

as I have been able to determine, the Southern Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza c. diversa*) (Auk, 1901, p. 269; not recognized in A. O. U. Check List), has not previously been reported from Georgia or South Carolina. In a small series taken along the lower Savannah river, Arthur H. Howell has found six of this form. Two of these were taken in April and four in October, and there are specimens from both states.

Since then I have taken several others, and plus some sight records which should be correct within reasonable limits, believe that this subspecies winters regularly in moderate numbers in a particular type of low salt marsh, and perhaps over a much wider salt marsh range.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. dredge "Morgan," Savannah, Ga.*

A Hybrid Flicker at Ottawa, Ontario.—On May 12, 1936, while sketching Ducks and Geese in the Experimental Farm wildfowl enclosure I noticed two Flickers going through their courting antics in a clump of low bushes near-by. As I approached nearer to them I observed with the aid of binoculars that one was a male Hybrid Flicker.

When it turned towards me I saw that it had the pure red under tail surface of the western red-shafted form. In every other way it was the same as the eastern yellow-shafted form as far as I could see.

This is the most easterly record of the Hybrid Flicker in Canada. Two others were taken at Toronto Ontario, one is in the collection of Mr. E. T. Seton, the other is in the collection of Mr. G. E. Atkinson.—ARTHUR D. NELLES, *Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.*

Nesting of *Oncostoma* in the Canal Zone.—The genus *Oncostoma* Sclater is made up of but two species: the Bent-billed Flycatcher, *O. cinereigulare* (Sclater), which ranges from Mexico to western Panama, and the Lawrence's Bent-billed Flycatcher, *O. olivaceum* (Lawrence), which is found from the vicinity of the Panama Canal Zone southward to northern Colombia. These two are so closely allied as to be doubtfully specifically distinct, and Hellmayr (Catalogue of Birds of the Americas) considers *olivaceum* to be merely a subspecies of *cinereigulare*. It would seem therefore a fair presumption that there should be little difference in the nesting habits of the two birds.

A nest purporting to belong to *O. cinereigulare* is described by Carriker (An Annotated List of the Birds of Costa Rica, Annals of the Carnegie Museum, vi, 1909-1910, p. 733). It was found near Guapiles, Costa Rica, in a lime tree growing at the edge of a pasture. A pair of Bent-billed Flycatchers were around the nest when it was discovered, but no eggs had been laid. Several days later the site was again visited and the nest found abandoned and partially destroyed. Carriker describes this as "a tiny flattened cup-shaped structure, made of fine grasses and weed-fibers, and lined with vegetable down and a few hairs, and placed in a cluster of small branches on the top of a limb." It should be noted that the identification of this nest was based solely upon the fact that "the birds were around the nest" when he first discovered it. On the other hand, C. H. Lankester, of Cachi, Costa Rica, writes me that the structure is a "slender hang-nest of bottle shape."

As to *O. olivaceum*, I found a nest of this species along the Rio Indio trail, near Gatun, Canal Zone, on August 7, 1933. This was placed at a height of about three feet above the ground in a small bush in dense, scrubby jungle. It was near the trail and at the edge of a partial, tangled clearing which permitted plenty of light to enter the vicinity of the nest. It was a small, flask-shaped structure, about three inches in maximum diameter and a little over four inches in vertical length, hung from slender twigs. The entrance was a small round hole in one side near the top, with a "roof" projecting out and serving to shelter it. The nest was delicately yet very firmly

woven of plant fibres, fine weed stalks, and a little grass, and was so compactly built that it could not be seen through. When discovered it contained one very small white egg, approaching globular in shape, with a very few minute spots of red-brown about the larger end.

Quoting from my field-notes: "The parent, male or female, sat very close and being flushed from the nest flew off about twenty feet, alighted, and watched me as I stood by the nest. As I did not move, it appeared to summon courage and returned to perch about a foot below the nest and not more than two feet from me. It sat there quietly, turning its head and eyeing me gravely for at least a minute. It would not enter the nest, however, and finally flew off into the jungle."

"The nest was not visited again until August 15. For the second time the parent bird sat very close, but finally flew out. Before this the bird had extended its head and calmly looked me over. Examination showed two eggs, so almost certainly incubation had commenced. This time the bird sat about twenty feet from the nest, and was there, observing me quietly, when I left at the end of five minutes."

Dr. Alexander Skutch, a frequent contributor to 'The Auk,' has recently written me regarding the nest of this species, and I give the following extract from his letter. "It was an elongate, pensile structure, with a little round opening in one side, giving access to a rounded chamber in the lower portion. In form it rather resembled the nests of *Todirostrum cinereum*, but was much more neatly constructed, being composed almost entirely of the light-colored bast fibres taken from some disintegrating forest vine. It was hung about twelve or fourteen feet above the ground, from a slender twig of a small tree in the undergrowth of the forest, close by a little rivulet on Barro Colorado Island. When I first found it, which must have been about the end of April (1935), it contained no eggs, and I went back many times without being able to discover its owner.—After considerable delay, the two tiny white eggs (faintly speckled on the larger end with brown?) were laid, and I found the Bent-billed Flycatcher sitting on them. Sometimes she allowed me to climb the ladder until I was almost in reach of her before she flew out. She sat facing outward, like the Tody Flycatcher, Kiskadee and Giraud's Flycatcher, not tail outward, like the Royal Flycatcher. I never found more than one bird in the vicinity of the nest, even when I watched for several hours one morning from a blind."

A thorough examination of the literature on Central American birds fails to bring to light any description of the nesting of *Oncostoma olivaceum*, nor of *O. cinereigulare* save that of Carriker already cited.—DAVID E. HARROWES, *Woodmere, N. Y.*

Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) Nesting in Baltimore Co., Maryland.—A second record of the nesting of this species in Baltimore Co., was obtained through the finding of a nest containing two young birds, at Pikesville, April 19, 1936. While walking over a rolling meadow, the Lark flew up out of the grass with a dead fledgling in its beak; paving the way to the finding of its nest. A week later the young had left the nest but were noted in its near vicinity. Mr. F. C. Kirkwood found a nest containing eggs at Sweet Air, May 1935.—M. BROOKE MEANLEY, *5111 Roland Ave., Baltimore, Md.*

A Winter Food Supply for the Crow.—Between December 22, 1935, and January 1, 1936, the writer has occasion to drive along about 1600 miles of highway, covering goodly portions of the states of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. For more than three-fourths of this total distance the roads were snow-covered and ice-sheathed, and temperatures were below freezing. It was speedily noticed that the most consistently conspicuous bird along the high-