

## BIRD LIFE ON THE NORTH CAROLINA COAST

BY THOMAS D. BURLEIGH

IN THE course of field work carried on by the writer in North Carolina, advantage was taken of occasional infrequent trips to the coast to study the bird life there, and the following notes include those species considered of sufficient interest to comment upon at this time.

Altogether opportunity was afforded to visit this eastern edge of the State four times. In 1931, January 16 to 21, inclusive, was spent at such widely separated spots between Elizabeth City and Wilmington as Oregon Inlet, Fort Macon, and Fort Fisher. In 1932, the writer, in company with Arthur H. Howell, devoted fifteen days, May 20 to June 4, to a study of the breeding birds in the entire stretch of coast between Back Bay, Virginia, and Murrell's Inlet, South Carolina. In 1934, two days, July 19 and 20, were spent at Stumpy Point, on Pamlico Sound, and August 13 to 25, inclusive, at Kitty Hawk, on Albemarle Sound. The list that follows is admittedly incomplete and concerns largely species of uncertain status or of infrequent occurrence in this region. In a few instances certain races are here recorded for the first time as breeding in the State.

COMMON LOON, *Gavia immer immer*.—An unusually late record is that of a bird seen in an open channel in the salt marsh at Seaside, June 3, 1932.

SOOTY SHEARWATER, *Puffinus griseus*.—An injured bird, unable to fly but still alive, was picked up on the ocean beach near Fort Macon, May 28, 1932. There are apparently very few records for this species for the State, and none in recent years.

FLORIDA CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus*.—Noted in small numbers on Albemarle Sound in 1934, a single bird being seen August 19 near Kitty Hawk, and two August 23 at Powder Ridge.

LOUISIANA HERON, *Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*.—An occasional bird was seen at Beaufort, May 29, 1932, feeding at the edge of the salt marsh.

LITTLE BLUE HERON, *Florida caerulea caerulea*.—This species was found to be fairly plentiful at Beaufort, and frequently was seen feeding in the open salt marsh on May 29, 1932.

CANADA GOOSE, *Branta canadensis canadensis*.—It was of decided interest to note the late date at which this species could be found as far south as this. One would expect these birds to be gone by the latter part of April, yet in 1932, a flock of ten was seen on May 20 near Currituck Light, flying over the Sound, and another flock of eight at Powder Ridge on May 23, resting at the edge of the water.

BLUE GOOSE, *Chen caerulescens*.—As there was but one record for the occurrence of this species in the State, it was of interest to find a crippled bird confined in a pen at Salvo, a small fishing hamlet on Pamlico Sound, on January 17, 1931. The owner, who had shot the bird during the past fall, had never seen the species before and regarded it a curiosity.

COMMON MALLARD, *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*.—On May 22, 1932, at Pine Island, a female Mallard was found at the edge of a pond in the open salt

marsh with four newly hatched young that had apparently just left the nest. This is possibly the first definite breeding record of this species for the State.

**SOUTHERN BALD EAGLE, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*.**—This species proved to be fairly plentiful at Oregon Inlet in January 1931. On January 18, twelve birds were seen, each perched on the top of a telephone pole where it permitted a fairly close approach before flying.

**NORTHERN CLAPPER RAIL, *Rallus longirostris crepitans*.**—Clapper Rails were plentiful in the wide stretches of open salt-marsh at Beaufort in 1932, and as there was some question as to their subspecific identification, two were collected on May 30. These proved referable to *Rallus l. crepitans*, and it is possible that this marks the northern limit of the range of this race on the Atlantic coast. Two nests were found that day, one with eight eggs that were just hatching and the other with nine well-incubated eggs. Both nests were substantially built of reeds and marsh grass and were rather poorly concealed.

**AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER, *Haematopus palliatus palliatus*.**—Fairly plentiful on the ocean beach at Seaside, where on June 3, 1932, six pairs were seen.

**PIPING PLOVER, *Charadrius melodus*.**—At Kitty Hawk, Piping Plovers were fairly plentiful, August 14 to 26, 1934, feeding alone or in small flocks on the mud flats at the edge of Albemarle Sound. None was seen on the ocean beach.

