

Nelson's Sparrow in Maryland.—Though Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*) has been recorded on the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts south to Titusville and Cedar Keys, Florida (the coastal regions of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida being apparently the chief wintering grounds for this race) until the present, there seems to have been no definite report for the State of Maryland. On October 6, 1928, while collecting near Ocean City, Maryland, we found Sharp-tailed Sparrows common in a stretch of marsh below the inlet leading into Sinepuxent Bay. Among other specimens secured on this occasion there is an immature male Nelson's Sparrow collected by Lincoln. On October 14 at Cornfield Harbour, about a mile above Point Lookout where the Potomac River joins Chesapeake Bay, we found Sharp-tailed Sparrows again common, and collected three additional specimens of *nelsoni*, all males, one being adult and two immature. In both instances the birds were associated with true *Ammospiza caudacuta caudacuta* in coastal marshes but in areas where fresh water rather than brackish water conditions prevailed. —ALEXANDER WETMORE AND FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Washington, D. C.*

Natal Down and Juvenal Plumage of the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow.—In studying the series of six Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrows (*Ammospiza caudacuta subvirgata*) in juvenal plumage, collected by Mr. V. E. Gould and myself near Wolfville, Nova Scotia, I have found a few discrepancies in published descriptions. The specimens range from nestlings with the juvenal feathers just breaking the sheaths to fully feathered individuals with their tails nearly full grown. The specimens are now in the Cornell University collection, numbers 3334 to 3339.

When Dwight separated this race (*Auk* IV, p. 234, 1887), he described the juvenal plumage, from birds out of the nest, as follows, "General color chestnut buff, darker above and variegated with black. Traces of two or three faint dusky streak on sides. Dorsal feathers, tertials, wing coverts, and stripes on the head, black with chestnut buff edgings. Primaries and secondaries black, faintly edged with ashy. Traces of dusky auriculars and post-ocular streak. Tail similar to adult but edged with buff."

My specimens compare fairly well with this description but the streaks on the sides of the breast are hardly discernible in any but the most fully fledged birds and the general color compares more favorably in young birds with Ridgway's ochraceous buff and in the older specimens with his ochraceous tawny. The dusky areas of the face in the fully fledged young are caused by the tips of the feathers being black and in the younger birds, when only the tips show, these dusky areas appear as black lines. The buffy tips to the feathers of the upper parts are so wide that they give the appearance of being entirely yellowish.

The natal down is still clinging to the tips of the feathers of the juvenal plumage in the four youngest specimens. Compared with Ridgway's 'Color Standards and Nomenclature,' the natal down varies from brownish black on the head to mouse grey on the rump. It is entirely absent from