida, the adult male has the irides yellowish; while in the immature males and females they are brown. It would therefore seem to me possible that Major Brooks and earlier writers may, in part at least, have made their observations on females and immature males, which have brown or brownish irides. I would also emphasize the fact that the bird, in country, village and city, is abundant, confiding and garrulous to an extreme degree.

The behavior of *M. m. major*, in mating and nesting seasons is so different from its actions and vocal performances at other times that one must see it from March to July to learn its most interesting characteristics. Observe a glistening old male atop a buttonbush, in a saw-grass marsh, his seraglio close under his view and let a rival or almost any unusual intruder appear and his protests are sent forth in no unmistakable terms, mostly in high, strident notes but varying greatly in pitch and volume.—C. J. PENNOCK, *Kennett Square, Chester Co., Pa.*

**On the Color of the Iris in the Boat-tailed Grackle.**—Mr. Sprunt in the July, 1931, *Auk*, pp. 431-432, states that the iris of the Boat-tailed Grackle (*Megaquiscalus major major*) is always yellow in which he differs with Major Brooks (*Auk*, 1928, vol. 45, pp. 506, 507) who states that the iris is always dark brown. Each ends his note with an appeal for the observations of others.

In February, 1926, I studied the Boat-tailed Grackle in Florida, often near at hand, and noted at Punta Gorda on February 8, and again on February 11, that the irides of the males were "dark brown, not white."

In April, I studied this species in and near Charleston, South Carolina, and was surprised to find the irides white or yellowish white, like those of the Great-tailed Grackles (*M. major macrourus*) I had seen in Texas. Is it not possible that there is a change of color of the iris in the Boat-tailed Grackle with the season? The birds were beginning to court in February but not so actively as later.

Incidentally I might remark that I have found that in both species the tail is carried boat- or V-shaped during the courtship season and the autumnal recrudescence, but at other times it is generally flat as in most other birds. I noted on Feb. 11 that the tail of *major* was not V-shaped or only slightly so. Major Brooks, however, limits the "folded" tail to *macrourus*. I agree with him, however, that the Boat-tailed and the Great-tailed Grackles are probably specifically, not merely subspecifically, distinct, although I arrived at this conclusion in a different manner, for I found the voice and courtship in the two birds so entirely different (Auk, 1927, vol. 44, pp. 551-554) a paper that Major Brooks evidently overlooked.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*

**Lapland Longspur at Brigantine, N. J.**—On December 26, 1930, T. G. Appel, C. L. Fasnacht and myself saw a flock of twelve Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*) on Brigantine Island, N. J. They were in company with about twenty-five Horned Larks. The Longspurs and Larks did not intermingle—instead, each species kept to itself and the two flocks traveled together.

We discovered these Longspurs immediately in front of the Country Club building on the Island. A search for them the next day failed to give us another view.

Mr. Forbush, in 'Birds of Massachusetts' says of this bird "On migration in the United States, this bird keeps in the interior for the most part, between the Alleghanias and the Rockies, and is rarely seen on the Atlantic seaboard of the middle and southern Atlantic Coast States."—W. STUART CRAMER, *44 E. Orange St., Lancaster, Pa.*

**Some Nesting Records from the Vicinity of Washington, D. C.**—Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus gramineus*): May 30, 1931, nest with three eggs; June 7, nest with three eggs; both nests from the same locality, near the summit of a bare hill on the eastern side of Paint Branch. Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus saviannarum australis*): June 7, 1931, nest with five eggs; in the locality just given for the nests of the Vesper Sparrow, but at a slightly lower elevation. Eastern Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowi sussurans*): June 7, 1931, nest with five eggs; in the normally wet, but this year very dry, meadows two miles west of the Cabin John bridge.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN AND AUSTIN H. CLARK, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

***Ammospiza caudacuta diversa* (Bishop) a Valid Race.**—A recent study of the Sharp-tailed Sparrows of the Atlantic coast of the United