

**Extension of Breeding Range of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow (*Ammospiza mirabilis*).**—This little-known Sparrow was discovered by Arthur H. Howell, in February, 1918, on a brackish prairie, about half a mile back from the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, near Cape Sable, Florida. A few specimens were obtained then and later, in April, 1926, twelve were secured for the Biological Survey Collection.

On May 3, 1928, while walking through an extensive savanna or prairie in Collier County lying between pine forests and an extensive cypress swamp, I found a singing male Seaside Sparrow which I took to be this species and it is so recorded in Mr. Howell's 'Florida Bird Life.' The protracted drought had made the savanna dry as powder and dust could be kicked up anywhere. The spot is situated about six miles northeast of Pinecrest and is possibly three miles square. It was visited again by Mr. J. C. Howell, Jr., and myself on April 21, 1932, when we found possibly fifteen or twenty pairs of the birds within half a mile. The males were singing vigorously and one bird was carrying a worm probably for its young. We searched about an hour for nests but failed to find any and I am inclined to think that instead of building in clumps of grass, as do the east coast Seaside Sparrows, these birds must nest directly on the ground. One bird flushed quite close to me and I could distinguish its greenish colored back but not having a gun it was impossible to make identification positive. There had been little rain and the savanna was very dry but not so noticeably as in 1928.

I feel convinced that a search of the marshes at the head of Shark River as well as in the neighborhood of Everglade, Collier County, would reveal colonies of these birds as both regions seem exactly suited to their needs.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Fla.*

**Notes on the Nesting of the Slate-colored Junco.**—During the summer of 1933 the writer had under observation three nests of the Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*), which were located in the Alleghany State Park (Quaker Bridge, N. Y.) in the vicinity of the Alleghany School of Natural History. All three nests were located in holes on generally north-facing slopes, two to ten feet from the bottoms of the slopes. All three nests were constructed largely of grasses, one of them having a dual entrance, the front of the hole in which the nest was located being screened by matted grass.

The nest which was studied in greatest detail was located in a bank flanking a well-traveled highway, but the birds appeared to be little disturbed by the traffic. The eggs were laid June 30 to July 3; they hatched on July 13 and 14; and the young left the nest July 26. There were four eggs laid, all of the young growing to maturity.

Both the male and female fed the young, but the male fed 60 times to the female's 49 during the periods of observation, which totaled fourteen and one-half hours. The average frequency of feeding was about eight times per hour. When feeding the parents never flew directly to the nest,

but first alighted in the trees above the nest, then flew to the base of the bank on one side or the other of the nest, and then hopped to it. The young were evidently stimulated to open their mouths by tactual stimuli. Insect larvae and pupae appeared to compose as much as 90% of the food for the young, much of the remainder being moths.

The male removed 27 fecal sacs to the female's 14 during the periods of observation. In all cases where the disposition of the sacs was noted they were wiped off on tree branches. The brooding was apparently all done by the female, and she was not observed brooding after the young were seven days old.

With a single exception, the birds were not heard singing. The alarm note was infrequently used. When the female was on the nest and the male arrived with food she would give three musical chirps and leave. The young did not make any sounds until they were ten days old, when they began making their peculiar hissing-chirp. The female was more excitable than the male, but both adults were remarkably calm. A passing car would disturb them only momentarily if at all.

When the young were seven days old their appearance changed radically, due to the opening of their eyes and the unsheathing of their feathers. After they were eight days old they became very restless; at various times they jostled about so much that one or the other almost fell from the nest. I hoped that I should be able to observe them leaving the nest, but this event occurred while I was gone, between 8:00 and 9:15 A. M. on July 26, when they were twelve days old.—VICTOR A. GREULACH, *Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio.*

**Some 1933 Records from Berkshire County, Massachusetts.**—*Casmerodius albus egretta*. AMERICAN EGRET.—In so far as our records show, but one Egret had been seen in Berkshire County previous to 1933. This was in 1930. From July 24, 1933, when the first Egrets were seen, at Cheshire Reservoir, to September 25, when the last one was observed, in Pittsfield, Egrets were actually quite common. The largest number seen in one day totaled fourteen.

*Clangula hyemalis*. OLD SQUAW.—Stanley Clarke and I saw a male well out in Onota Lake, Pittsfield, on October 29. This is our first Twentieth Century record.

*Melanitta deglandi*. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.—On the night of December 28, with the temperature about five below zero, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus McK. Gifford found a male in the snow on Commonwealth Ave., Pittsfield. Our lakes had been frozen over for nearly a month.

*Arenaria interpres morinella*. RUDDY TURNSTONE.—On May 28, in Pittsfield, I identified a male from a distance of less than twenty feet. This is the second record for the county.

*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER.—Two were found at Onota Lake on October 26. This is the first definite record for the Berkshires.