

National Museum, Washington, D. C., where Dr. Aldrich kindly verified the specimen as a Brewster's Booby, *Sula leucogaster brewsteri*. This is believed to be the first United States record of the Brewster's Booby supported by a specimen.

About ninety airline miles northeast of Imperial Dam, Gale Monson (Brewster's Booby in Arizona, *The Auk*, 63 [1]: 96, 1946) photographed an immature Brewster's Booby in the Bill Williams arm of Lake Havasu, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, in Mohave and Yuma counties, Arizona in August, 1943. Grinnell and Miller (*Distribution of the Birds of California*: 558, 1945) include the Brewster's Booby in their "Supplemental List of Introduced Species and Those of Uncertain Occurrence," and further state:

" . . . The Brown Booby is much the more likely of these two species to straggle up into California, for it breeds commonly in the Gulf of California. Obviously neither species can yet be added on regular status to the California state list.

Note—The colors of plumage and soft parts in *Sula* are so variable that reliance for identification of species upon anything less than a bird in hand is hazardous. . . . "

Neither Peterson (*Field Guide to Western Birds*, 1941) nor Hoffmann (*Birds of the Pacific States*, 1927) includes the Booby in his publication. Swarth (*A Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona*, 1914) makes no mention of it.

Between 1:30 and 2:30 p. m. on September 8, 1946, Mr. Alfred G. Hess, Yuma, Arizona, observed an unfamiliar brown bird diving for fish with an Osprey in the spillway pool below Laguna Dam (five miles south of Imperial Dam) on the California side. This particular bird repeatedly dived under the surface of the water for fish from a height of fifteen to twenty feet above the water. Mr. Hess, being an amateur bird student, reported his observation of this unknown bird to the Fish and Wildlife Service office at Yuma. This bird may have been a booby, and if such was the case, it would indicate that the booby could have been in the vicinity for twelve or more days before being collected.

Future observations during the summer months may prove the Brewster's Booby to be more common along the Lower Colorado River than suspected. Van Rossem (*A Distributional Survey of the Birds of Sonora, Mexico*: 33, 1945) states that the Brewster's Booby is common or even abundant in the Gulf, and it has been recorded in México at El Golfo and the mouth of the Colorado River about fifty and seventy airline miles, respectively, south of Imperial Dam.—FRANK B. McMURRY, *Fish and Wildlife Service, 436 Federal Building, Salt Lake City 1, Utah*.

**The Western Lark Sparrow in the Eastern States.**—As is now well known, the Eastern Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus* Swainson) is a bird of limited range in the states west of the Alleghanies, replaced from the Great Plains westward by the much commoner and more widely ranging *strigatus*, a very distinct subspecies, so much paler in both adult and immature plumages that it is recognizably distinct in life under favorable circumstances. Care and expert knowledge are, however, required, as immature specimens are always paler and duller than adults. In the last two decades particularly, it is curious how frequently the Lark Sparrow occurs in the Atlantic seaboard states, chiefly in August and early September northward. From what follows, it will be seen that the assumption that these birds are all typical *grammacus* is unwarranted, and a reëxamination of specimens of record might be worth while.

On September 12, 1946, a Lark Sparrow flashed across the road at Ipswich, Massachusetts, in front of my car which was immediately stopped. The sparrow obligingly

flew into the road and began to feed in plain sight, to the great satisfaction of my party. After one good look I suspected its identity, and the bird was immediately collected. It proved to be a typical immature female *strigatus*, and I am much obliged to my colleague, J. C. Greenway, Jr., who compared the specimen with me, and concurs in the identification.

In the course of making comparisons, the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy proved to contain several Lark Sparrows from Florida, a state from which there are now numerous records of the species. An adult male, however, collected by J. W. Atkins at Key West, November 26, 1895, proves to be much nearer *strigatus* than *grammacus*, although another from Key West sent by the same collector is clearly typical *grammacus*. Wetmore has recently recorded an immature female *strigatus* from southeastern North Carolina (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 90: 527, 1941); just as he says, "this stray from the west may be identified at a glance."

Some 20 or more years ago the late Major Allan Brooks visited Grand Menan, New Brunswick in late September and early October, and stayed with Alan Moses. Stopping later at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, he told me of his surprise at collecting a Western Lark Sparrow, having expected the eastern race which C. W. Townsend found at Grand Menan in 1923. I do not know what has become of the specimen or whether he recorded it somewhere, or changed his mind. On October 17, 1936, a large group of us saw at close range an adult Lark Sparrow in the yard of the Coast Guard Station on Morris Island, south of Chatham, Cape Cod. I was convinced at the time this bird was *strigatus*, but the mixed flock of sparrows was frightened away by members of the crew and a dog, and disappeared in the scrub, so that I was unable to substantiate my suspicions.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

**Pine Siskins in northern Florida.**—Since the invasion of Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) throughout the eastern seaboard states was rather general during the winter of 1946–1947, it may be well to record a Florida occurrence which may mark the southern limit of the invasion although it is not the first record of the species for the state. Five Siskins were observed feeding in some conifers and on the ground of the auto court, one-half mile north of Orange Park, Clay Co., Florida, on Route 17, on Feb. 7, 1947.—R. L. WEAVER, *Chapel Hill, North Carolina.*

**Summer Tanager in Cook County, Illinois.**—On May 2, 1944, I collected a male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra rubra*) at our home in Northfield Township, Cook County, Illinois. The skin is number 757 in my collection.

The only other specimen of this tanager from the Chicago region that has come to my attention is the one mentioned by Henry K. Coale (Auk, 35: 226, 1918) which was taken on May 19, 1917, two miles west of Highland Park in Lake County.—STEPHEN S. GREGORY, JR., *Box N, Winnetka, Illinois.*

**A correction of first fresh-water nesting of Gull-billed Tern in Florida.**—In the Auk, 65: 139, 1948, Mr. Donald J. Nicholson, of Orlando, Florida, claims to have discovered the first fresh-water nesting of the Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*) in Florida. The date was May 7, 1943.

On reading this note, this writer was astonished by reason of the fact that, in May, 1939, four years previous to the Nicholson record, he had found the Gull-billed Tern nesting in exactly the same spot (Lake Okeechobee) and had recorded that fact in the Auk (57: 251, 1940). Naturally, he wondered why Mr. Nicholson had not consulted the Auk for any possible earlier record than his, and wrote to him, asking that