

approach, and the fact that the anis in the net were not close enough to the seedeater to bite it.

Anis are primarily insectivorous (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 176:22, 1940; Davis, Auk, 57:179-218, 1940; Rand, Auk, 70:26-30, 1953; Skutch, Auk, 76:284-286, 1959) though occasionally they take small lizards and in times of food shortage vegetable matter. They may also rob nests (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 176:22, 1940; Haverschmidt, Auk, 72:325-331, 1955) but observations to this effect are rarely included in descriptions of their feeding habits. To our knowledge there are no reports of predatory acts comparable to what we observed. It would be interesting to know how often natural analogs of such behavior occur during the dry season or other times of food shortage.

We are grateful to W. B. Dixon Stroud for making this trip possible and to Alexander M. and Mary Ross Fisher for their generous hospitality in Colombia.—FRANK B. GILL AND C. C. STOKES, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, 2 April 1970.*

Chipmunk predation on Bank Swallows.—On the afternoon of 22 June, 1969 I was observing nesting activities at a colony of Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) located in the town of Sunderland, Franklin Co., Massachusetts. As I watched an eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*) appeared at the top of the bank in which the colony was located, moved down the bank, and began entering burrows. It spent some five to ten minutes in each of two burrows, then entered a third burrow from which it emerged dragging a dead Bank Swallow. At this point it was mobbed by eight to 10 other Bank Swallows, (it had previously been unmolested) upon which it took refuge in a fourth burrow. The dead bird proved to be a recently killed adult female that had been bitten at the base of the skull.

This may be the first recorded instance of chipmunk predation on Bank Swallows. Other examples of chipmunk predation on birds have, however, been noted. Crandall (J. Mammal., 17:287, 1936) relates an instance of predation on immature sparrows. Smiley (J. Mammal., 23:91-92, 1942) relates several instances involving adult birds caught in bird traps.—MICHAEL E. GINEVAN, *Department of Zoology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, 16 August 1969.*

Seaside Sparrow hits a TV tower near Raleigh, North Carolina.—On 5 November 1968 Robert Searcy found a dead Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritima*) at the WRAL television tower (1175 feet high; 190 feet above sea level), 9 miles southeast of Raleigh, North Carolina. The bird, a female, was identified by R. C. Laybourne as *A. m. maritima*. The specimen is in the North Carolina State Museum (NCSM 2904).

This record is unusual in that no instances of a Seaside Sparrow hitting an obstruction at night are known to us, and therefore this is the first direct evidence that the Seaside Sparrow is a nocturnal migrant. It is generally believed that the Seaside Sparrow stays close to the coast during migration, and this belief is supported by the lack of Gulf Coast winter records for any of the Atlantic coast subspecies (A.O.U. Check-list, 1957). In addition, Stoddard and Norris (Tall Timbers Research Sta., Bull. No. 8, 1967) did not find any Seaside Sparrows among the 29,400 birds picked up at a TV tower in northern Florida.

Raleigh is 90 miles west of the nearest Seaside Sparrow habitat, the brackish marshes at the head of the Pamlico River. However, it is more likely that the bird came from farther north, as *A. m. maritima* breeds only as far south as northeastern North Carolina, or about 140 miles northeast of Raleigh. That the bird did come from this direction is supported by the fact that the prevailing wind on the night of 4-5 November was northeast, averaging 1-8 mph, and gusting to 17 mph.—WILLIAM POST AND MICOU M. BROWNE, *Department of Zoology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C., 27607, 20 February 1970.*

Nesting habits of the Oregon Junco in Montana.—In the extreme northwestern corner of Montana, the Oregon Junco (*Junco oregonus*) occurs as a common breeding bird from the valley farmlands and woodlands upward through Canadian and Hudsonian zone forests to near timberline on the higher peaks. In total numbers for the entire valley and mountain area, it probably ranks second to the Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) in abundance.

An indication of the habitat preference and decline in numbers at my ranch near Fortine during the years 1928 to 1931 is given by the accompanying table. Figures are from cooperative breeding census surveys which I made for the then Bureau of Biological Survey, and record the number of pairs present during the breeding season rather than numbers actually found nesting. As shown, the decrease in numbers of Oregon Juncos during the period is comparable to a general decrease in the total bird population which occurred despite very little alteration of the habitat. During the 40 years since, the population of most species in comparable habitat areas in the same locality has declined very markedly.

My permanent records contain data on 46 occupied nests, of which seven have been in sites varying from the usual. Both normal habits and these unusual nests will be described briefly.

In the valleys of northeastern Lincoln County (2,500 to 3,500 feet altitude), in occasional years, a few Oregon Juncos (probably of more than one subspecies) are present throughout the winter. Normally, summer resident birds arrive in late February or March, and a few commence nesting activity late in April. My earliest date for a normal set of four eggs is 4 May 1947, but I found young in a nest 10 May 1930.

An irregular pattern of May and June nesting is suggested by these dates for eggs (in different years): 1 to 10 May, three nests; 11 to 20 May, one nest; 21 to 31 May, four nests; 1 to 10 June, one nest; 11 to 20 June, eight nests; 21 to 30 June, two nests. A more systematic and continuous study during this period would perhaps show a less variable seasonal pattern.

After hatching, young birds have remained in nests from 11 to 14 days. Young birds on the wing, fed by adults, have been seen as early as 1 June, and become common by 15 June.

Late season nesting or re-nesting in the valleys occurs in late July and early August. Some dates: 2 July 1937, first egg; 10 July 1937, three eggs; 14 July 1927, young hatching; 19 July 1955, three eggs; 25 July 1934, nestlings two-thirds grown; 3 August 1930, one egg and three nestlings perhaps two days old.

At least some of the Oregon Juncos that nest in the higher mountains move upward in March or April, although the snow cover is still deep. I have found them in early April at 7,300 feet where the snow depth was 7 to 10 feet. Nesting takes place in July