

nuts. Near Morgantown, the home of Richard F. Sowers has a large beech tree on the lawn. Evening Grosbeaks in flocks up to 50 birds searched the grass for these nuts, remaining until May 12, 1955.

On a number of occasions in 1952, Marion L. Hundley and the writer watched Evening Grosbeaks cutting through the hulls of and feeding on the nuts of scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*). The birds used their bills to slice open acorns which had fallen to the ground. We examined a number of the partially-eaten nuts.

Another much-eaten food was the winged seeds of tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Since this tree does not grow very far northward, the birds are obviously adapting their eating habits to new foodstuffs when they move south. Other winged seeds, particularly those of box elder (*Acer negundo*) and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) were, as might be expected, commonly eaten. Buds of trees, especially of large-toothed aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), birches (*Betula* sp.), and maples (*Acer* sp.) were frequently fed upon.

Not until the winter of 1954-55 did observers in West Virginia have many opportunities to observe food habits of Pine Grosbeaks. In November of that year, however, the birds were widely distributed and locally common in mountainous areas. They remained until February, affording bird students many chances to make field observations.

The birds fed on frozen fruits (particularly apples), seeds of maple and white ash, and on some portion of the twigs of conifers, especially pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*). In addition they made extensive use of other plant foods, some of which would not be available northward. These included seeds of tulip poplar, wild grapes (*Vitis* sp.), black haw and wild raisin (*Viburnum prunifolium* and *V. cassinoides*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and greenbrier (*Smilax* sp.). Bailey, James Beach, and others found the birds feeding on fruits of staghorn sumach (*Rhus hirta*).

Local observers are hoping that the wider range of acceptable foodstuffs southward may influence future winter movements of these two bird species.—MAURICE BROOKS, *Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, January 10, 1956.*

A Lincoln Sparrow on the east coast of Florida.—In the course of trapping small mammals at Ormond Beach, Volusia County, Florida, December 26-28, 1954, I caught by fortunate accident a specimen of the Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*). The bird, a male, was dead but in good condition when found about 8:00 a.m. on the 27th; it was made into a study skin (R.A.N. 1501) and has been deposited in the collection of the Biology Department at the University of Georgia. The vegetation of the trapping site, which was in a residential area, included grasses, sere composites, a clump of yellow jessamine, camphor trees, and a patch of scrub palmetto. There was no water or marshy vegetation close by; the nearest salt marsh was a quarter mile away, the ocean a half mile away.

As compiled by Sprunt (1954. "Florida Bird Life," pp. 491, 492), previous records of the Lincoln Sparrow in Florida are as follows: Orlando, January 23, 1911, one seen (H. W. Ballantine); Lake Iamonia, March 26, 1919, one seen (L. Griscom); Whitney Plantation, Leon County, March 13, 1925, one collected (H. L. Stoddard); and near Pensacola, December 28, 1952 (and again some days later), one seen (F. M. Weston). As reported by Stevenson (1955. *Audubon Field Notes*, 9(1):22), one of these sparrows was collected by H. L. Stoddard on Alligator Point, Franklin County, October 15, 1954, the first autumnal record for the state. Still more recently, Mr. Stoddard (written communication) established another fall record when he picked up a bird, too much

damaged for preparation as a skin, under the television tower on Tall Timber Plantation, northern Leon County, on October 9, 1955.

Although my December bird is by no means a "first" for Florida, it seems nonetheless the first Lincoln Sparrow to be recorded for the Atlantic coastal strip of the southeastern United States.—ROBERT A. NORRIS (*University of Georgia Ecological Studies, AEC Savannah River Plant area*), 535 Powderhouse Road, Aiken, South Carolina, January 31, 1956.

Breeding record of Brewer Sparrow in northwestern Montana.—The Brewer Sparrow (*Spizella breweri breweri*) breeds in Montana east of the continental divide (Saunders, 1921. *Pacific Coast Avif.*, No. 14) and in eastern Washington (Wing, 1950. *Auk*, 66:41). This sparrow, however, has not been recorded from the northwestern mountainous region of Montana.

In the summer of 1955, in the course of work carried on at the Flathead Lake Biological Station of the Montana State University, a small breeding population of the Brewer Sparrow was found in sagebrush habitat at 3,000 feet elevation in the valley of the Little Bitterroot River in Sanders County, Montana. This is about midway between the populations of Washington and eastern Montana. Six specimens were collected 5 miles south of Niarada, July 16 to 22. Two of the birds were adult males with testes in breeding condition (7 and 8 mm.). Two were adult females (ova 1.5 and 1.0 mm.), each with a naked brood patch. The other two were juveniles, one still in postnatal molt with rectrices unsheathing (July 16), the other with postnatal molt completed (July 17). It is likely that these juveniles were recently out of the nest and were produced near the locality where they were collected.

The Brewer Sparrows were found mainly on low hillocks and in swales supporting a sagebrush vegetation in which two types of wormwood, *Artemisia ludoviciana* and *A. dracunculus*, occurred and also two species of rabbit brush, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus* and *C. nauseosus*. The shrubs were typically one to three feet high. Also snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* sp.) and hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) were scattered about, and in a few moister places service-berry (*Amelanchier* sp.), rose (*Rosa* sp.), and willow (*Salix* sp.) occurred. The life zone is Upper Sonoran. Sagebrush habitat is quite limited in northwestern Montana, and this may be why the Brewer Sparrow has been overlooked here.

Associated with the Brewer Sparrow in the dry sagebrush habitat were Vesper Sparrows (*Pooecetes gramineus*), Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*), and Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*), while a greater variety of species was present at interspersed moist or marshy spots, including the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Traill Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), and the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).—PAUL H. BALDWIN, *Department of Zoology, Colorado A. and M. College, Fort Collins, Colorado, and Montana State University Biological Station, Bigfork, Montana, February 17, 1956.*

Unusual eggs of the Boat-billed Heron.—The eggs of the Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) have seldom been described, although the species occupies much of the Neotropical lowlands and is fairly common locally. Belcher and Smooker (1934. *Ibis*, p. 583), apparently the first to publish detailed information, described the eggs as "pale bluish-white, the larger pole being usually faintly spotted or splashed with red. Four average 48.5 × 35.5 mm." Two eggs are considered to comprise a clutch. In Trinidad breeding has been noted in July and August.