

The double-scratch in the Seaside Sparrow.—Harrison's (Wilson Bull., 79:22-27, 1967) list of genera of the subfamily Emberizinae for which the double-scratch had been recorded did not include *Ammospiza*.

On 8 December 1968 I observed a captive Seaside Sparrow (*Ammospiza maritima*) engage in the double-scratch several times in a period of a few minutes. This backward-kicking movement of both feet was performed while the bird was in an indoor 10 × 12 feet room, the floor of which was covered with dirt and had *Spartina alterniflora* stalks stuck into and held erect by the dirt. The bird double-scratched in a small open area of loose dry dirt with a few millet seeds scattered about.

Whenever I have observed this species feeding in the wild, it generally fed in mud, walking about in a deliberate fashion. But an occasion for the use of the double-scratch might be provided by the occurrence at times in tidal marshes of extensive drifts of *Spartina* seed (which is eaten by this generally insectivorous bird). The fact that feeding Seaside Sparrows are difficult to observe in the thick vegetation of a salt marsh may help explain the lack of previous reports of this double-scratch behaviorism from this species.—FRANK ENDERS, *Department of Zoology, Duke University, Durham, N.C. 27706, 1 April 1969.*

Nest-building, incubation period, and fledging in the Black-chinned Hummingbird.—On 14 April 1964 a female Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) appeared in the English ivy (*Hedera helix*) outside our family room in Phoenix, Arizona, apparently looking for a nesting site. It continued to look on 15 April, selected a spot on 16 April and worked on the nest throughout the day. On 17 April it started working at 07:00 and continued building during most of the day. It was still working on the nest on 18 April but not as consistently as on the preceding days. The nest appeared to be finished in 19 April. The nest was two meters above the ground and 0.25 meters from the picture window. It was constructed of oleander seeds (*Nerium oleander*), spider webs, feathers, and mulberry blossoms (*Morus* sp.). The female spent about 15 seconds at the nest arranging material and was gone about a minute and a half before returning with additional material. This was the pattern on 17 April.

Both eggs were laid on 20 April, one early in the morning and the other late in the afternoon. The female began incubating on 21 April. The male was not seen.

On 3 May the female added bits of white paint from our house to the outside of the nest.

One egg hatched on 7 May after an incubation period of 16 days. The other egg did not hatch. The female began feeding the nestling on 8 May.

The young bird moved out of the nest at 15:00 on 28 May, returned at 16:30, and left the nest at 18:20. It remained in the ivy vines for two days, while the female continued to feed it.

I wish to thank E. M. Reilly, Jr., and Stephen M. Russell for reading and criticizing this note, and Eleanor Radke for putting my notes into correct form.—SALOME ROSS DEMAREE, 148 West Rose Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85013, 16 June 1969.

Activity of migrant thrushes as determined by radio-telemetry.—During the spring and fall *Hylocichla* thrush migrations from 1965 through 1968, 88 thrushes were tagged with radio-transmitters as described in Graber (*Audubon Mag.*, 67:368-374, 1965), and in Cochran et al. (*Living Bird*, 6:213-225, 1967).

Due to signal propagation characteristics, even slight movements of radio-tagged birds (such as shifting position on a perch) resulted in audible signal variations. Approximately 500 hours were spent noting these signal variations during periods from sunset to sunrise. During the fall of 1968 an additional 350 hours of thrush activity were recorded by connecting the receiver output to a strip-chart recorder.

Data were obtained for Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*), Swainson's Thrush (*H. ustulata*), Gray-cheeked Thrush (*H. minima*), and Veery (*H. fuscescens*). The frequency and temporal pattern of movements were similar for all the above species.

Typically, diurnal activity began about 20 minutes before sunrise, ceased about 20 minutes before sunset, and consisted of intermittent movement interspersed with 5 to 15 minute periods of no movement (Fig. 1).

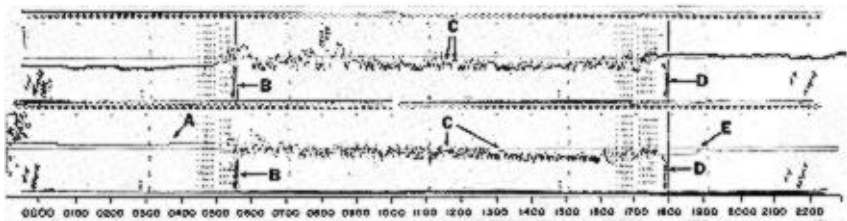


FIG. 1. Strip-chart activity record of an adult Gray-cheeked Thrush on 16 September and 20 September 1968. Times shown are Central Standard. The fuzziness and irregularity of the record before sunrise and after sunset of 16 September was due to fluctuating power line noise. A: A single nocturnal perch movement. B: Sunrise. C: Diurnal periods of no movement. D: Sunset. E: A nocturnal flight lasting about 20 seconds.

Typical nocturnal activity consisted of little or no movement. On 30 per cent of the approximately 220 bird-nights, no movement whatsoever was noted (one radio-tagged bird observed for one night is one bird-night). One to four movements lasting less than a few seconds each were noted on 65 per cent of the bird-nights. Flights lasting less than one minute were observed on 11 occasions (about 5 per cent of the bird-nights).

During the study the initiation of 25 migratory flights was observed. Thrushes began migratory flights after evenings of no movement, a few movements, and after short flights. However, six of 11 short flights were not followed by migratory flights. So far, no *zugunruhe* nor any other activity pattern, diurnal or nocturnal, has been found to regularly precede migratory flight. There was nothing in the bird's behavior, even in the last seconds before take-off, to indicate that a migratory flight was about to take place.

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First specimens of Chestnut-collared Longspur and Little Gull from Connecticut.—A Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) was collected on 29 August 1968 at Lordship Beach, Stratford, Fairfield County, Connecticut. The bird was associated with a resident family of Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*). Although the gonads were destroyed, the specimen was identified as an adult female by comparison of plumage with a large series of longspurs at the American Museum of Natural History.