**SEMPALMATED PLOVER, *Charadrius semipalmatus*.**—At Beaufort, on May 30, 1932, small flocks of these birds were seen at intervals, feeding at the edge of the salt marsh. At Kitty Hawk they were plentiful, August 14 to 26, 1934; small flocks were frequently seen each day.

**WILSON'S PLOVER, *Pagolla wilsonia wilsonia*.**—Fairly plentiful at Seaside, June 3, 1932, where a nest was found that held three slightly incubated eggs.

**KILLDEER, *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*.**—Killdeer were apparently somewhat scarce on the coast for relatively few were seen. At Kitty Hawk, several birds were noted on August 18, 1934, and only at infrequent intervals thereafter.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, *Squatarola squatarola*.**—In 1932, scattered small flocks were seen feeding on the ocean beach at Currituck Light on May 20, and a single bird was noted at Seaside, June 3. At Kitty Hawk, in 1934, these birds were rather scarce and noted only at infrequent intervals. A single bird was seen August 14, two August 18, and a flock of four August 21.

**RUDDY TURNSTONE, *Arenaria interpres morinella*.**—This species proved to be a plentiful spring migrant in 1932; numerous small flocks were seen at Currituck Light, May 20, and at Beaufort, May 28. In the fall it apparently is not present in any numbers until September, for at Kitty Hawk in 1934, it was somewhat scarce. A flock of four birds was seen August 14, and other small flocks were noted at infrequent intervals during the remainder of my stay there.

**HUDSONIAN CURLEW, *Phaeopus hudsonicus*.**—I noted the Hudsonian Curlew in 1934 only, two birds were seen on August 20 and a single bird on August 23, feeding near Powder Ridge on the mud flats exposed by the low tide.

**UPLAND PLOVER, *Bartramia longicauda*.**—This species has apparently not been recorded previously from the coast, but judging from my rather limited experience it is not uncommon there, at least in the autumn. At Kitty Hawk in 1934 one bird was seen August 16, another August 18, and three August 24, feeding each time in the short dune grass well up from the water's edge of Albemarle Sound.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER, *Actitis macularia*.**—Spotted Sandpipers were fairly plentiful at Kitty Hawk in August 1934, and were observed daily feeding with other shore-birds.

EASTERN WILLET, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*.—A plentiful breeding bird in 1932 wherever conditions were suitable, it was especially numerous at Snead's Ferry, at the mouth of New River, May 31; at Fort Fisher, near Wilmington, June 2; and at Seaside, June 3. Possibly a dozen pairs were nesting in the dry marsh at Fort Fisher, and here three nests were found, two with four eggs each and one with three. The nests were slight hollows in the ground, lined with fragments of marsh grass.

WESTERN WILLET, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*.—Willetts were unexpectedly scarce at Kitty Hawk in 1934, single birds being seen at rather infrequent intervals. One taken on August 20, on Albemarle Sound, proved to be referable to this western race.

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS, *Totanus melanoleucus*.—Only at Kitty Hawk, August 14 to 26, 1934, did I see this species, and it was somewhat scarce then. Single birds were observed feeding with other shorebirds.

LESSER YELLOW-LEGS, *Totanus flavipes*.—Unlike the preceding form, Lesser Yellow-legs were plentiful throughout the entire time I was at Kitty Hawk in 1934. Flocks of from six to ten birds were seen daily in August at various spots along Albemarle Sound, feeding with other shorebirds.

AMERICAN KNOT, *Calidris canutus rufus*.—In 1932, the American Knot was found to be a plentiful spring migrant on the ocean beaches; small flocks of from ten to fifteen birds were seen near Currituck Light, May 20; at Beaufort, May 28; and at Fort Fisher, June 2. It is probable that in the fall migration these birds are not present in any numbers before September, for at Kitty Hawk they were very scarce. Two were seen on August 17 and two on August 23, 1934.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER, *Pisobia melanotos*.—In 1934, at Kitty Hawk, the Pectoral Sandpiper was one of the most plentiful of the shorebirds found there during the latter part of August. Numerous small flocks were seen daily feeding in the short dune grass well up from the water's edge and rarely associated with other species.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, *Pisobia fuscicollis*.—Judging from my rather limited experience, the White-rumped Sandpiper is far less plentiful on this coast than is generally supposed. At Kitty Hawk, in 1934, it was looked for without success until the day of my departure, when it was finally found with other shorebirds on the mud flats at Powder Ridge. That day, August 25, four were seen, single birds twice, and toward the end of the morning two, feeding with flocks of Least Sandpipers.

