

place after a lapse of a couple of weeks or so but did not see it again."

On quite a number of occasions in the last twenty years, during our winter visits to Point Pelee, Mr. Bert Gardner, who is a keen and accurate observer, told us that he had seen Marsh Wrens in the winter. These birds were seen out in the bulrushes and quite a long distance from shrubby cover, but we hesitated to take serious notice of them as records because Bert did not use glasses on them and in any event one doesn't like to establish a new record by sight only; then one had always to remember that the Carolina Wren lived on Point Pelee all winter and that there are winter records in Ontario of both the Winter Wren and Bewick's Wren. But now that it is established by Dr. Hurlburt and his party that the Long-bill has been positively identified in winter, the sight records of Mr. Bert Gardner may be published as supplementary.—W. E. SAUNDERS.

RECENT FINDS OF ARCTIC SPIDERS.—During the last year several explorers have brought back specimens of rare northern species of spiders which throw additional light on their distribution. In June, 1925, Mr. W. B. Hoare made a small collection near the mouth of the Coppermine River which included the minute *Microneta maritima* Em., described in the report of the Arctic Expedition of 1913-16, and several specimens of *Lycosa pictilis* Em. and *Pardosa galeialis* Thor. common species of the Arctic Coast and New England mountain tops. In July, 1926, Mr. J. D. Soper, at Cape Dorset, Baffin's Land, collected several *Lycosa asivak* Em. which was found in large numbers by the Expedition of 1913-16 along the coast from Alaska to Coronation Gulf. On the top of Mt. Washington, N.H., July 11, 1926, Mr. Nathan Banks found several specimens of both sexes of *Tmeticus alatus* Em., first found on the Arctic Coast by Mr. Frits Johansen of the Expedition of 1913-16, and described in the Report of the Expedition. In the summer of 1926, Mr. R. H. Woodworth, with a party of Harvard University students exploring the waters of Northern Labrador, found in the Torngat region *Lycosa quinarina* Em., first found by J. B. Tyrrell in the Rocky Mountains in 1886 and later in southern Labrador near the Straits of Belle Isle, in western Newfoundland, and near Bangor, Maine.—J. H. EMERTON.

OCCURRENCE OF GRASSHOPPER SPARROW AT TORONTO, ONTARIO.—The Grasshopper or Yellow-winged Sparrow is one of the birds which helps to make bird observation interesting at Toronto. Not that the species is always here to

observe—often it is absent. Nor can it be called a particularly interesting bird, for of all the finches, this sombre-coloured unobtrusive little inhabitant of the fields is certainly the least likely to attract attention. Its most interesting feature is the unaccountable manner in which it may appear, become tolerably common for a season or so, then vanish for several succeeding years. My personal observations of this bird at Toronto are as follows:

One of the years this bird appeared in this vicinity happened to be the first that I paid serious attention to bird-study, consequently it became one of my earliest acquaintances. It was in those bygone school-boy days. We had followed the year through from the first of January, duly recording the few winter birds we had met. Then, in turn we learned such spring arrivals as came to our notice. The migration rose to its height, taking us with it, so that by early summer we considered ourselves well-launched in the study of Ornithology. Then came the summer lull.

One July day we visited a large open field surrounded by woods. It was very hot. In memory I still see that field simmering with heat waves. We were resting in the shade of the neighbouring trees, our enthusiasm having waned with the increasing heat. The bird notes too, had given place to the drowsy hum of insects. Presently, from some little distance out on the field, we caught the faint insect-like notes of a strange bird. Before long we saw the singer—a microscopic dot on the sweet clover stalks—buzzing out a microscopic song. Thin and wheezy as the song sounded it has, ever since, seemed to me to be like that day—sizzling hot. "Pit-tuck-zee-e-e-e" it might be written. It was well the bird enunciated his notes so clearly. Thus was the song described in our "bird book." Certainly the singer himself shows no distinguishing marks as an aid to his identification.

This was in 1902. Four years went by before, the Grasshopper Sparrow again came into our ken, and then under very unexpected circumstances. One of my ornithological friends, called one night and suggested we walk down to Scarboro' Bluff in the moonlight, stay at his cottage, and return the next day. We were given to such excursions in those days. Often a midnight tramp brought to light—if I may use such a phrase—incidents of bird-lore we would otherwise have missed. This night there happened to be a glorious full moon. Our route led through various ravines, then out along a long country road, through level farm country. The same road is now a well-paved street flanked by modern stores and travelled by T.T.C. cars. As we passed one wide field, we distinctly heard the Grasshopper Sparrow in song.





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