

BACHMAN'S SPARROW (*PEUCEEA FESTIVALIS*  
*BACHMANII*) IN VIRGINIA.

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In advance of a publication with colored plate, which will appear next summer—as I desire another season of observation upon the species—, I shall now devote a few lines to my most interesting of bird records. About the middle of May, 1897, while working my way through Dogwoods to a clearing on the slope of a hill along Blackwater Creek, in Campbell Co., in southeastern Virginia, I came upon the first specimen of Bachman's Sparrow, *Peuceea aestivalis bachmanii*, ever taken in Virginia. I was just emerging from the Dogwood bushes, (*Cornicus florida*) and was yet in the margin of the thicket when my attention was attracted by a small, brownish bird stealthily moving through the grass just on the thicket's outskirts. Thinking it a Song Sparrow, I raised my gun, as I have never found that species nesting in this portion of the state, and my friend, Mr. William Palmer, had repeatedly requested me to find out whether it nested there, when it flew and disappeared farther down the hill. I followed the direction it had taken and soon found it again. On close scrutiny with my glasses I found it was a new bird to me, and I began to watch it very closely, concealing myself behind a burnt pine stump. Soon the bird became restless and ran through the grass till it disappeared again, this time in a suspicious looking grass tuft a few feet from where I stood. I approached the tuft and not till I nearly touched it did the bird leave. Then it slid off its nest and ran down the hill. On pulling the grass of the tuft aside a somewhat domed structure of dried grasses was disclosed, and upon looking in the hole on the nest's side, I saw, much to my surprise, five white eggs, which proved later to be in an advanced stage of incubation. The other bird came around and both were secured for perfect identification. I knew when I saw the eggs the species was *bachmanii*, but I knew not then the real importance of my "take" until I made it known to Mr. Wm. Palmer, who informed me of the novel record.

Owing to typhoid fever, which came near ending me on a collecting trip "across the Great Divide," I didn't get a chance to visit the locality the past season, but next season my brother will investigate matters for me and I shall then write a pamphlet giving a more detailed account of the nesting of the species in Virginia. Then I shall also get a series of

the nesting birds for comparison, as the birds themselves, aside from their new record, may be specialized. Only one other bird of this species has been taken so far north. This was secured by Mr. Figgitt, in Maryland. My record was announced by Mr. William Palmer, in *The Auk\**, as also, I believe, Mr. Figgitt's was. Mr. Palmer thinks the bird will be found abundantly in eastern Virginia. The nature of the ground where the nest was found was very red and dry, and the trees are Scrub Oaks, Old Field Pine and Dogwood.

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## THE LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, 1898 HORIZON.

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Considerable has already appeared in the BULLETIN on the birds of Lorain County, in furtherance of the plan suggested by your committee on Geographical Distribution. It seems only fitting to round out that work, at the close of the year, by making a full report of what has been accomplished. It should be said at the outset that the work here reported has been carried on by Mr. W. L. Dawson and the writer more or less jointly, at least as much so as it would be possible for two persons to work together without making a business of it.

During the year eighty-seven excursions were made more or less out of town into the woods and fields for the purpose of observation and study of the birds. Of these only seventeen were trips to the more distant parts of the county, occupying the whole day in the majority of cases. Five of these long trips were made in company with a considerable number of students as class excursions. Of the seventy short trips, thirty-seven were with the Ornithology class, leaving forty-five short trips independent of the class. These trips with the class would not ordinarily be considered equal in importance to the others, but at such times a careful record was kept and often unusual species noticed. It seems necessary, therefore, to include them as a part of the whole work of the year.

Rather more than half of the seventy short trips were devoted to early morning work and were therefore of short duration—never more than three hours, and often half that. But the early morning is the best time for the study of birds. Some few were half day trips to neighboring

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