

A Junco Junket.—On page 420 of the July, 1928, 'Auk' there is an interesting note, taken from 'British Birds,'¹ which relates the fact that three Greenfinches made the passage of the North Atlantic from Southampton to Newfoundland, on the "S. S. Alaunia" in October, 1927. Less remarkable but equally interesting, was a party of Slate-colored Juncos that traveled as deck passengers aboard a little Danish tramp from New York to the Virgin Islands, a distance of 1478 miles, in November, 1928.

We had sailed from an East River pier on the evening of November 3, but the weather was so thick that we were forced a little later to anchor in Ambrose Channel. There we lay with decks dripping, the whistle buoys wailing through the fog like so many disconsolate bulls, until nearly noon of the next day. Then the mists lifted a bit, and a steady stream of steamers, including our own, put to sea.

The following day (November 5) when I came on deck we were in the clear bracing air of the open Atlantic, about 140 miles off Cape Charles, and I was surprised to find that two dozen juncos, two Song Sparrows, a Chipping Sparrow, a White-throated Sparrow, a Goldfinch, a larger finch that may have been a female or immature Dickcissel, and two Golden-crowned Kinglets had taken passage with us. The juncos seemed to be interested in some flour spilled on the deck, and allowed a close approach. As they showed no disposition to leave the ship, I augmented their food supply with bread crumbs scattered on a hatch cover, and brought my Graflex into action. But, lest some fellow photographer be tempted to err in like manner, be it said that focussing a reflecting camera aboard a plunging ship is not an exercise recommended for landlubbers, especially just after a breakfast of uncertain tenure!

On the morning of November 6, only about half of the juncos and the lone White-throated Sparrow were to be found. The noon position was 34° 19' N., 71° 23' W.

Only four juncos remained with us on November 8, and a Grasshopper Sparrow had appeared in place of the White-throat. A Great Blue Heron was seen in the morning about 400 miles northeast of San Salvador Island, and appeared again very near the ship in the afternoon, but did not alight on either occasion. The noon position was 27° 58' N., 68° 42' W., and the weather continued fine.

On November 9 four juncos were again counted, but it is evident that a fifth must have been hidden somewhere, because next day although two were found dead on deck in the morning, at sunset there were still three live ones aboard.

November 11 was marked by a change in the weather. There was a stiff breeze, the sky became increasingly cloudy, and there were showers in the afternoon. Porto Rico was in sight most of the morning. A lone junco was on deck at 8:30 a.m. At 6.45 p.m. the ship docked at St. Thomas, but the solitary Junco remained on board even after the cargo booms were rigged up.

¹ Alford, Charles E., 'British Birds,' Vol. XXI, p. 282, April, 1928.

When we sailed at noon on the following day (November 12) for St. Croix I was surprised to see that the junco, forlorn and much bedraggled, was still on the ship. We dropped anchor off Frederiksted, just after a rain, at 5 o'clock that afternoon, but because of my concern to get ashore I forgot to look for the bird. It was not again seen.

In view of the fact that the junco has not been recorded in the West Indies—not even in Cuba nor the Bahamas, it seems strange that these ill-fated birds should have allowed themselves to be carried so far out of their course. Stranger still that they should have elected to remain with the ship while the band of which they were a part continued its migration. Can it be that gratuitous food and free transportation tempted them to go on a "junket"?—ERNEST G. HOLT, 312 Bell Building, Montgomery, Ala.

Lincoln's Sparrow Again in North Carolina.—On September 17, 1931, I saw and identified beyond question, two specimens of Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza l. lincolni*) in the North Fork Valley, Buncombe County, North Carolina. Though there are but two specimens recorded from that state to date, as far as the writer is aware, and though my birds were not secured, the circumstances surrounding my observation were so positive as to leave no doubt as to their correct identification.

They were seen in low bushes, near the banks of North Fork Creek, about one half-mile to the north of State Highway No. 10; midway between the towns of Black Mountain and Swannanoa. The sun was behind me and quite brilliant; the birds were about thirty feet away and I watched them both with the naked eye and through 8 x Zeiss glasses. The cream-buff band was plainly apparent. Both uttered short "chips" frequently and were in sight for several minutes.

The first bird of this species to be recorded from North Carolina was taken by Cairns on the French Broad River, Buncombe County, on May 6, 1893 (Birds of North Carolina, Pearson and Brimley, page 249). The second was secured by A. T. Wayne at Morganton, Burke County, on May 14, 1914 (Auk, XXXI, page 542). Wayne says of this species that it is "evidently a regular migrant through the Piedmont region of North as well as South Carolina, but as yet there is no record from South Carolina."—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

Three Unusual Records for Ontario.—While on Bruce Peninsula, Ontario, from July 24 to August 1, 1931, three unusual summer records were obtained which should be supplemented by further observation.

Falco columbarius columbarius. EASTERN PIGEON HAWK.—On July 26, Edgar L. Stephenson and I were walking along the cliff at Lion's Head, when a bird of this species flew out from a niche in the cliff a few feet below us, giving us an admirable opportunity to study it in flight. Mr. W. E. Saunders, of London, Ontario, believes that this is the southernmost summer record for this species in Canada.

Rallus elegans elegans. KING RAIL.—On July 31, at Crane Lake, a bird