

in diameter. The nest was placed on a lateral, eastward-extending, and slightly drooping bough, about six feet from the base of the bough and ten or twelve feet from its tip. It was, I judged, twenty or twenty-five feet from the ground. Twigs and gray cones and *Usnea* lichen screened the nest well from beneath, but apparently little more than a beginning of the building had been made.

A good deal of data has of late years been accumulating (*Auk*, XL, p. 337, April, 1923; XLI, p. 159, January, 1924; WILSON BULLETIN, XXXVII, p. 213, December, 1925; XXXIX, p. 40, March, 1927), to indicate that the species breeds in Michigan; but, as far as I have been able to discover, direct evidence of that fact has not hitherto appeared.

The sandy plain upon which the Evening Grosbeak's nest was found is notable for the presence of other birds of northern association, including the Canada Spruce Partridge, the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, the Canada Jay, the Tennessee Warbler, and the Hudsonian Chickadee (WILSON BULLETIN, XLI, p. 42, March, 1929).—BAYARD H. CHRISTY, *Seewickley, Pa.*

**Some Random Bird Notes from Florida.**—On April 21, 1927, Mr. William L. Dawson and I went to Mosquito Inlet at Ponce Park, Volusia County, Florida, to photograph shore birds. We were extremely fortunate, and found an immense flock of migrating Caspian Terns which must have numbered from 1,500 to 2,000 birds, and secured some wonderful flight pictures, enmass. There were about 150 adult Black Skimmers, hundreds of Herring Gulls, a few Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls, several Black Terns, Common and Least Terns, and about 200 Brown Pelicans. Besides these there were Turnstones, Red-backed Sandpipers, Sanderlings, Black-bellied and Semipalmated, Piping, and Wilson's Plovers. All were mingled together and we estimated that there must have been about 4,000 birds in all. A more thrilling and interesting sight we had never seen. The birds were resting, and not feeding, on the sandy tidal flats, in the mouth of the inlet. Very few notes were uttered by any of the birds. They were unusually silent for such a large number of birds.

Black Terns in immature plumage were seen in a small colony of Least Terns at Titusville, Brevard County, Florida, on June 26, 1927. Six of the birds were seen resting at the edge of water on a sand-bar in the Indian River. On July 1, 1927, at this same place, I saw one Black Tern in the adult plumage and six or seven in the immature plumage. The birds were comparatively tame, and flew from one place to another among the nesting Least Terns. Again passing by this place on July 27, I saw seven or eight adult and immature birds of this species still there. These, of course, were migrating birds.

While at Merritt's Island, on April 30, 1927, I saw five or six Bonaparte's Gulls sitting on the railing of the bridge that crosses the Indian River at Titusville and connects with Merritt's Island. They were within a few yards of the Island, and quite tame, permitting themselves to be approached to within about twenty feet, and I photographed them from the car. On May 12, two of these birds still remained, and were found at the same place and both birds were photographed together, close enough to show the conspicuous black mark on the side of the head. They were in the winter plumage.

On Merritt's Island, opposite Titusville, Brevard County, Florida, I saw a male and a female Lesser Scaup Duck swimming in a salt water pond near the Indian River, on June 27, 1926. Thinking that they might be crippled birds,

I shouted, and both rose and flew away, disproving this supposition. Lesser Scaup Ducks can be seen in abundance on the fresh and salt water until the last week in April, throughout central Florida, and a few can be seen during the month of May.

Mr. Charles E. Doe and I were camped in an oak thicket just south of Bassenger, Florida, between January 17 and January 22, 1927. Two Whip-poor-wills were calling each night while we were there. Another bird was heard calling just before day-break, on March 6, 1927, just west of Malabar, Brevard County, Florida. Mr. William L. Dawson was with me at the time. These birds are far from being a common winter resident, and few are heard.

A Sora Rail was seen feeding around the edges of a salt water pond, back several hundred yards from the Indian River, on Merritt's Island, on May 2, 1926. Its black throat was plainly visible through the binoculars. I was in company with William L. Dawson at the time. I have never found a nest of this species in Florida, nor have I ever heard its mating call, and I have been in the Florida marshes every season for years. If it breeds here it must be very local, or else I should have seen it.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Fla.*

**Experiences with Song Sparrows in 1929.**—Song Sparrow No. 1 returned March 9, 1929, to the same place in which he had nested in 1928, next to our house in Columbus, Ohio. The next day he won this territory from Song Sparrow No. 4, who, since February 25, had been appropriating twice his proper share of land. From March 12 to 15 No. 1 sang a great deal, but on the 15th a mate arrived and he stopped singing almost entirely until April 11, when incubation began. All the Song Sparrows in the region did likewise, singing with much enthusiasm to warn other males from their homesteads and to invite mates, but becoming comparatively silent upon the arrival of the mates. Females announce their sex by a high-pitched, nasal "ecccc". One of the main duties of the male is to protect his land from intruders and in this his mate assists. All migrant Song Sparrows were driven off, and nearly all other species smaller than a Robin. There were also constant quarrels over the boundary between No. 1 and No. 4.

From March 21 to April 4, No. 1 and his mate indulged in a kind of "building play", each gathering nesting material and carrying it to many different spots. On April 6 the female began building in earnest and the male took no further part. Incubation starts with the second or third egg, and is performed by the female alone. The male sings a great deal during incubation, stationing himself fairly near the nest. When he considers it time for his mate to leave the nest he comes very near, perhaps within two yards, and gives an especially loud song, perhaps as a signal that all is well and that he is ready to guard the nest. She did not always come off at his suggestion, and he never guarded during the whole time of her absence. During the first incubation thirty-six periods on the nest of No. 1's mate averaged 34 minutes; forty-six periods off averaged 8 minutes. Two months later twenty-four periods on the nest averaged 29.4 minutes, and thirty periods off 8.7. The last incubation of No. 4's mate came at almost the same time as that of No. 1's mate, but twenty-four of her periods on the nest averaged only 21.4 minutes, while twenty-nine periods off averaged 7.9 minutes.

The males of both pairs did the major part of the feeding of the young, both in the nest and out of it. Singing again dropped to a low point. From