

flew into the road and began to feed in plain sight, to the great satisfaction of my party. After one good look I suspected its identity, and the bird was immediately collected. It proved to be a typical immature female *strigatus*, and I am much obliged to my colleague, J. C. Greenway, Jr., who compared the specimen with me, and concurs in the identification.

In the course of making comparisons, the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy proved to contain several Lark Sparrows from Florida, a state from which there are now numerous records of the species. An adult male, however, collected by J. W. Atkins at Key West, November 26, 1895, proves to be much nearer *strigatus* than *grammacus*, although another from Key West sent by the same collector is clearly typical *grammacus*. Wetmore has recently recorded an immature female *strigatus* from southeastern North Carolina (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 90: 527, 1941); just as he says, "this stray from the west may be identified at a glance."

Some 20 or more years ago the late Major Allan Brooks visited Grand Menan, New Brunswick in late September and early October, and stayed with Alan Moses. Stopping later at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, he told me of his surprise at collecting a Western Lark Sparrow, having expected the eastern race which C. W. Townsend found at Grand Menan in 1923. I do not know what has become of the specimen or whether he recorded it somewhere, or changed his mind. On October 17, 1936, a large group of us saw at close range an adult Lark Sparrow in the yard of the Coast Guard Station on Morris Island, south of Chatham, Cape Cod. I was convinced at the time this bird was *strigatus*, but the mixed flock of sparrows was frightened away by members of the crew and a dog, and disappeared in the scrub, so that I was unable to substantiate my suspicions.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Pine Siskins in northern Florida.—Since the invasion of Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) throughout the eastern seaboard states was rather general during the winter of 1946–1947, it may be well to record a Florida occurrence which may mark the southern limit of the invasion although it is not the first record of the species for the state. Five Siskins were observed feeding in some conifers and on the ground of the auto court, one-half mile north of Orange Park, Clay Co., Florida, on Route 17, on Feb. 7, 1947.—R. L. WEAVER, *Chapel Hill, North Carolina.*

Summer Tanager in Cook County, Illinois.—On May 2, 1944, I collected a male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra rubra*) at our home in Northfield Township, Cook County, Illinois. The skin is number 757 in my collection.

The only other specimen of this tanager from the Chicago region that has come to my attention is the one mentioned by Henry K. Coale (Auk, 35: 226, 1918) which was taken on May 19, 1917, two miles west of Highland Park in Lake County.—STEPHEN S. GREGORY, JR., *Box N, Winnetka, Illinois.*

A correction of first fresh-water nesting of Gull-billed Tern in Florida.—In the Auk, 65: 139, 1948, Mr. Donald J. Nicholson, of Orlando, Florida, claims to have discovered the first fresh-water nesting of the Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*) in Florida. The date was May 7, 1943.

On reading this note, this writer was astonished by reason of the fact that, in May, 1939, four years previous to the Nicholson record, he had found the Gull-billed Tern nesting in exactly the same spot (Lake Okeechobee) and had recorded that fact in the Auk (57: 251, 1940). Naturally, he wondered why Mr. Nicholson had not consulted the Auk for any possible earlier record than his, and wrote to him, asking that

question. A reply has been received from Mr. Nicholson, who states that, for some years, he did not receive the Auk, and was therefore "unaware of any previous breeding records of this tern for Okeechobee Lake." He followed this statement by saying that, at this time, he was not at all well, and while he regretted exceedingly his precipitancy in making the claim, he requested that this writer make the necessary correction as soon as possible. Hence this item.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston 50, South Carolina.*

The Louisiana Heron in Connecticut.—On June 14, 1947, I found an adult Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*) feeding near the mouth of a small stream that forms the boundary line between the towns of Westport and Fairfield, Connecticut. I sat in my car and observed the bird for about five minutes, using a 10 × prism monocular. Later I paced the distance between the position of my car and that of the bird and found it to be about 120 feet.

A Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) in adult plumage was near by and gave me opportunity for comparisons of size and build. The slightly smaller size and much more slender build of the Louisiana Heron was very apparent. The bluish-gray upper parts, purplish brown neck and breast, and the abrupt line between the latter and the pure white under parts were all made out clearly. There were, however, no nuptial plumes.

It was a cloudy day, and raining lightly during part of the time that I was observing the bird, but my glass has a coated objective lens which helps greatly under such conditions. Had the day been sunny I should probably not have seen the details so well, for it was morning, and I was looking from west to east. I should have liked to observe the bird for a longer time, but a pedestrian came along the road, and the bird flew off and took refuge in some tall grass.

There have been reports of sight identifications of this bird in Massachusetts (Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, 1 [no. 9]: 149, 1917; and 2 [no. 9]: 123, 1918) and it may be that this species is gradually extending its range northward much as the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) has done.—ARREAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Connecticut.*

Wilson's Phalarope in the District of Columbia and Virginia.—Mud-flats created on Columbia Island, D. C., during operations incident to the construction of the Memorial Bridge and the Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, attracted numerous species of shore-birds. Among those observed was the Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*), first seen by Mr. and Mrs. William J. Whiting in September, 1930. Three individuals were seen by the Whitings at the same place, September 27. Mr. and Mrs. Leo D. Miner, Mr. and Mrs. Whiting and I saw three on Columbia Island, September 30. At the same place October 2, 1930, in company with Mrs. T. M. Knappen, I collected an immature female. The Whitings saw one at Alexander Island, near Gravelly Point, Va., October 5. While with M. T. Donoho, I secured an immature male at Alexander Island, October 9, 1930. Both of these specimens are in the collection of the U. S. National Museum. These are believed to be the first examples of this species taken in the District of Columbia and Virginia.—W. H. BALL, *4311 W. Knox Road, College Park, Maryland.*

Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Cape Henry, Virginia.—On May 22, 1944, a flock of about fifty of these sparrows was found in a small salt marsh on Little Creek, some six miles up Chesapeake Bay from Cape Henry. Hoping to secure a specimen which would prove the birds to be breeding in that locality, I collected two birds and sent the skins to Alexander Wetmore for identification.