

about 5 minutes, we were able to observe the bird feeding on the ground at the edge of a thicket adjacent to an open field. We saw it, off and on, for several minutes, as close as 30 yards. The overall sandy, pale gray appearance was quite noticeable, and its unstreaked breast was whiter than those of the Field and Chipping Sparrows. The brownish auricular patch was distinctive, as were the dark malar stripe, the white superciliary stripe, and the white median crown stripe. Striping was very apparent on the sandy gray back. The bill was pale in color (not black), and the legs were pink. The color of the rump patch was not seen. In flight, the bird's shape resembled that of the Field Sparrow more so than that of the Chipping Sparrow because of the relatively long tail, and the flight call also resembled the *tsip* note of the former.

We have each seen Clay-colored Sparrows in the Carolinas on several occasions. The direct comparison of the above described bird with Field and Chipping Sparrows, the field marks observed, and the buzzing song heard leave us with no doubt as to the identification.

The Clay-colored Sparrow has been seen on numerous occasions in North Carolina in the fall and several times in winter; only a handful of these records are inland. However, there has been no acceptable record for the spring season. LeGrand observed one at Raleigh, for several seconds, on 9 May 1971 (Amer. Birds 25:723); but Teulings et al. (Chat 40:69-71) did not consider the record entirely satisfactory because of the brief viewing time. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were reported near Fayetteville on 18 May 1981 (Amer. Birds 35:814), but no details were provided. The Halifax County sighting appears to be the first in spring in the state observed by more than one individual as well as the first with numerous details provided.

## Second Breeding Locality of Dark-eyed Junco in South Carolina

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A pair of Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) nested at Caesar's Head, Greenville County, S.C. in 1985. I discovered a family of five (adult pair and three juveniles) in the yard of T. Hendricks on 12 June, at an elevation of 915 m and approximately 300 m W of the rocky precipice of Caesar's Head in the Blue Ridge physiographic region. The habitat is mixed forest adjacent to brushy areas that enclose vacation homes situated along a ridge that faces south. The slope of the forest below is steep ( $> 60^\circ$ ).

Dominant trees or shrubs of the forest surrounding the Hendricks home are White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Canadian Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and *Rhododendron* sp. Other major trees or shrubs present are Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), *Quercus* sp., and Red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Dominant shrubs in brushy areas at or near the home are *Rubus* sp., *Sassafras albidum*, *Amorpha* sp., and Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*).

The juncos spent most of the time feeding. Several young begged food from a parent, but these efforts were unsuccessful. However, both parents attended the young while the latter fed on the ground in the yard, and the female was more active than the male in this role. The male warned the juveniles and female of my approach, frequently

chipping at me from low perches (< 6 m) in the forest if I approached the juveniles too closely (< 10 m). The male occasionally left the family to sing in a shrubby area on the steep hillside about 45 m away from the homesite. These infrequent singing bouts lasted 1 to 3 minutes each.

Aside from singing, the male had darker plumage and was easily distinguished from the female (Eaton 1968). All three juveniles had streaked breasts. One juvenile had more pronounced blackish crown streaking than the others, which more closely resembled the adults.

Toward dusk, the family became active in the White Pines and hemlocks and eventually roosted in the hemlocks. I was not able to find any juncos when I returned to the site on 23 June.

Some other species present in the forest and shrubby areas within 75 m of the Hendricks home were: Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), Black-throated Blue (*Dendroica caerulescens*) and Hooded (*Wilsonia citrina*) Warblers, and Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*).

I previously recorded a singing male junco at this same locality from 18 to 20 June 1983 (McNair 1984). I assume that the pair and three fledged juveniles in 1985 confined their breeding activities to South Carolina, because the North Carolina state line is several kilometers away. The only other known breeding locality in South Carolina is Sassafras Mountain, which is on the North Carolina state line (Hamel et al. 1980).

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Eaton, S.W. 1968. *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* (Linnaeus). Pages 1029-1043 in Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies, Part 2., A.C. Bent (O.L. Austin Jr., editor). U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237.
- Hamel, P.B., S.A. Gauthreaux Jr., and E. Floyd. 1980. Dark-eyed (Carolina) Junco nest on Sassafras Mountain in South Carolina. *Chat* 44:109-111.
- McNair, D.B. 1984. Dark-eyed Junco in Briefs for the Files, H.E. LeGrand Jr., editor. *Chat* 48:26.

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1985 unless otherwise indicated)

**RED-NECKED GREBE:** Rare and early was an immature studied at close range for several hours at a pond 10 miles N of Columbia, S.C., on 15 October 1984 by Oscar LaBorde. Another was seen by Jackson Abbott and Perry Nugent at Moore's Landing near Charleston, S.C., on 9 March.

**NORTHERN FULMAR:** Dave Lee had a remarkable total of 215 fulmars on a pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 27 March.

**BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** Twenty were observed by Dave Lee off Oregon Inlet on 27 March; and Dennis Forsythe noted single birds 55 to 60 miles off Charleston on 28 April, 25 May, and 26 May.