

Mr. Lawrence visited Pine Lake on the borders of Manitoba and Ontario (actually in Ontario) on July 3. He found the Evening Grosbeak in some numbers but found no nest.

Since returning to Winnipeg, Mr. Lawrence tells me that one of the orchardists at the Agricultural College told him that he had actually found the nest of an Evening Grosbeak near the college grounds. Mr. Lawrence promptly went out to see it, but the man was unable to locate it again and supposed that it had been destroyed.

My own time, from the middle of June to the beginning of August, was spent at the Manitoba University Biological Station at Indian Bay, Shoal Lake, Lake of the Woods. Indian Bay is in Manitoba, a few miles from the Ontario boundary. I saw no signs of Evening Grosbeaks till July 23, when I heard the note on one of the islands in the bay. To my surprise I found an old bird accompanied by a single young one clamouring for food. To my great regret I failed to secure either of them, as they were almost at once lost to view in the growth and were not seen again till leaving the island and out of range. On the 26th, however, on the mainland and not far from the Biological Station, I again heard the note and this time found a family of three or four being fed by the parents. I shot two of the young, but one was lost in the dense growth. Later in the day I came across yet another family of young and collected one of these. There can be no doubt that these birds were bred in the immediate vicinity as the youngest of the two I secured could not have been long out of the nest. They may have been reared on one of the islands, though the forest is so dense that they more probably had their homes on the mainland and escaped observation earlier.—WM. ROWAN, *Department of Biology, Alberta University, Edmonton, Alta., Canada.*

A Change in the Nesting Habits of the Common House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).—After its introduction into the National Capital, the House Sparrow bred the following spring and summer in many places. Hundreds of them made their nests in the vines on churches and elsewhere; while it was no uncommon thing to observe from three to half a dozen of their big, bulky nests in one of the street maples or other trees. They were all the more conspicuous for the reason that the birds bred so early that their nests were in evidence long before the selected trees had fully leafed out.

Then, in a year or so, followed the "sparrow-war"—a persecution to the death of these birds, carried on in the most merciless manner. Their nests were pulled out of trees and other places more rapidly than they could build them; great nets were thrown over vines on churches, houses, and other buildings after roosting time, and thousands of others fell victims to the law ordering their extermination. Various other devices were resorted to in order to destroy this poor, little, introduced feathered "pest"; but the House Sparrow had come to stay, and, owing to his long, long training in the cities of many countries and among all nations of men,

he had learned a whole lot about a good many things—especially about the importance of the matter of propagating his own species. Here in Washington, only a few years ago, he quit building, communal style, in the vines covering such “sacred edifices” as churches; he also practically gave up nesting in trees that lined the streets and avenues in all directions. As a matter of fact, the sparrow gave up his housekeeping in any such public places.

Now this year (1920) I have given especial attention to the nesting of this species here in this city, and the interesting fact has come to my notice that the bird has not built out in plain sight anywhere. I have been unable to observe the presence of a nest within the city limits. That they are nesting in as great numbers as ever there can be no doubt; for, as the weather warms up, one may note the males courting the females as usual, and both sexes gathering and flying away with materials for nest construction. However, both males and females have become extremely secretive; and whatever place a pair selects for a nesting-site, they make more than certain that no part of the nest is allowed to stick out beyond the entrance. On several occasions I watched a bird with some nesting material in its beak, to note where it flew, and thus discover where a nest would be later on. Every time I did so, however, the bird would drop what it had; in an unconcerned manner take up something else, or fly up into a tree until I took my departure. I have not seen a House Sparrow's nest in a tree in Washington this year; while twenty-five or thirty years ago one could count as many as half a dozen in a single tree, sometimes, on any of the busiest thoroughfares.—DR. R. W. SCHFELDT, *Washington, D. C.*

Notes on the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Passerherbulus nelsoni subvirgatus*).—On June 12, 1920, in a small salt marsh near Bunker's Island, at the southern end of Yarmouth Harbor, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, I found the occupied nest of a pair of Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrows. The nest proper was a neat, round cup of fine, dry, dead grass, with some horsehair in the lining. Its foundation consisted of some small masses of “eel-grass” and roots. Its dimensions were: inside diameter, 2.5 in.; outside diameter, 4.5 in.; inside depth, 1.5 in.; outside depth, 2.375 in. It was elevated above the general surface of the marsh by being placed on the top of a low, grassy ridge, about fourteen inches high, formed from material thrown up when a ditch was dug across the marsh, many years before. During some storm a mat of dead “eel-grass” had been left on top of this ridge, and this had later been lifted by the growing marsh grass, leaving several inches between it and the ground. The nest was placed at the northwest edge of this mat, about half of the nest being under it, while the other side was sheltered and concealed by grass about six inches high. The nest was not sunk in the ground at all.

Two young Sharp-tails, partly feathered, and nearly ready to leave the nest, were in their snug home, while the dried body of a third young



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