

On 18 May 1969 a Bald Eagle was found perched on each of the three posts in the edge of the White Ibis colony. Two of the eagles appeared to be of the current season's hatch and one from the 1968 season. When we began to check the ibis colony it was quite evident that a tremendous amount of egg breakage had taken place close to the areas where the eagles were securing the young for food. A rough estimate showed that nearly 1,500 nests were abandoned. The eagles continued to feed in the colony for several more days and were still present on 21 May. It may surprise some to learn that instead of reducing the number of White Ibis that fledged, a significant increase in nesting success was found by the end of the season.

## **Late Summer Record of a Saw-whet Owl**

DOUGLAS PRATT

Route 3, Box 113L, Charlotte, N.C. 28210

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While observing the sunset from Barnett Knob Fire Tower on the Swain-Jackson county line in the Cherokee Indian Reservation in North Carolina on 14 August 1969, I heard the unmistakable call notes of the Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). The time was approximately 8:15 PM EDT. The bird gave its call twice with an interval of about 8 minutes between the calls. Mike Browne and Darryl Moffet were also present.

The area surrounding the summit of Barnett Knob is second-growth deciduous forest. Spruce is not present save for three small trees at the base of the tower. These appear to have been planted. This observation thus constitutes a late-season calling record for North Carolina as well as a record from outside of the normal habitat of the Saw-whet Owl. The elevation of Barnett Knob is approximately 4,500 feet. The bird was not heard on subsequent visits.

## **Leconte's Sparrow at Franklin, N.C.**

MARY ENLOE

Route 1, Box 193, Franklin, N.C. 28734

Throughout the summer of 1968 I noticed small webs on the undersides of the leaves on the lower limbs of my sycamore tree. As the leaves fell they became attractive to several species of birds, including an Ovenbird, Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmice, Chipping, Field and Song sparrows, and Rufous-sided Towhees. Because of the activity among the leaves, I periodically checked the birds working on them.

About 5 PM on 17 October I thought I detected a movement in the fallen leaves about 5 yards from where I stood. I picked up binoculars and focused for close viewing. The bird worked so furtively that it was difficult to pick it up. I noted the dingy orange stripe above the eye, extending from bill to the nape of neck, and that the face and neck were suffused with the same shade of dull orange. When it faced me I noted the light streak down the center of the head and that its breast and under parts were unstreaked. It definitely was not a native bird and I delayed getting out my guide until I had seen every detail. When it turned I noted the sparse, and short, sharp tail, then reached for Peterson's guide. With close study it appeared to be a Leconte's Sparrow, so I checked it again and found the narrow stripes under the wing, and the narrow paler streaks around the nape of the neck, which contrasted sharply with the dark heavy stripes on its brown and buff back. In sunlight the streaks on the nape of its neck might have looked pink, but the sky was overcast and they appeared to be only a paler brown than the rest of its streaked plumage.

A Chipping Sparrow was feeding near it, and the Leconte's Sparrow seemed even smaller in comparison. A Carolina Wren was feeding about 6 feet beyond it and in comparison seemed larger. Its movements were barely perceptible, and it took so long for it to work its way across the driveway that I had a good, close view of it from every angle.