LEAST SANDPIPER, *Pisobia minutilla*.—The Least Sandpiper was possibly the most plentiful of the shorebirds seen at Kitty Hawk in August, 1934. Numerous small flocks were seen daily feeding both on the mud flats on Albemarle Sound and in the short dune grass well up from the water's edge.

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER, *Pelidna alpina sakhalina*.—Near Rodanthe, on Pamlico Sound, scattered small flocks of these birds were seen on January 17, 1931, so they apparently winter regularly on this part of the coast. Their arrival in the fall is much later than that of the other shorebirds, for at Kitty Hawk, in 1934, but a single bird was seen during my stay there, feeding, August 21, with a flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers on a mud flat exposed by the low tide.

INLAND DOWITCHER, *Limnodromus griseus hendersoni*.—Dowitchers were fairly plentiful at Kitty Hawk during the latter part of August, 1934. Small flocks of from four to twelve birds were seen daily feeding with other shorebirds at suitable spots on Albemarle Sound. One bird taken August 14, 1934, is clearly referable to this recently described race from the interior of Canada.

STILT SANDPIPER, *Micropalama himantopus*.—My one record for the occurrence of

this species on the coast is that of three birds seen near Powder Ridge, August 25, 1934, feeding with other shorebirds on the Albemarle Sound mud flats exposed by the low tide.

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, *Ereunetes pusillus*.**—The Semipalmated Sandpiper was found to be a plentiful migrant both late in May and in August. In 1932, numerous small flocks were seen near Currituck Light, May 20, and at Beaufort, May 28; while in 1934, small flocks were seen daily at Kitty Hawk, August 14 to 26, feeding on the mud flats on the shore of Albemarle Sound. As with the other shorebirds, few were seen on the ocean beach.

**WESTERN SANDPIPER, *Ereunetes maurii*.**—At Rodanthe a flock of six birds was seen, January 17, 1931, and a male collected. The species proved to be plentiful in migration in August, for at Kitty Hawk, in 1934, small flocks were seen daily feeding with the other shorebirds. One bird, a female, was taken August 21.

**MARbled GODWIT, *Limosa fedoa*.**—My one record for the occurrence of this species on this stretch of coast is that of a single bird taken at Kitty Hawk, August 18, 1934, as it fed alone on a mud flat exposed by the low tide.

**SANDERLING, *Crocethia alba*.**—Sanderlings were seen on each trip to the coast, and seemingly are plentiful there throughout most of the year. In 1931, scattered flocks were seen at Oregon Inlet, January 16, 17, and 18; in 1932, small flocks were noted at Pine Island on Currituck Sound, May 22, and at Fort Fisher, near Wilmington, June 2; and in 1934, single birds or small flocks were observed daily, August 14 to 26, both on Albemarle Sound and on the ocean beach.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus marinus*.**—This stretch of coast is near the southern limit of the winter range of the Great Black-backed Gull, and the species was found to be rather scarce. Four birds were seen on January 17, 1931, at Oregon Inlet, three at one spot and one at another, feeding on the ocean beach with Herring Gulls.

**HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*.**—The Herring Gull winters abundantly on the coast. Numerous flocks were seen at Oregon Inlet, January 18, and at Fort Macon, January 20, 1931. It is apparently late in May before all the birds have departed for the north, for near Currituck Light, on May 20, 1932, fully a hundred were noted during the morning, feeding on the ocean beach. It is September before many of these birds have returned from their breeding grounds, for at Kitty Hawk, in 1934, two birds were recorded for the first time on August 18, and others at only infrequent intervals thereafter.

