

and Putnam's 'Birds of Essex Co.') exclude *A. caudacutus* altogether! Even Dr. Coues (Proc. Essex Inst., V, 1868, 282), by a lapsus corrected in 'New England Bird Life,' I, 251, recorded the Sharp-tails of Rye Beach, N. H., as Seaside Sparrows, and J. Matthew Jones ('Forest and Stream,' XII, 1879, 106) in his list of the birds of Nova Scotia included the Seaside Sparrow as an abundant summer resident of that Province, arriving there during the latter part of March! From what is now known concerning the breeding range of *A. maritimus*, we are warranted in suspecting that Brewer (Hist. N. A. Birds, I, 1874, 560), too, fell into a similar error in saying that a few pairs of Seaside Sparrows, "identified by Mr. Audubon," bred in the marshes of Stony Brook, near Boston, in 1836 and 1837.

However that may be, the eastern limit of the breeding range of the Seaside Sparrow, so far as now observed, is the western shore of Narragansett Bay, beyond which it occurs only as a very rare straggler. The first unquestionable Massachusetts specimen was killed at Nahant in August, 1877, by Geo. O. Welch, and recorded by Brewer (Bull. Nuttall Orn. Club, III, 1878, 48; Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., XIX, 1878, 260). This specimen (now in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History, No. 221) is a young male with a sharply streaked breast; it was identified by Baird as a Seaside Sparrow "in the plumage regarded by Audubon as a distinct species, and called by him MacGillivray's Finch." Another Massachusetts specimen, an adult female shot by Dr. L. B. Bishop on Monomoy Island, Cape Cod, April 14, 1890, was recorded by J. C. Cahoon in 'The Auk,' VII, 1890, 289. — WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

What is *Fringilla macgillivraii* Aud.? — In 1835 Audubon (Orn. Biog., II, 1835, 285) described under the name *Fringilla macgillivraii* a dark-colored Seaside Finch, discovered by Bachman in the salt marshes of South Carolina. Figures of this bird, drawn at Charleston by Audubon's son, were announced as finished, but the plate did not reach London in time to be engraved and published till two years later (Birds of America, Vol. IV, 1837, Pl. CCCLV). In a subsequent volume of the 'Ornithological Biography' (IV, 1838, 394) Audubon extended the range of MacGillivray's Finch so as to include similar birds found on the coast of Louisiana and Texas.

In 1888 Mr. Allen (Auk, V, 1888, 284) described under the name *Ammodramus maritimus peninsulæ* a small, dark race of the Seaside Sparrow from Tarpon Springs and Cedar Keys, on the western coast of Florida, at the same time identifying with this form a series of specimens from Grand Isle, La. In the following number of 'The Auk' (p. 426) Mr. Allen pronounced a bird from the coast of Georgia to be *A. m. peninsulæ*, and in the second edition of the A. O. U. Check-List the distribution of this subspecies on the Atlantic coast embraces South Carolina, the type locality of *Fringilla macgillivraii*.

In 1896 Mr. Ridgway (Man. N. A. Birds, 2d ed., p. 602) separated the Louisiana Seaside Sparrows from *A. m. peninsulæ* as a distinct race, whose habitat is given as "coast of Louisiana (and coast of Texas during migration)." For this race he appropriates, in a subspecific sense, Audubon's name *macgillivraii*,—an obvious wrong, since the original description of *Fringilla macgillivraii* was based exclusively on South Carolina specimens.

The dark-complexioned Seaside Sparrows from the coast of Georgia and South Carolina are certainly very like those found on the western coast of Florida. If, as implied in the range accorded to *A. m. peninsulæ* by the A. O. U. Check-List, they are identical, and if MacGillivray's Finch is to be revived, then the name *macgillivraii* will have to supplant *peninsulæ*. In any case, the Louisiana Seaside Sparrow, recognized as a valid subspecies in the Eighth Supplement to the A. O. U. Check-List, remains without a name.—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

The Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) at Middletown, R. I.—I shot an adult male Seaside Sparrow on the Second Beach Marshes at Middletown, R. I., on May 31, 1897, therefore confirming Mr. Reginald Heber Howe, Jr.'s supposition that they breed there. (See Auk Vol. XIV, page 219.) This makes three birds of this species that I have taken on these marshes.—EDWARD STURTEVANT, *Boston, Mass.*

Breeding of the Seaside Sparrow in Massachusetts.—On July 17, 1896, I took a set of four partly incubated eggs of the Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*), together with the female bird, at Westport, Mass. The nest was cleverly hidden within a tussock of the salt marsh.

The Seaside Sparrow is not rare as a summer resident in the Westport River marshes. It is, however, rather colonial, and confines itself closely in the breeding season to certain sections of the marshes.—J. A. FARLEY, *Newton, Mass.*

Bachman's Sparrow in Virginia.—On May 12, 1897, while collecting on a slope along the Blackwater Creek in West Lynchburg, Campbell County, Mr. John W. Daniels, Jr., of Lynchburg, collected two specimens of *Peucaea æstivalis bachmanii*, together with the nest and five eggs well advanced in incubation. He writes: "The nest was on the ground among the roots of a tuft of grass and well concealed by the numerous grass tops which overhung it. It was quite domed, with the entrance facing the southeast and was composed chiefly of grasses, strips of weed bark and weed stalks, lined with fine grasses and a few light colored rootlets." Mr. Daniels kindly presented the male to me (No. 4571, W. P. Coll.). It is in very fair plumage, being very much less worn than the Maryland specimen obtained by Mr. Figgins, which is now in the U. S. Nat. Mus. Collection. This record adds a species to the Virginia avifauna and doubtless it will be found to occur in summer over most of the eastern portion of the State.—WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*



Faxon, Walter. 1897. "What Is *Fringilla macgillivraii* Aud.?" *The Auk* 14, 321–322. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4068660>.

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