

pairs of birds than one would expect if the breeding season were in progress. We also found one pair in the act of building.

The nest which we found was prepared exactly as stated by Mr. Peabody in the Auk, namely, in long grass partly fallen over, not placed on the ground, but three or four inches above it, supported mostly by dead grass. This differs widely from published reports, some of which are quoted below.

The nest was built of grass exclusively, the inner being, of course, finer. The five eggs which it contained varied in size from .69 x .5 to .7 x .54 and are strikingly different from eggs of the Savanna and Song Sparrow type, resembling rather some sets of Field Sparrow but larger. The ground colour is pure white and the spots a very light reddish-brown in a rather heavy wreath near the large end. The rest of the egg is almost unmarked.

The bird flushed from the nest when we were about five feet on each side of her, and the nest was found without difficulty, but, in other parts of the large field where the birds were, we would probably have had trouble in finding one even if the bird had been flushed as the grasses were so heavily matted.

The field contained perhaps 75 acres and had grown up to wild grass entirely. A small part only had been ploughed in some earlier year, but had not been harrowed, and the rest was apparently in its original condition. I should judge that the grass would grow to a height of three feet and the birds nest, as stated, in the matted dry grass of the previous year's growth. Most of the field was burnt off since last summer, and consequently our search was confined to the comparatively small portion which the fire had left untouched. The ground is only slightly raised above the Lake level and has doubtless become dry since the construction of a ditch and dyke nearby.

In Baird, Brewer and Ridgway's "Birds of North America," it is stated that the nest is placed "on the ground in a depression or apparently an excavation scratched out by the bird itself. The nest is a well made structure."

Davies' "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds," states that the nest is placed on the ground, sometimes in a slight depression, beneath a tussock made of grasses and a few cow hairs.

In the Nidologist, Vol. 1, p. 180, L. W. Watkins describes the taking of a nest similar to ours, about 4 inches above the ground in a tuft of grass.

From these notes it will be seen that the position of the nest is variable.

The Short-billed Marsh Wren inhabits similar ground to Henslow Sparrow, although I have never as yet found them