

birds were wild and restless and were continually making short flights as we approached. At first it was our suspicion that these birds had come in contact with fresh paint or some other coloring agency; for such a widespread display of albinism was altogether foreign to our experience. Eventually it was decided to get out the shotgun with a view to securing a typical specimen of these maculated birds. The flock soon alighted at a convenient distance and one of the white-tailed birds was selected as the target. Of course the shot pattern included in its scope a number of others, but it could not be helped. After the shot we picked up fifteen dead birds. On examining them we found that no less than seven showed distinct white markings, mostly among the smaller feathers of various parts of the body. The white-tailed bird had also some of the wing quills of the same color, with minor feathers elsewhere showing white. We have the skins of the seven albinistic specimens. Truly, "birds of a feather flock together," at times.

We had no reason to think that the fifteen birds secured were not fairly representative of the flock. When seemingly more than 40 per cent of a large flock of birds show evidences of albinism, an explanation will be welcomed. It perhaps suggests a close blood relationship, and shows a flock solidarity during their winter wanderings worthy of an organized tribe. Possibly they represent the summer Blackbird population of some particular valley or other isolated area in Alaska or British America.—J. M. EDSON, *Bellingham, Wash.*

**Redpolls in Michigan in Summer.**—During June, this year, I was about deluged with Pine Siskins. The first ones came in June 7 and they were around in numbers until June 29. June 19 I counted 500, and there were more, all over the ground just outside my dining room window. I banded between 250 and 300 while the birds were here and could have banded two or three times as many if I could have devoted more time to it. All the birds banded in June, 273 (except 9 showing no yellow whatever) had more or less yellow on wings and tail and 91 of these were more or less tinged below, the great majority greenish-yellow, a few greenish-buff and one or two just a straight greenish tinge. On several very highly colored birds the tinge extended to the upper parts, particularly the head and rump, and in a few cases the greater coverts were edged with yellow, not buff.

Of the tinged birds those with most yellow on wings and tail were the most highly tinged, no birds showing very little yellow on wings and tail, which I took for the younger birds, had any tinge below. From this I would say that the older the bird the heavier and brighter the tinge. My card records furnish the following data:

Birds tinged below—

With less than average amount of yellow on wings and tail	8
With average amount of yellow on wings and tail	27
With more than average amount of yellow on wings and tail	56

After July 1, I banded 20 birds without a trace of yellow anywhere and one, No. 98380A, July 12, with a new tail half grown, edged a dull greenish-yellow with a little dull yellow at base. It had no yellow on wings, except a faint dull greenish-yellow edging to the primaries. The first of these dull birds was No. 98208A banded June 18, next No. 98302A, June 23, then I got four June 25, two June 27, one June 28, 19 in July and one in August. These looked just about like the others except for the lack of yellow markings. Five of these I wish to take up in detail from my card records—

No. 98208A banded June 18—dirty, no yellow, on repeats July 14 and 19 no further comment. On repeat Aug. 17—molting, no tail, no yellow, upper mandible dark except at base which was a rather bright orange-buff. Lower mandible whitish, at base orange-buff. Sides bright buffy. Rump golden brown.

No. 98375A banded July 6—no yellow on wings or tail. A very narrow dull grayish-white edging inner webs of tail feathers, on repeats July 7 and 8 no further comment. On repeat Aug. 29—under tail coverts heavily streaked. A few dusky feathers over bill, chin and throat patch dusky. Bill with narrow center line of black near tip. Both mandibles nearly all yellow turning into orange at the base, more orange on lower than on upper. A small patch of streaked reddish on head. New tail nearly grown, a few of the outer feathers only half grown.

No. 98379A banded July 11—No yellow wings or tail. Greater coverts edged dull white, tinged brown back from edge. On repeat July 24—some tail feathers missing. On repeat Aug. 2—sides buffy. On repeat Aug. 19—new tail not fully grown. A few dusky feathers just over bill. A reddish crown-patch, not solid but streaked. Dark patch on chin and throat nearly black. Tinged brownish or buffy on breast, sides, flanks and under tail coverts. Under tail coverts heavily streaked. A few feathers on breast and rump tinged pinkish or rose. A narrow line of blackish down center of both upper and lower bills near tips. Bills whitish or grayish near tips turning into yellow and then into what I would call bright burnt orange. The lower mandible had considerable more of this orange color at base than the upper. On repeat Aug. 28.—brighter buffy below. On repeat Aug. 29—no further comment.

No. 98385A banded July 13—no yellow, coverts edged dull white tinged brown, brown darker back from edge. Some tail feathers missing, on repeat July 23 no further comment. On repeat Aug. 29—sides buffy, chin blackish. Two feathers rump very faintly tinged pinkish. Tail not quite fully grown. Upper and lower mandibles about as in No. 98,379A.

No. 98406A banded Aug. 26—bird quite dirty. Molting all over except possibly primaries. Only four tail feathers. No signs of any yellow and could distinguish no red on head. Upper mandible with a little reddish or burnt-orange at base, considerably more on the lower.

Of the five described No. 98375A No. 98379A and No. 98385A were undoubtedly Redpolls and No. 98208A and No. 98406A probably Redpolls. Except No. 98406A none of these birds had anything particularly noticeable about their bills when banded nor did any of the other dull colored birds. The noticeably light bills with orange at the base did not develop until August at least my earliest record for the five birds is August 17.

Several times while banding these plain colored birds I got the impression their tails seemed longer than usual. I did not give this much attention as many of the birds were molting their tail feathers and the tail of a bird with only half its feathers often looks longer than if it had the full complement. However, as the tail of the Redpoll is considerably longer than the tail of the Pine Siskin I think I slipped up badly in not measuring some of them. My only excuse is I had no idea there were any Redpolls around.

Now the question is—were all the other birds lacking the yellow tinge Redpolls? If so there were 29 young Redpolls in all without an old one in the lot. The earliest date being June 18 would indicate that possibly this year some Redpolls did not go as far north as usual to nest. Possibly our long cold spring this year (1927) might account for it. So far as I have been able to discover this is probably a record for the Redpoll anywhere in the United States in summer. I wrote the Biological Survey for information and the reply was "A most unusual occurrence as a hasty survey through our files fails to disclose any records for Redpolls in the United States in summer."—M. J. MAGEE, 603 South St., Sault St. Marie, Mich.

**Schistospiza Sharpe not Separable from Lophospingus Cabanis.**

—In the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum' (Vol. XII, 1888, Fringillidae) Dr. R. B. Sharpe proposed the generic name *Schistospiza* for *Emberiza griseocristata* D'Orb. and Lafr. This crested, gray, Bolivian finch had been usually referred to *Coryphospingus*, but Sharpe placed it between *Lophospingus* (*L. pusillus* of Argentina) and *Tiaris* (now *Charitospiza*; *C. eucosma* of Bahia and Matto Grosso, Brazil).

*Schistospiza griseocristata* is very closely related to *Lophospingus pusillus*, the only tangible structural difference that I can find being the form of the wing. In the former, the ninth (outer) primary is equal to or shorter than the third; in the latter, longer than the third (at most, equalling the fourth). Although *S. griseocristata* is a rather larger bird, its wing-tip is of virtually the same absolute length as that of *L. pusillus*.

The general resemblance between these two species in form and coloration is so strong that nothing is gained by separating them generically, and I would advocate their inclusion in the one genus, *Lophospingus*.

Both species are of the same prevailing gray color, with extensive white ends to the outer three pairs of rectrices. In *L. pusillus* the head is black with broad white supra-auricular and malar stripes; gray in *L. griseocristata*, the longer crest-feathers slate color. But it is of interest