**LAUGHING GULL, *Larus atricilla*.**—The Laughing Gull is plentiful on this stretch of coast during the summer months, but apparently does not winter, as no birds were seen in January, 1931. At Beaufort, on May 28, 1932, small flocks were frequently noted; while in 1934, the birds were abundant at Stumpy Point, on Pamlico Sound, July 20, and at Kitty Hawk, both on Albemarle Sound and on the ocean beach, during the latter part of August.

**GULL-BILLED TERN, *Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*.**—At Kitty Hawk, August 16 to 26, 1934, this species was found to be relatively scarce. Single birds were seen at infrequent intervals feeding with the other terns.

**FORSTER'S TERN, *Sterna forsteri*.**—This was the commonest of the terns found on Albemarle Sound at Kitty Hawk. Small flocks were seen daily, August 17 to 26, 1934.

**COMMON TERN, *Sterna hirundo hirundo*.**—Fairly plentiful at Kitty Hawk and noted daily in small numbers feeding alone or with the other terns.

**LEAST TERN, *Sterna antillarum antillarum*.**—This species has increased percepti-

bly in numbers in recent years. Small colonies now breed at suitable spots along the whole of this coast. In 1932, it was plentiful at Beaufort, May 28, and was noted in equal numbers at Snead's Ferry, at the mouth of New River, May 31, and at Seaside, June 3. It was somewhat scarce at Kitty Hawk in the latter part of August, 1934, and was noted at infrequent intervals only.

ROYAL TERN, *Thalasseus maximus maximus*.—Royal Terns were fairly plentiful at Kitty Hawk, August 16 to 26, 1934. Small flocks were seen daily on Albemarle Sound.

CASPIAN TERN, *Hydroprogne caspia imperator*.—My one record of this species on this stretch of coast is that of a single bird seen at Powder Ridge, August 25, 1934, resting alone at the edge of the water on Albemarle Sound.

BLACK TERN, *Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*.—The Black Tern proved to be fairly plentiful at Kitty Hawk in the latter part of August, 1934, and was seen daily both on the ocean beach and on Albemarle Sound, frequently feeding with other terns.

BLACK SKIMMER, *Rynchops nigra nigra*.—At Seaside, on June 3, 1932, a small colony of six pairs of these birds was found nesting on a sand bar at the edge of the salt marsh. The nests on that date were merely slight hollows in the sand. At Kitty Hawk, on August 19, 1934, a flock of possibly twenty birds was seen, practically all of them fully grown young of the year.

EASTERN GROUND DOVE, *Columbigallina passerina passerina*.—Records for this species in the State are relatively few, so it was of interest to find two birds feeding at the edge of a field near Fort Fisher on June 2, 1932.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW, *Antrostomus carolinensis*.—This species is apparently somewhat scarce on the coast, for only at Swanquarter, at dusk on May 25, 1932, was a single bird heard at the edge of a stretch of open pine woods.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.—The Red-headed Woodpecker was rather scarce, and seen only at infrequent intervals. It was noted near Folkstone, June 1, and at Wilmington, June 2, 1932, in stretches of open pine woods.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER, *Dryobates borealis*.—Four birds, characteristically noisy, were seen in open pine woods near Beaufort, May 28, 1932.

NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus crinitus boreus*.—These birds were plentiful, and frequently seen in the scattered stretches of woods. Specimens taken on May 21, 1932, at Pine Island on Currituck Sound proved referable to this northern race.

NORTHERN HORNED LARK, *Otocoris alpestris alpestris*. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK, *Otocoris alpestris praticola*.—Flocks of Horned Larks, containing from thirty to forty individuals, were seen at infrequent intervals in the sand dunes south of Kitty Hawk in January, 1931. A female taken from a flock near Kitty Hawk, January 16, proved referable to the northern race (*alpestris*), while another female shot from another flock on the following day at Salvo was found to be typical of the more southern breeding bird (*praticola*). Possibly both forms are equally common on the coast during the winter months.

TREE SWALLOW, *Iridoprocne bicolor*.—Five birds, rather belated migrants, were seen on May 22, 1932, feeding over the salt marsh at Pine Island.

