

1945

### INDIAN RIVER MARSH

The marsh was illustrative of successional communities and of intraspecific and inter-specific relationships among the birds present. Ecotones were characteristic of the marsh for sedge, cattails and bulrushes were intermixed. Inshore the marsh was succeeded by a swampy area of sedges, willow shrub and gale. This type of vegetation in turn gave way to forest communities of secondary hardwoods and finally evergreen forest.

#### I Vegetation of various communities and birds in each:

In marsh proper:

##### Cattail community

Sora Rail- nest of dried cat+tails

Least Bittern - nest of bulrushes

Black Tern - nest of cattails and bulrushes with grasses  
on top

Long-billed Marsh Wren - nest of moist cattails

Red-winged Blackbird - nest of cattails and grass

##### Bulrush community

Pied-billed Grebe - nest of bulrushes

##### Inshore vegetation:

##### Swamp - sedge community

Swamp sparrow

##### Willow shrubs and gale community

Northern Yellow-throat

##### Aspen-birch community

Oven-bird

Cedar Waxwing

Cowbird

Myrtle Warbler

Evergreen forest community

Black and White Warbler

American Red-start

II. Examples of intraspecific relationship in marsh community

Nest concealment

Long-billed Marsh Wren, male, builds dummy nest in conspicuous places.

Pied-billed Grebe covers nest with vegetation when leaving it.

Destruction of eggs

Long-billed Marsh Wren will crack eggs of Red-wing

Pursuit flight

Red-wing chased American Bittern. Red-wing a molester.

III. Examples of interspecific relationship in marsh

Social relationship

Young Red-wing seen bringing food to nest.