

sparrow had made many trips in rapid succession, two of the kingbirds were seen to refuse bread offered to them. The sparrow offered it to each several times, then flew a few yards away to the third fledgling which accepted. At 7:00 p. m. the sparrow was seen to feed the fledglings several times. The bread was no longer in evidence, and apparently food was being obtained from other sources.

On the morning of July 8, the fledglings were observed on the ground following sparrows and occasionally receiving food from the foster parent. An adult kingbird flew down and attacked one of them, pecking it on the back. The attacked bird sought shelter at the base of a clump of grass, and the adult left. This adult was one of a pair frequently seen with its four young perched on telephone wires along the edge of a field 100 to 300 yards from the place where the present observations were made. On July 9 and 10, feeding of the kingbirds by the sparrow was again observed. The kingbirds were becoming stronger on the wing and frequently made short flights. Much of the time they were hidden from view by the thick foliage of a large cottonwood tree where they tended to stay, and observation was more difficult. On July 11, 12, and 13, the fledglings were not seen or heard and could not be located on the 14th when an intensive search of the general vicinity was made.—HENRY S. FITCH, *University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.*

Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow in West Virginia.—On September 20, 1948, while observing birds at Beech Bottom Swamp, Brooke County, in the northern panhandle of this state, the somewhat garbled song of a long-billed marsh wren, *Telmato-dytes palustris*, drew my attention. Approaching the spot where the bird was singing, I made the usual squeaking sound and two long-bills began to perform a few feet from me. It was while watching the long-bills that a sparrow made its appearance at the top of some cattails, apparently attracted by the squeaking. The bright ochre and gray face pattern and buffy breast suggested something unusual. Collecting the bird proved it to be a sharp-tailed sparrow, *Ammospiza caudacuta*. In the same general area another sharp-tailed sparrow was collected. Upon dissection the former was found to be a male and the latter a female. Subsequent visits to the swamp were unsuccessful in locating other sharp-tailed sparrows until October 8, 1948, when another male was taken. All three specimens have been identified as Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow, *Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*, by Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. These specimens represent the only records of the sharp-tailed sparrow for West Virginia.—KARL W. HALLER, *1097½ National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia.*

NOTES AND NEWS

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