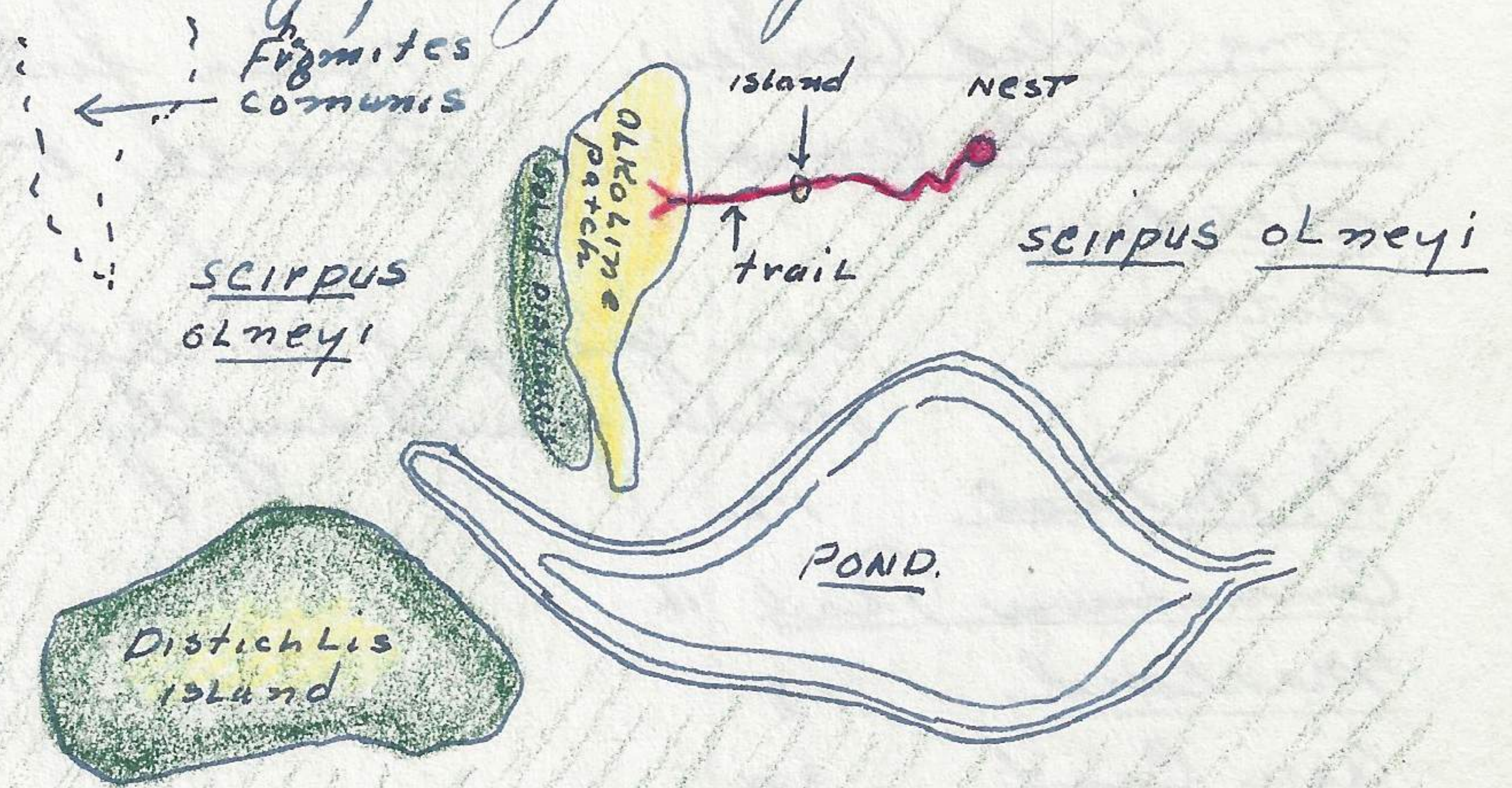


and became visible for the first time. <sup>→ The former ↑ nesting</sup> bird immediately started to walk toward the guarding bird and when within 50' of it stopped and remained alert. Five minutes later they both faced to the north and when the nesting bird started to call the guarding bird joined in for a ten second vocal discharge. The necks were upright but the head and bill moved up and down in unison. They then remained 20 feet apart and watched. After we left they both commenced to feed with the nesting bird occasionally preening its feathers. In relative sizes the nesting bird was from  $\frac{1}{5}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  again the size of the guarding bird.

The nest measured 27 inches across and was placed on an island about 4 feet across. The island ~~here~~ was 5 inches higher than the water level surrounding it.



The nest proper was made entirely of dried scirpus stems to a depth of 2 inches and was surrounded by <sup>(Scirpus paludosus or americanus) or olneyi</sup> alkaline covered <sup>(Sporobolus airoides)</sup> distichlis and a <sup>(Muhlenbergia asperifolia?)</sup> closely related plant in larger form. The scirpus surrounding the area was dried stems 1 foot high and bending over to the south. The new green scirpus was pushing up through to a height of 3 feet but sparsely arranged in growth. Water except in ponds about 2 inches deep. The trail leading into the nest was about 60 feet long and was free of standing scirpus. Hard bottom. at one point it led over another similar elevated island to the one used by the bird. Several other islands dotted the area. The scirpus of the area was in the main about knee high and loosely penetrated in comparison to the densely matted areas in other sections of the marsh. A few ants were found in the nesting material. 2 eggs present with incubation suggesting they had been laid about 3 days previous. They weighed: long egg 7 ounces, short egg 7 ounces 2 scripples. Almost identical with eggs collected in 1940 from Fish Springs.

The birds of this area included the following:  
English Sparrow. Ranch  
Brewer Blackbird. Approx 15 at point.