

soap box partly filled with sweepings from the hayloft affords them plenty of leg exercise, but unfortunately is also the cause of many a self-fish quarrel. In order that my birds keep in good health, I have always studied to vary their fare. Besides canary and millet seed, they receive ants' eggs, Mockingbird food, berries, meal worms, etc. If no other live food is offered, they will even accept small earthworms. In winter the little fat grubs and 'worms' found in goldenrod galls are a welcome treat. — E. D. DOWNER, *Utica, N. Y.*

Ammodramus henslowii. — A Correction. — In 'The Auk' for April, 1889, p. 194, I reported the occurrence at Fort Adams, Newport, R. I., of *Ammodramus henslowii*. My identification was afterwards found to be incorrect, but through oversight the record has not been changed until now. — WIRT ROBINSON.

Leconte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) in Kentucky. — A specimen was killed April 15, 1899, in an old weed grown clover field, about two miles east of Lexington, Ky. It was quite tame, allowing us to approach within five or six feet before attempting to escape. A second specimen was seen July 16, while feeding near the foot of an old 'rock fence' in a dirt lane, the sides of which were overgrown with catnip, wild sage, and various other weeds and young trees.

I believe the species is a rare summer resident and breeder.

This is, as far as I am aware, the first record of its occurrence in Kentucky. — OTTO HOLSTEIN, *Muir, Ky.*

Nesting of Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) in North Dakota. — June 14, 1899, on a broad, alkaline flat, lately a shallow arm of Devils Lake, now nearly dried up, among scant, short grass in a wet, oozy spot, I found the nest of this little known Sparrow, securing the sitting bird and mate with the eggs. An overflow of surface water from a marsh just beyond, during the spring, flows over this flat, at first through a sort of natural ditch, then gradually spreading out till it loses itself in the sticky soil. A bit of ground about three feet square, raised an inch or two from the general level, was sufficient to cause this trifling flow of inch-deep water to divide, forming a tiny island, which was not exactly dry but more nearly so than the immediate surroundings. Here, sunk in the wet earth, and lined sparingly about the sides, but very thickly in the bottom, with fine dried grasses of a wiry nature was the nest, containing five eggs raised by the thick lining well up out of the wet. As the general situation when observed by me was rather dryer than when the nest was first built it must be that the selection of a dismally wet spot was deliberate and, perhaps, indicates the regular custom.

The finding of the nest was purely accidental as, in a more or less vain effort to keep my feet dry, I sprang from point to point, finally alighting with both feet squarely astride the nest, and the sitting bird, as she flut-