BARN SWALLOW, *Hirundo erythrogaster*.—There are very few definite breeding records for this species in the State, so it is of interest to record a colony of twelve pairs of these birds found nesting under a boat landing at Pine Island, May 20, 1932. The nests were on pilings or plastered against the beams of the landing, and were largely inaccessible because of the depth of the water. Of the four that could be

reached, one was fully built but as yet empty, one held four fresh eggs, and the other two, five eggs each, slightly incubated.

PURPLE MARTIN, *Progne subis subis*.—At Kitty Hawk, on August 22, 1934, Martins were observed migrating south in large numbers. Flocks of varying size, frequently containing a hundred or more individuals, were seen throughout most of the forenoon. In the dunes, where such flocks were feeding overhead, birds were frequently seen resting on the sand, appearing rather out of place as they dotted the ground in all directions.

SOUTHERN BLUE JAY, *Cyanocitta cristata florincola*.—Blue Jays were apparently somewhat scarce on this stretch of coast, for only at infrequent intervals were any seen. A male taken at Folkstone, June 1, 1932, proved referable to this southern race.

FISH CROW, *Corvus ossifragus*.—Although a common breeding bird, the Fish Crow winters rather sparingly on this stretch of coast, for I saw few individuals while I was at Oregon Inlet, January 16 to 19, 1931. At Pine Island, a nest was found, May 21, 1932, that held two fresh eggs, and was but eight feet from the ground in the top of a myrtle bush standing at the edge of a stretch of open salt marsh.

OHIO HOUSE WREN, *Troglodytes aëdon baldwini*.—House Wrens are rather local in their distribution on the coast during the summer months, for only at a few spots were they found breeding. Possibly the most southern breeding record on the Atlantic coast is that of a pair of birds found nesting in an old slashing near Beaufort, May 28, 1932. At Stumpy Point, on July 20, 1934, these birds were found to be fairly plentiful. Four singing males were seen about the town, and others were noted later that day in the short scattered stretches of pine woods. A male taken at Beaufort and another at Stumpy Point were found to be clearly referable to this newly described race, despite the fact that this should be within the range of the eastern form.

CAROLINA WREN, *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*.—Two birds were seen near Salvo on January 17, 1931, in the one small stretch of woods that still persists on this part of the coast, and on May 22, 1932, a nest with large noisy young was found in an old shed at the edge of the salt marsh at Pine Island.

WAYNE'S MARSH WREN, *Telmatodytes palustris waynei*.—This well-marked race, but recently described, was found in 1932, breeding abundantly in the stretches of salt marsh so characteristic of the northern half of this stretch of coast. It was especially numerous on May 20 at Pine Island, on Currituck Sound, when males could be heard singing on all sides throughout the morning. Nesting was barely under way at that date, for a nest found was but partially built. At Swanquarter, on Pamlico Sound, these birds were fairly plentiful May 25, but perceptibly scarcer than at other points farther north. Farther south none was noted either at Beaufort or Snead's Ferry, so there apparently is a large gap between the breeding range of this form and that of *Telmatodytes palustris griseus* found in northern Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

CATBIRD, *Dumetella carolinensis*.—Although the Catbird is known to winter regularly on the coast of North Carolina, it was of interest to find two birds in the small isolated stretch of woods near Salvo, January 17, 1931. In 1932, the species was found to be fairly plentiful in the breeding season as far south as Wilmington, where on June 2, it was frequently noted in thickets and underbrush at Fort Fisher.

SOUTHERN ROBIN, *Turdus migratorius achrusterus*.—The Robin was found to be scarce on the coast in the breeding season. Two birds seen at Washington, in Beaufort County, on May 26, 1932, possibly mark the southern limit of the species during the summer months in this part of the State.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, *Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*.—Although somewhat scarce and local in its distribution, this subspecies is apparently resident in this part of the State. A male taken at Tarboro, January 15, 1931, and a female at Hubert, fifty miles south of Beaufort, May 31, 1932, proved referable to the southern race.

MIGRANT SHRIKE, *Lanius ludovicianus migrans*.—A male taken at Tarboro, January 15, 1931, was found to be typical of this northern form.

