

winter plumage. They are now in Dr. Townsend's collection. As further evidence of the eastward spread of the breeding range of the Prairie Horned Lark, I may add that on Aug. 16, 1903, I saw a lark, doubtless of this subspecies, with a spotted breast and a yellowish bill, evidently in the juvenal plumage, at Natick, Mass. This bird was seen a few days earlier at the same place by Mr. R. B. Worthington of Dedham, Mass.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

**Moult of the Snowflake** (*Passerina nivalis*).—Dr. Jonathan Dwight's review<sup>1</sup> of Mr. Frank M. Chapman's article on the 'Changes of Plumage in the Snowflake' is concluded in these words: "The Snowflake is one of the interesting species that undergo but one moult in the year." As this species is believed *not* to have a spring moult — either complete or partial — I will show that there is at least a partial moult. A specimen in my collection, ♂ ad. (Smithsonian No. 100,688), April 1, 1884, Fort Chima, Ungava, collected by Mr. L. M. Turner, and which I received in exchange from Mr. Ridgway, clearly shows moult in a semicircle on the jugulum; the auriculars were also being moulted. This specimen, although taken as early as April 1, has almost attained the adult nuptial plumage.

Another quotation from Mr. Chapman's paper by Dr. Dwight is as follows: "The male has the feathers of the head, nape and rump basally white, while in the female they are basally black',— this difference holding at all seasons of the year." Upon examining the specimens of this species in my collection from New York, Minnesota, Point Barrow, Alaska, and Ungava, I find that the *base* of the feathers of the head, nape and rump are the *same* in both sexes.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

**The Redpoll Breeding on the Magdalen Islands.**—It may be of some interest to know that a nest of a Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria*) was found on Grosse Isle, Magdalen Islands, this year by Mr. H. H. Hann and the writer of this note, while on a short trip to the Islands in June of this year. It was the day before we left Grosse Isle that the nest was found, and most of our belongings were packed for our homeward journey but nevertheless we decided to spend this last day, June 29, on the hill a little to the east of the settlement. About one third the way up this hill, amid the spruce trees, we discovered a small nest in a spruce about six feet from the ground. It was placed near the trunk of the tree and was a dainty affair, neat and rather compact, composed of coarse grass and a goodly quantity of deer moss lined with feathers, about three and one half inches in diameter, and containing four young birds four or five days old. After we had waited there for some time both parent birds returned to the nest. There was no mistake in the identification of these active little birds, with their

<sup>1</sup>'The Auk,' Vol. XIII, April, 1896, pp. 165, 166.

dark throats and red foreheads, the male with a conspicuous red patch on his breast.

It might also be of interest to note that the Scaup Duck (*Aythya marila*), found quite abundantly on the Magdalens by both Rev. C. J. Young and the Rev. H. K. Job, on their visits to the Islands, were this year no where to be found and the islanders could not account for their sudden disappearance.—J. P. CALLENDER, *Summit, N. J.*

**Nesting of the Junco in Eastern Massachusetts.**—On May 25, 1905, in the Middlesex Fells, near the Medford border, I ran across a pair of Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) with food in their bills. I watched them and the female soon went to the nest. It was situated under the edge of a tussock of grass, in an open space in the woods, and contained four well-grown young.

The nearest breeding record I have yet found is Fitchburg, mentioned by Messrs. Howe and Allen in their 'Birds of Massachusetts.—R. S. EUSTIS, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Possible Breeding of Junco hyemalis in Essex County, Mass.**—On Sept. 2, 1905, I saw at Boxford, Mass., a young Junco in the juvenal plumage, with streaked back, breast, and belly. The bird was not taken, but I watched it for five minutes, part of the time within ten feet, and fully identified it. Dr. C. W. Townsend (Birds of Essex County) mentions seeing a Junco at Groveland, Mass. (just north of Boxford), Sept. 3, 1904, but he tells me that it was identified from an electric car, and he does not know whether it was an adult or an immature bird. These dates are much earlier than any migration dates known to me. Messrs. Howe and Allen (Birds of Massachusetts) give Sept. 18 as the earliest fall date, and Dr. Townsend gives Sept. 26 for Essex County. As far as I can learn, moreover, the Junco has never been taken in the first plumage at any distance from its breeding grounds, and Dr. G. M. Allen writes me that he has no breeding records for this bird from Southeastern New Hampshire. It is almost impossible, too, that the Boxford bird could have been one of the brood raised in the Middlesex Fells last summer, and recorded by Mr. R. S. Eustis in this number of 'The Auk', for Boxford is some eighteen miles from that locality and nearly due north. All these facts seem to point to the conclusion that the Junco may prove to be at least an occasional, thought doubtless an extremely rare, breeder in Eastern Massachusetts.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

**The Lark Sparrow in Massachusetts.**—On August 12, 1905, at Ipswich, Massachusetts, I observed at close range a Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). This makes the sixth record of this species for the State, and the fourth for Essex County. Nearly a year before this, on August 21, 1904, I took at Ipswich an adult male Lark Sparrow (Birds