

In April, I studied this species in and near Charleston, South Carolina, and was surprised to find the irides white or yellowish white, like those of the Great-tailed Grackles (*M. major macrourus*) I had seen in Texas. Is it not possible that there is a change of color of the iris in the Boat-tailed Grackle with the season? The birds were beginning to court in February but not so actively as later.

Incidentally I might remark that I have found that in both species the tail is carried boat- or V-shaped during the courtship season and the autumnal recrudescence, but at other times it is generally flat as in most other birds. I noted on Feb. 11 that the tail of *major* was not V-shaped or only slightly so. Major Brooks, however, limits the "folded" tail to *macrourus*. I agree with him, however, that the Boat-tailed and the Great-tailed Grackles are probably specifically, not merely subspecifically, distinct, although I arrived at this conclusion in a different manner, for I found the voice and courtship in the two birds so entirely different (Auk, 1927, vol. 44, pp. 551-554) a paper that Major Brooks evidently overlooked.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*

Lapland Longspur at Brigantine, N. J.—On December 26, 1930, T. G. Appel, C. L. Fasnacht and myself saw a flock of twelve Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*) on Brigantine Island, N. J. They were in company with about twenty-five Horned Larks. The Longspurs and Larks did not intermingle—instead, each species kept to itself and the two flocks traveled together.

We discovered these Longspurs immediately in front of the Country Club building on the Island. A search for them the next day failed to give us another view.

Mr. Forbush, in 'Birds of Massachusetts' says of this bird "On migration in the United States, this bird keeps in the interior for the most part, between the Alleghanias and the Rockies, and is rarely seen on the Atlantic seaboard of the middle and southern Atlantic Coast States."—W. STUART CRAMER, *44 E. Orange St., Lancaster, Pa.*

Some Nesting Records from the Vicinity of Washington, D. C.—Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus gramineus*): May 30, 1931, nest with three eggs; June 7, nest with three eggs; both nests from the same locality, near the summit of a bare hill on the eastern side of Paint Branch. Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus saviannarum australis*): June 7, 1931, nest with five eggs; in the locality just given for the nests of the Vesper Sparrow, but at a slightly lower elevation. Eastern Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowi sussurans*): June 7, 1931, nest with five eggs; in the normally wet, but this year very dry, meadows two miles west of the Cabin John bridge.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN AND AUSTIN H. CLARK, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

***Ammospiza caudacuta diversa* (Bishop) a Valid Race.**—A recent study of the Sharp-tailed Sparrows of the Atlantic coast of the United