NORTHERN WHITE-EYED VIREO, *Vireo griseus noveboracensis*.—White-eyed Vireos were found to be plentiful in 1932 along this entire stretch of coast, and were in evidence daily in the thickets and stretches of underbrush. Males taken at Powder Ridge, May 23, and at Fort Fisher, June 2, proved referable to this northern race.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, *Protonotaria citrea*.—This species was found to be plentiful in 1932 in stretches of swampy woods where cypress and tupelo gum predominated. It was noted at Columbia, May 24; at Lake Mattamuskeet and Swanquarter, May 25; and at Beaufort, May 28.

YELLOW WARBLER, *Dendroica aestiva aestiva*.—Although the Yellow Warbler has never been recorded as breeding on the North Carolina coast, it apparently has merely been overlooked, for in 1932 it was found to be actually plentiful on Currituck Sound. Scattered pairs were seen in the willow thickets bordering the open salt marsh at Pine Island on May 20 and 21. On May 23, several males, singing, were noted at Kitty Hawk, and on May 25 a single male, singing, and unquestionably a breeding bird, was seen in willows bordering Lake Mattamuskeet. This last possibly marks the southern limit of this species during the summer months on the Atlantic coast.

MYRTLE WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata coronata*.—The Myrtle Warbler is surprisingly abundant on this stretch of coast during the winter months; flocks of varying size are seen literally everywhere at that season. At Fort Macon, on January 20, 1931, these birds were not only seen in the myrtle thickets, but were feeding as well in the sparse grass in the sand dunes, in the open salt marsh, and even about several unoccupied houses.

WAYNE'S WARBLER, *Dendroica virens waynei*.—Present knowledge of the distribution of this recently described race on the Atlantic coast is rather meager, so in 1932, it was looked for wherever there was any possibility of finding it. It was first noted near Columbia on May 24, when four males, all singing, were seen that morning in a stretch of swampy and rather open woods. They invariably kept in the tops of the tallest trees where it was exceedingly difficult to see them, and but for their persistent singing, they would doubtless have been overlooked. The following day, May 25, one male was seen in cypress woods bordering Lake Mattamuskeet. It sang at frequent intervals while watched, and unquestionably was breeding there.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, *Dendroica dominica dominica*.—This species was fairly plentiful on this stretch of coast, and frequently noted in 1932 in pine woods. It was especially numerous at Columbia, May 24; at Swanquarter, May 25; and at Snead's Ferry, June 1.

NORTHERN PRAIRIE WARBLER, *Dendroica discolor discolor*.—This was one of the most abundant and widely distributed of the warblers of this part of the State. In 1932, it was seen daily, and was found practically everywhere where thickets or stretches of underbrush occurred. It was especially abundant at Kilkenny on May 24, in the wide stretches of desolate cut-over pine woods found there, although almost equally numerous in the stretches of open pine woods at Swanquarter on May 25, and about the thickets of myrtle and live oak on the islands near Beaufort on May 28.

ATHENS YELLOW-THROAT, *Geothlypis trichas typhicola*.—Yellowthroats were plentiful, and seen daily in 1932, about thickets and stretches of underbrush in the open pine woods, at the edges of the salt marsh, and on all the islands. Males taken at Pine Island, May 21; at Columbia, May 24; at Swanquarter, May 25; at Fort Macon, May 28; at Snead's Ferry, May 31; and at Fort Fisher, June 1, were all referable to this newly described race.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, *Icteria virens virens*.—Although there are apparently no previous records for the occurrence of this species on the coast during the summer months, it undoubtedly breeds sparingly in this part of the State. A male was seen at Beaufort, May 28, in a live-oak thicket in open woods.

SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella magna argutula*.—A male taken near Currituck Light, May 20, 1932, is referable to this southern race.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE, *Cassidix mexicanus major*.—Although this species is a common breeding bird on this stretch of coast, it apparently does not winter in any numbers, for at Oregon Inlet on January 18, 1931, but a few small scattered flocks were seen. Fully grown young out of the nest for some time were seen at Beaufort, May 28, 1932.

FLORIDA GRACKLE, *Quiscalus quiscula aglaeus*.—Despite the fact that the northern range of this southern race is supposedly limited to South Carolina, it was found to breed as far north as Albemarle Sound, and was well distributed on this stretch of coast. Two specimens taken in 1932, a male at Kitty Hawk, May 23, and a female at Lake Mattamuskeet, May 25, were clearly referable to this form.

