

The writer has also done a little work on these birds during his eight years of residence in the state, especially in Dade and Monroe Counties, these being the southmost part of the state; and much of it has been done since his "Birds of Florida" came out, late in 1925, which will cause the areas as set forth therein to be slightly changed.

My views coincide with Mearns, that "*floridanus*" (or "*mearnsi*") is now found on the east coast as far south as Brevard County (formerly given as New Smyrna), and through the central part as far south as a lower Okeechobee-Fort Lauderdale line. That "*phoeniceus*" breeds as far south as a Jacksonville-Gainesville line, I agree with. I do not at the present time feel disposed to comment on the west coast Red-wing (*littoralis*) as suggested by Howell and Van Rossem, owing to a lack of material.

However, their placing of (Maynard's) *floridanus* (p. 160) on the lower keys and peninsula as far north as Lake Worth, Palm Beach County, is a gross error, in my opinion; for "*bryanti*" is found in most of that section, overlapping with *floridanus* (or "*mearnsi*"). This is clearly shown by birds personally taken in the Bahamas and compared with a series from the lower coastal areas of Dade and Monroe Counties. These writers refrain from giving table measurements or other comparisons taken from Bahaman specimens of *bryanti*, and typical Dade and Monroe birds, which are identical.

It is not surprising, that "a female taken at Everglade March 12" (p. 161), should have been typical "*floridanus*," for it was not a breeding bird, and also was not far south of its regular breeding area.

When working along lines drawn so closely, or hair splitting, as these writers have done, only fresh skins or skins of a few years of age should be used, and not such as referred to as Museum of Comparative Zoology skins taken in 1870 (p. 161).

"*Bryanti*" would, therefore, be the breeding bird from about the Okeechobee-Lauderdale line south; and around the Gulf certainly to Everglade.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Miami, Fla.*

The Fecundity of the English Sparrow in Utah.—On the afternoon of January 1, 1929, a student called the writer on the telephone to say that he had discovered a nest of English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) which were just hatching. An examination revealed five naked little birds. The nest was a bulky affair of feathers, rags, straw, etc., made inside a tightly constructed bird box, placed about twenty-five feet from the ground in a crotch of a Carolina poplar tree.

The day the eggs hatched the temperature was near the zero point and the ground was well covered with snow. A minimum temperature of fourteen degrees below zero was reached during January. The parent birds seemed to sense the seriousness of the cold, and as a result during the first eighteen days one or both parents were almost constantly on the nest. During the night both parents remained within the bird house. Contrary to the usual custom of these birds, the young were practically grown when they left the nest and began to fly. One of these juveniles, collected late in February, disclosed a body that was fat and in perfect physical condition.

Early in March parent birds were observed carrying more feathers and straw into the nest and by the last of the month they were incubating a second set of eggs. Inasmuch as the original tenants were not banded, one cannot be

absolutely sure that the second set of eggs was placed there by them. However, this is thought to have been the case.

During the second incubation period the weather conditions in this vicinity (Provo, Utah) seemed almost like winter. The temperature dropped far below the freezing point and the snowfall was heavy. The lateness of this spring makes these records all the more interesting and exceptional. Two other pairs of nesting sparrows were observed in March. When one considers that in this locality juveniles are observed as late as October, it shows that the fecundity of this importation is most amazing.

From W. B. Barrows' bulletin "The English Sparrow in North America," we learn that eight pairs were first introduced to the Brooklyn Institute from England. These did not thrive, and in 1852 two hundred dollars were raised to re-introduce the species. After this, numerous other importations were made into the eastern United States and Canada. In 1867, a colony was established at Galveston, Texas. In 1869, the city government of Philadelphia made the largest single importation, when it secured one thousand birds for the city. That same year twenty pairs were released at Cleveland, Ohio. During the next few years additional European specimens were liberated at San Francisco, Halifax, and at various places in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

Barrows shows that in 1873 or 1874, a colony of thirty was imported from England and liberated at Salt Lake City, Utah. Three years earlier than this, however, Dr. J. A. Allen¹, who made collections in the Salt Lake Valley from September 1 to October 8, 1871, records that the English Sparrow had recently been introduced and was apparently flourishing at Ogden. By 1886 this species was fairly common through most of central and northern Utah. Today it is found in every town and hamlet in the state. While it is normally a bird of the cities, it has become so numerous that it is often found far removed from human habitations. The writer has found it in the heart of the thirsty, sun-baked Escalante Desert, twenty miles from the nearest farm house. It is fairly common throughout the sparsely settled Monument Valley area of southeastern Utah, where no human dwellings except a few Navajo "hogans" are to be found.

The bird is a pest chiefly because it is too prolific. Its gregarious nature, along with its ability to adapt to almost any type of environment, makes it a competitor and enemy to most of the other birds of a community. As a result it is driving away many of our best birds. It is a nuisance and an enemy to most agriculture. However, it has rendered valuable service in Utah in helping to hold the alfalfa weevil in check.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Provo, Utah*.

Nesting of the Sparrow Hawk.—In April, 1925, a pair of Sparrow Hawks (*Cerchneis sparveria sparveria*) were noticed trying to enter traps containing birds captured for banding. The clamor of Blue Jays indicated the nest of the hawks to be in a pin-oak tree, twenty inches in diameter, located about 300 feet east of the banding station and about 100 feet from the south shore of Lake Erie. On examining this tree the nest was found twenty feet up behind a strip of tin that had evidently been put in place several years before to prevent further decay of the trunk. The entrance was at an opening, about ten feet above the

¹See "Notes of an Ornithological Reconnaissance of Portion of Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah"—Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Vol. 3, No. 6, pages 165 to 173.