

**The Snowy Plover in Missouri.**—On 18 April 1968 at a large mudflat 3 miles northwest of Bigelow, Holt County, Missouri, I saw a pair of Snowy Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*). They were not associated with other shorebirds in the area and efforts to get a specimen failed. The next day in the same area I again saw presumably the same pair and collected a male (testes:  $10 \times 5$  mm left and  $4 \times 3$  mm right) that weighed 36 g. On 21 April 1968 I found another pair of Snowy Plovers at the same mudflat. Whether the previous bird had been joined by another, or these two birds had just arrived is unknown. A female (largest ovum:  $3 \times 3$  mm) I collected weighed 39.5 g. Both specimens are preserved as study skins.

These are the first Snowy Plover specimens for Missouri. Previous sight records, all in extreme northwest Missouri are: On 6 May 1962 Floyd Lawhon, Bob Brown, Harold Burgess, and Simon Rositzky saw a Snowy Plover at two different mudflats (presumably two birds) at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt County, Missouri. At the same site 31 March 1965 Lawhon, Brown, and Rositzky again identified a single bird, and I saw another there 28 April 1966. On 25 March 1967 John Hamilton discovered one bird at Browning Lake, St. Joseph, Buchanan County, where Lawhon saw it the next day.

As Snowy Plovers have been in Missouri every year except 1964 since the original discovery in 1962, they have probably been overlooked in previous years and perhaps confused with the similar Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). In view of their annual regularity, the prebreeding condition of the gonads, and their identity as the inland-breeding race (*nivosus*), possibly a few Snowy Plovers migrate each spring through northwest and probably western Missouri to an as yet undiscovered northward breeding ground in Nebraska, Iowa, the Dakotas, or Minnesota. The nearest known breeding population to Missouri according to the Check-list of North American birds (Fifth Edit., Baltimore, Amer. Ornithol. Union, 1957) are in southwest Kansas and northwest Oklahoma, by airline approximately 350–450 miles southwestward. In view of the distance and direction of the nearest known breeding grounds and the species' regularity in Missouri in spring, that these birds are strays seems unlikely. Perhaps the casuals reported (op. cit.) in Nebraska may actually be breeding birds.

Appreciation is extended to Richard C. Banks of the Bird and Mammal Laboratories, U. S. National Museum, for making the subspecific identification, and to Floyd Lawhon, St. Joseph, Missouri, for making available his field records of the Snowy Plover in Missouri.—DAVID A. EASTERLA, *Department of Biology, Northwest Missouri State College, Maryville, Missouri 64468.*

**Two male House Sparrows copulating on ground with same female.**—On a parking lot in Woodlawn, Baltimore County, Maryland, on 11 June 1968, I came upon a male House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) closely pursuing a female about the asphalt paving and pecking toward her anal area. Almost at once another male was attracted to the scene and in a few seconds more the original male mounted the female and copulated briefly. By this time a third male had arrived, and as soon as the original male dismounted one of the other two mounted the female and copulated. All then flew away. Although Summers-Smith (The House Sparrow, London, Collins, 1963, p. 67) states that coition occurs "always above ground level," this was the second time I have seen it performed on the ground. On 22 April 1959 I saw copulation on a narrow strip of park lawn in downtown Baltimore where, as at the Woodlawn parking lot, trees and broad masonry walls were available within a few yards.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, *2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21207.*