

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

States has brought to light the interesting fact that there exists in this region an unrecognized subspecies which is readily distinguishable from the typical Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta caudacuta*) of southern New England. This bird was many years ago described by Dr. Louis B. Bishop as *Ammodramus caudacutus diversus* ('The Auk,' XVIII, No. 3, July, 1901, page 269), type from Wanchese, Roanoke Island, North Carolina. It differs from typical *Ammospiza caudacuta caudacuta* in its darker, more rufescent upper parts, the colors of which are more contrasted, the blackish areas more intense, and the superciliary stripe more richly rufescent. In size it is practically the same, as the measurements given by Dr. Bishop (loc. cit.) show. It is separable from *Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni* by decidedly larger size; duller, less rufescent upper parts, the colors of which are less contrasted; and in much more heavily and sharply streaked jugulum and sides of body.

This is the breeding race of the Atlantic coast marshes from North Carolina, north to Maryland, beyond which it is represented by *Ammospiza caudacuta caudacuta*. It winters from North Carolina to Florida, as far west as Goose Creek and Tarpon Springs, and as far south as Cape Sable.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

**Junco annectens Baird, in Utah.**—June 27, 1930 in the upper part of Dry Cañon, a few miles east of Logan, Utah, I took two Juncos as they moved excitedly about among the brush. A search was made for a nest but in vain. Skins were made of the adults, male and female, and the male was sent to Washington, D. C., for identification. Dr. Oberholser identified it as *Junco annectens*.

This is a new record for Utah.—J. S. STANFORD, *U. S. A. C., Logan, Utah.*

**A Seventeenth Century Representation of the Cardinal.**—In reference to the note under this head in the January 'Auk,' p. 127, it may interest American readers to know that in the Seventeenth Century the keeping of exotic birds in aviaries, which were sometimes heated, serving at the same time as hot houses for tropical plants, was a much pursued hobby of the wealthy Dutch merchants, share-holders of both the East Indian and West Indian Companies, which were of the kind afterwards called "Chartered Companies" being invested by letters-patent with political powers too. These merchants ordered such birds from the territories the companies held in different parts of the world, which explains the occurrence on the canvas alluded to of such divergent species. It is well known that formerly part of the present United States of America was a Dutch colony with Nieuw-Amsterdam (now New York) as its principal settlement.

Melchior d'Hondecoeter was a rather famous member of a family of painters, his specialty being birds (as his father Gysbert's was barn-door fowl), which even procured the first named the rather pompous surname of "Raphael of the Animals." A research of his paintings in the museums in Holland might reveal more such early representations of American