EASTERN COWBIRD, *Molothrus ater ater*.—A flock of twenty birds, largely adults, seen at Kitty Hawk, August 20, 1934, suggested the possibility that this species may breed here on the coast.

PAINTED BUNTING, *Passerina ciris*.—The Painted Bunting was not noted in 1932 north of Beaufort, but there it was found, on May 28, to be almost plentiful, although largely limited in its distribution to the myrtle and live-oak thickets on the coastal islands.

ALABAMA TOWHEE, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster*.—This well-marked subspecies was found to be plentiful throughout the year on this entire stretch of coast, and its presence, determined by specimens taken, definitely eliminated suppositions advanced in past years that both *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus* and *P. e. alleni* were found during the summer months in the eastern part of the State. At Fort Macon, on January 19 and 20, 1931, Alabama Towhees were found in all the scattered myrtle and live-oak thickets, and were actually plentiful there. Specimens taken then, both males and females, were clearly referable to this race. In 1932, towhees were found to be equally plentiful in the breeding season here on the coast, and males taken at Kilkenny, May 24; Swanquarter, May 26; Beaufort, May 27; and Fort Fisher, June 1, all proved typical of *canaster*.

IPSWICH SPARROW, *Passerculus princeps*.—The Ipswich Sparrow was found in 1931, to be fairly plentiful during the winter months on this stretch of coast; single birds, rarely two or three together, were seen at Oregon Inlet, January 16, 17, and 18, feeding here and there in the sparse beach grass. At Fort Macon, on January 20, a single bird was seen feeding with Savannah Sparrows on the side of a sand dune.

EASTERN SAVANNAH SPARROW, *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*.—This species proved to be rather plentiful at Oregon Inlet, January 16, 17, and 18, 1932. Scattered flocks were frequently seen each day feeding in the sparse beach grass. It unquestionably winters abundantly here on the coast.

EASTERN HENSLOW'S SPARROW, *Passerherbulus henslowi susurrans*.—While I was



at Stumpy Point on July 20, 1934, a Henslow's Sparrow was heard singing from the edge of a wide stretch of open and slightly marshy meadow. Lack of time prevented a search for a nest or young, but there is little question that at least one pair of these birds nested there. Although recorded as breeding in 1932, near Chapel Hill, this extends materially the breeding range of this species on the Atlantic coast, since there have been no records heretofore south of southern Virginia.

NELSON'S SPARROW, *Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*.—A late migrant, a female, was taken in the open salt marsh at Beaufort, May 27, 1932.

MACGILLIVRAY'S SEASIDE SPARROW, *Ammospiza maritima macgillivrayi*.—A detailed study, in 1932, of the distribution of this Seaside Sparrow on this stretch of coast showed it to be confined largely to North Carolina, with the center of abundance between Swanquarter and Snead's Ferry. At Pine Island, where it was first noted May 21, it was somewhat scarce, despite an almost unlimited area of salt marsh. Here it was found at but two widely separated spots, five or six pairs nesting together where the marsh grass was relatively high and thick. At Swanquarter, on May 25, at Beaufort, May 28, and at Snead's Ferry, May 31, it was plentiful, while at Fort Fisher, June 2, it was again scarce and noted in small numbers only. A nest found at Snead's Ferry, near the mouth of the New River, containing four well-incubated eggs, was well concealed in a thick clump of marsh grass. Specimens taken at the localities here mentioned were all clearly referable to this race.

EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW, *Spizella passerina passerina*.—This species was fairly plentiful at Beaufort in 1932, where, on May 28, fully grown young were seen. An occasional male, singing, was noted at Snead's Ferry on June 1.

ATLANTIC SONG SPARROW, *Melospiza melodia atlantica*.—Song Sparrows were found to be fairly plentiful at Pine Island in 1932. Scattered breeding pairs were seen about myrtle thickets and in the willows bordering Currituck Sound. Specimens taken there May 21 and 22, are clearly referable to this maritime race.

*U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey*  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*