

Mr. Arthur H. Howell, of the U. S. Biological Survey, informs me that this is the first record of a Longspur of any kind for Florida.

Had the bird been found in the northwestern part of the state, the occurrence would be less surprising, but the appearance of a seemingly lone bird of this normally gregarious species at a point far down the east coast of the peninsula is not easy to account for. At the time the bird was first noted the whole of the northern United States was in the grip of the most severe siege of frigid weather in years. The temperature in the Dakotas and Minnesota dropped as low as 45° below zero on the 22d and 23rd, and here at Jacksonville there was a sudden decline from 73° on the former date to 30° on the latter, with the first measurable snowfall in 35 years.

At Titusville on January 23, the day the Longspur was first observed, the minimum temperature was 52°. The following day the minimum was 32°, and each night until the 28th the temperature dropped into the thirties.

At Mr. Howell's suggestion the specimen has been deposited in the collection of the National Museum.—S. A. GRIMES, 4661 Attleboro St., Jacksonville, Fla.

Some Unusual Records from Aroostook County, Maine, 1934.—*Nycticorax nycticorax hoacili*. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Mr. A. H. Norton, Portland Society of Natural History, informs me that, although the A. O. U. 'Check-List' (4th ed.) gives southern Quebec as the northern limit of the breeding range of this species, inland stations are few in Maine and that this colony should be recorded. It is a small colony, consisting of about twenty-five or thirty pairs. The station is located in a dense, almost solid growth of spruces on a rather steep hill facing the west and the Aroostook River, about one mile north of the town of Fort Fairfield. The nests are from forty to fifty feet up, near the tops of the trees, and are composed of sticks and twigs. Banding operations were attempted in late June, when most of the young were still in the nests. The difficulties of climbing these spruces were, to our mind, very great and banding was abandoned after four trees were climbed, since we succeeded in merely forcing the birds to step leisurely to the next tree; a maneuver, unfortunately, denied to us. A farm hand working nearby assured us that the colony had been there as long as he had, *i. e.* fifteen years.

Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos. COMMON MALLARD.—A pair of this species was observed by a group of four from a distance of thirty feet, on Mud Pond, near Ashland, on May 26, 1934. A return trip to the same locality did not result in our seeing the birds again. They were in company with four of the following species.

Nyroca collaris. RING-NECKED DUCK.—Four were observed on Mud Pond, near Ashland, May 26, 1934. On the following day a return trip resulted in a better view of the birds and the ringed bill was observed by all four members of the party, as was also the white "crescent" in front of the wing.

Lophodytes cucullatus. HOODED MERGANSER.—In early October, 1934, three were seen and one collected, about three miles up the Presque Isle Stream, near the town of Presque Isle.

Oxyechus vociferus vociferus. KILLDEER.—Although two or three records each summer have been obtained in recent years, the spring of 1934 gave us our first spring record, on April 29, 1934, near Presque Isle.

Capella delicata. WILSON'S SNIPE.—A Snipe, seen on March 5, 1934, was reported to me and verified as Wilson's, on March 13. This bird usually does not arrive until early May although we have one record for April 19, (1933). On the above date (March 13) the bird was feeding in an open stream near the outskirts of the town of Presque Isle and was observed by passers-by for several days following verification. At the time there were three feet of snow everywhere else near town. Following a

period of sub-zero weather the bird was seen no more. Inasmuch as the winter of 1933-34 was of unusual severity this early appearance seems noteworthy.

Pisobia minutilla. LEAST SANDPIPER.—On May 26, 1934, two were observed at close range (four or five feet, almost underfoot) on the mud flats of the Aroostook River, near Presque Isle.

Anthus spinoletta rubescens. AMERICAN PIPIT.—A flock of fifteen was seen on the mud flats mentioned above, near Presque Isle, on May 13, 1934. They allowed rather close approach and identification was unmistakable. This same territory was covered all during the spring migration, this year as in others, but the birds were not seen again.—G. D. CHAMBERLAIN, *High School, Presque Island, Me.*

Notes on the Winter Bird Life of the Delaware Coast.—The following notes were taken during a trip of two days duration to Sussex County, Delaware, in company with Arthur H. Howell and Allan J. Duvall, January 4 and 5, 1935. During the first day, which was clear and cold, with a brisk northwest wind, activities were confined to the beach south of Cape Henlopen, in the vicinity of Lewes, and on the following day to the sand dunes between Rehoboth Beach and Bethany Beach, under conditions reminiscent of early spring rather than of midwinter. Little has apparently been published on the bird life of this stretch of the Atlantic Coast at this season of the year, so although admittedly fragmentary these records may be of interest.

Lanius ludovicianus migrans. MIGRANT SHRIKE.—Two birds, widely separated, were seen near Milford, one on January 4, the other on the following day. There would seem to be few winter records for this subspecies in this region.

Passerculus princeps. IPSWICH SPARROW.—This species was one of the special objectives of the trip, so it was a source of considerable gratification to us to find it actually plentiful on this stretch of coast. At least 20 individuals, possibly more, were seen near Rehoboth Beach in the course of an hour, and brief pauses later in the day between this point and Bethany Beach never failed to reveal the presence of one or more of these birds. They proved less shy than we had anticipated, for on being flushed from the sparse grass they would almost invariably fly to the nearest clump of myrtle bushes and, perching in full view on an uppermost twig, would permit a close approach before dropping back to the ground.

Passerculus sandwichensis savanna. EASTERN SAVANNAH SPARROW.—Apparently scarce during the winter months, for at only one spot, near the ocean south of Rehoboth Beach, was one small flock noted. A specimen taken was clearly referable to this race.

Melospiza melodia melodia. EASTERN SONG SPARROW.—Surprisingly few Song Sparrows were seen, and these were so timid that it was only with difficulty that several were collected. They proved to be the darker race occurring during the breeding season well back from the coast, and not the gray form, *atlantica*, which we had expected to find in such a situation as this. It is possible that *atlantica* winters this far north, but judging from this limited experience, certainly not in any numbers.

Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis. EASTERN SNOW BUNTING.—At first glimpse the beach at Cape Henlopen seemed lifeless, but within a few minutes of our arrival small flocks of Snow Buntings appeared from the south, moving with an apparent objective toward the Cape. There they gathered on the side of a dune until approximately 150 individuals were present, when they flew out over the bay in a compact flock in the general direction of Cape May, New Jersey. One would hardly expect these birds to be migrating north early in January, so an explanation of this sight might be the effect of the relatively mild weather on this boreal species. It would be