

parison; only thus can one appreciate the difference between eggs of Song, White-throated and Swamp Sparrows. All of these might be roughly described as spotted with brown on a light greenish ground; but on comparison, taking eggs of the Song Sparrow as a type of reddish brown, the others become respectively, distinctly brick-red and umber-brown. Of course, eggs of the White-throat are generally, though not invariably, larger than the other two species. Four eggs are usually deposited; less commonly three and five. The foregoing remarks apply for the most part to first layings, as the White-throat rears at least two broods in a season, usually the first in the early part of June and the second in mid-July, though some birds delay until August.

As the rank growth in the damp woods advances with the summer, the birds seek more open woods and second growths, where they nest in brush heaps and evergreen bushes as well as on the ground. In so doing they simply avoid the uncongenial depth and density of undergrowth similarly as in the sphagnum bogs earlier in the season. The White-throat gives little indication as to the location of its nest; likely you will hear the male sing, but not a note of alarm until you flush the female, when both birds immediately join in an angry outcry. If, however, the nest contains young and the parent is not on the nest, you will likely be notified when some distance away. As far as I know the female sparrow alone incubates her eggs; though once on a hot day at noon I flushed two birds from a rather exposed nest. This nest contained newly hatched young and no doubt the parents were endeavoring to protect them from the sun's rays. Leaving the locality and returning several minutes later, I had a good view of both birds covering the nest with outspread wings.

There is considerable individuality in the mode of leaving the nest; a bird building in bushes will usually slip quietly to the ground and steal away on the far side, eventually flying to a perch overhead, when the alarm note is sounded. In the case of ground-nesting, the bird usually flushes directly from the nest and immediately seeks a perch. Occasionally, however, she will slip away as quietly as a mouse and get some distance from the nest before taking flight. This method of evacuation is more common when the nest contains young, in which case you are fortunate in seeing the bird before hearing her. In whatever manner the bird may be flushed she will usually seek a perch above ground before giving vent to alarm, this alarm being expressed in a "chip" repeated at intervals, a note much more metallic than that of other resident sparrows.

In late July and early August, whilst many birds are still