

the night, when the wind permits, one can hear an occasional call, and in the day time I do not suppose that one could locate himself in so remote a spot that he would hear their calls as seldom as every half minute, and when one visits a nesting ground the other extreme is reached and it is often impossible to converse with one's companion except by great exertion.

The Ispwich sparrow, which was the chief attraction to me on Sable Island, is an insular race of the Savanna sparrow of eastern North America. In the struggle for existence for thousands of years on this bleak little islet, the bird has become considerably larger and much paler than the continental form. The increase in length is about 13mm., or 8 per cent. The breeding ground of this bird was for many years unknown, and not until 1894 was the bird fully studied and written upon. Previous to that time it was known as a migrant from Georgia to Maine and Nova Scotia, and as a straggler to Newfoundland, but it then disappeared from sight, though it was vainly hunted in the breeding season on Prince Edward and Cape Breton islands and in Newfoundland. At last a few shrewd guessers surmised that it must breed on Sable Island, and finally a skin sent from there in summer settled the matter, but its summer history was not known until Dr. Jonathan Dwight, jun., of New York, braved the inconveniences of the passage to the island, and spent three happy weeks there in May and June, studying the summer habits, song, etc., of this interesting species. Shortly afterwards he published a complete and very interesting monograph of this sparrow, including also an account of the history, climate and other features of the island, thus giving to the world the details that had so long been wanting.

I was far more favored in my visit than he, as the season was more advanced, and the weather brighter and more favorable and I found that the intervening period of time had been auspicious for the sparrows, as they were much more abundant than he represented them to be in 1894. I found many nests, most of them being incomplete, but in seven instances I was able to take sets of eggs, four containing 5 eggs, and the remaining three 4, showing a marked difference from the Savanna sparrow, which almost invariably lays 4 eggs in this locality.