

D. c. auduboni material from Costa Rica. In addition, *D. c. auduboni* would not be expected in Costa Rica before October, whereas one of the dates listed by Lincoln is 22 August and four others are in September. On the other hand, *D. fusca* occurs in Costa Rica from mid-August into April and is rather widespread and numerous there (Slud, 1964: 324). Regardless of whether or not Lincoln's records can be specifically allocated to other species, it seems clear that they cannot be applied with any confidence to *D. c. auduboni*. There are two sight records of Audubon's Warbler in Costa Rica (Slud, 1964: 323), and while they may be valid, specimen confirmation is still awaited.

I am grateful to several people for help in investigating the *D. c. auduboni* matter, including R. C. Banks, C. S. Robbins, C. H. Rogers, and P. Slud, and to K. C. Parkes for pointing out the significance of the *D. palmarum* record.—JOHN P. HUBBARD, *Delaware Museum of Natural History, Greenville, Delaware 19807*. Accepted 6 Dec. 71.

Field Sparrow uses abandoned nest for August brood.—On 22 July 1971 while conducting an ecological study of the Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) in an open pine stand in eastern Texas, I located what was apparently an abandoned nest of this species. Although the nest was in a relatively unworn condition, it showed no signs of being in use. I concluded from its general appearance and condition that it probably had already been used this season, rather than having been just recently built. I rechecked the nest on 3 August, almost 2 weeks later, and it still showed no evidence of being in use. It contained a small number of pine needles that had fallen from branches above, but otherwise appeared in much the same condition as before.

On 23 August my attention was attracted once again to the nest, this time by a pair of Field Sparrows, one of which I had recently color-banded. To my surprise I found this pair of sparrows were feeding three young approximately 2 days old in the nest. The first egg must have been laid, therefore, within a few days of 6 August.

The nest was 2 m above the ground in a young loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) 2.3 m tall. The nest measurements were: 89 mm exterior diameter, 52 mm interior diameter, 46 mm interior depth, 66 mm overall depth. It weighed 5.2 g. The exterior of the nest was composed of thick-stemmed grasses, and the inside contained fine rootlets and was lined with black horsehair.

The reuse of nests is common in many large birds such as storks and eagles (Welty, *The life of birds*, Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1962, p. 275), but apparently is rare among passerines. Walkinshaw (Wilson Bull., 48: 94, 1936; Bird-Banding, 10: 107, 149, 1939; Bird-Banding, 16: 1, 1945) in his extensive studies on the Field Sparrow does not mention any instances of nest reuse. A possibility exists that no young were reared successfully in this nest prior to August, and that the initial attempt (or attempts) to raise a brood met with failure. However, judging by the fact the slightly worn nest was apparently not in use for a 2-week interval toward the end of the breeding season, I believe it likely that a successful nesting occurred before the August clutch was laid. It may be that this unusual behavior was in some way associated with the relatively late nesting of the pair observed.

I am grateful to Charles D. Fisher for his criticisms and comments.—PIERRE N. ALLAIRE, *Department of Biology, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961*. Accepted 22 Nov. 71.