

**Leconte's Sparrow at Nashville, Tennessee.**—Records of the occurrence of Leconte's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus lecontei*) in the south have so seldom been published that the following should be of interest. On November 12, 1916, near Nashville, I was so fortunate as to be able to make the first Tennessee record for this species. While traversing a damp, weedy patch in an old field a faint "chip" was detected in the grass ahead. The bird was flushed close at hand a few moments later, and made a flight of about forty feet, dropping into the grass. Stalking carefully to within twelve feet it was observed running and hiding among the grass and weeds. Seeing that it was a new sparrow to me I decided to take it with my small collecting gun, but found it difficult to keep in sight of the bird and at the same time far enough away to avoid damaging the specimen. At length, for fear of losing it entirely, I took it at twenty feet and got a rather poor specimen as a result. Careful search revealed no others at this time, and since then many another piece of damp grass and weed has been plodded through in the hope of finding a second specimen of Leconte's, or a Henslow's, or a Nelson's Sparrow, but without success.

A second record of Leconte's Sparrow has just been made, with observations so satisfactory that I wish to make them known with the hope that the details given may encourage others to search for and identify this seldom seen bird. On October 24, 1925, in company with a group of fellow bird students, I identified one of these birds beyond question. It was found in an extensive hay field in the bottoms of Stone River, ten miles east of Nashville. The grass was fairly thick, six to twelve inches high, and long grass, weed fields, and damp areas were near at hand. The bird was first flushed at ten feet, flew thirty feet, dropped into the grass, then ran rapidly ahead. As we approached it was observed to run, with head down, a few feet, then stop to look at us. We flushed it perhaps ten times, each time getting closer, until finally it allowed us to calmly inspect it as long as we cared to at a distance of eight or nine feet. The flights each time were twenty-five to thirty feet, and the bird always alighted on the ground. Its short tail was very noticeable, reminding me of the Grasshopper Sparrow, but the bird was not so heavy. The yellowish cast of the head and neck, the buffy head lines including the median head stripe, and the ashy nape, were all conspicuous, and served to separate it nicely from other sparrows of similar size and habits. Our field identification was checked up a few hours later by the examination of skins in my collection of this and closely related species.

An interesting observation was the fact that after we had flushed it a number of times it became loathe to leave the ground and frequently turned sideways to regard us with a curiosity that appeared equal to ours.—ALBERT F. GANTER, Nashville, Tenn.

We invite our readers to submit more freely material for this department.—Ed.