

The variation in the colors and markings of eggs is very great, some resembling those of the Savanna sparrow, others with a lighter ground and larger blotches resemble those of the vesper sparrow, while one set has very small spots and is of a general slaty hue, resembling the eggs of the horned lark, and yet another closely resembles some sets of the bobolink. The nest is built in a similar manner to that of the Savanna sparrow, an excavation of nearly an inch being made among long, fallen grass of last year's growth, and the nest is seated in this excavation and built up about two inches above the ground level. It is well concealed, and would be difficult to find were it not that the bird is very particular as to the proper condition of grass, and as this condition is rather unusual, one's search is reduced to a trifle. Towards the eastern end of the island where the crowberry, *Empetrum nigrum* grows abundantly, a patch of it is often selected as a nesting site, and the task of discovery becomes more difficult.

The song resembles very closely that of our species, but the ending, instead of being a grasshopper-like buzz, as with us, is aptly described by Dr. Dwight as "pre-e-e-a." Reading these letters in a book conveyed no very definite idea of the sound to my mind, but when I heard it I realized that not only was the description very accurate, but that the sound was almost exactly the same as the call of the tern, which, doubtless, the bird has acquired by dint of hearing this cry thousands of times each day, all summer long. That such changes do take place was proved to me some years ago by hearing a junco that lived in a region of white-throated sparrows, render his song, not a plain series of "chips," as usual, but "chip-chip-chip....chip-chip-chip," etc., in triplets, exactly as the white-throat does.

While the Ipswich sparrows are found during the migration as far south as the Carolinas, it is a remarkable fact that a fair proportion of them reside on Sable Island all winter, the number remaining being usually estimated at about one-fifth of the total. During severe weather many of these are sometimes picked up exhausted and chilled, and are then sheltered and fed till a better season arrives. And not only are the birds themselves thus cared for, but the foxes, which are the chief enemies of this and other birds on Sable Island, are unmercifully pursued at every oppor-