

**The Sharp-tailed Sparrows of Maryland.**—Since announcement of the first capture of Nelson's sparrow in Maryland<sup>1</sup> we have devoted further attention to the marsh sparrows of the genus *Ammospiza*, taking specimens as opportunity offered. Recent examination of this accumulated material indicates that all four races of *Ammospiza caudacuta* at present recognized are represented by birds secured in Maryland as indicated below.

*Ammospiza caudacuta caudacuta*. One was taken at Cornfield Harbor on the Potomac River, one mile above Point Lookout where the river joins Chesapeake Bay, on September 23, 1928, and another on October 13, 1929. Others were secured at Ocean City on December 3, 1926, and April 29, 1929. This must be a common migrant at the proper season.

*Ammospiza caudacuta subvirgata*. A male was secured at Cornfield Harbor October 13, 1929, and a female near Ocean City, on the Atlantic coast, November 9, 1929. This is the first report of this race for the state of Maryland, though it is unquestionably of regular passage in migration. The specimen from Cornfield Harbor is of note as this is an inland locality.

*Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*. We recorded this inland form first near Ocean City, Maryland on October 6, 1928, and at Cornfield Harbor, October 14, 1928. At the latter locality we collected additional specimens on October 4, and 11, 1931. This bird is of regular occurrence in fall in the salt water marches, and should occur there also in spring.

*Ammospiza caudacuta diversa*. Dr. Oberholser<sup>2</sup> has indicated that this race, described by Bishop from Wanchese, North Carolina, is a valid form and includes the breeding birds of Maryland. We have collected it at Ocean City, Maryland, August 13 and 14, 1926, October 6, 1928, and April 29 and November 9, 1929; at Cornfield Harbor, July 21 and October 14, 1928, October 13, 1929, September 28, 1930, and October 4, 1931; and at Chesapeake Beach July 4, 1929.—ALEXANDER WETMORE and FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Washington, D. C.*

**Western Field Sparrow in Northwestern Montana.**—The breeding range of the Western Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla arenacea*) is described by the new A. O. U. 'Check-List' as "the Upper Austral Zone from south-eastern Montana and south-western North Dakota to central Nebraska." In his list of Montana birds (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 14, 1921, p. 124), Aretas A. Saunders cites only three records of this species from the state, all from the southeastern plains district. Thus the following records show its occurrence far from its normal range and habitat.

Our ranch is situated in a small, forested mountain valley in extreme northwestern Montana, near Fortine, sixteen miles south of the Canadian border. Here on July 15, 1923, a solitary male Western Field Sparrow appeared; it was observed on the three following days, and on the 22nd, after which it disappeared. It sang frequently each day it was seen, and this action helped to make identification certain.

<sup>1</sup> Auk, 1929, p. 243.

<sup>2</sup> Auk, 1931, pp. 610-611.

The species was not observed again until June 10, 1929, when a pair of the birds arrived at our ranch. Almost at once they established a "territory" on a pasture hillside that carried a scattered growth of silverberry (*Elaeagnus argentea*) and a few small firs. I believe that they nested, or made an attempt at nesting. I did not have time to search for a nest; but the female was observed only infrequently, and the male ceased singing about the last of June, after having sung daily since their arrival. Moreover, at no time after the first few days was either bird observed to wander beyond the limits of their "territory," which embraced about four acres of land. Here the birds remained until August 3, after which they were not observed again that season.

The following year, 1930, a male Western Field Sparrow appeared May 16 and remained until June 4, singing almost every day during this time. It frequented the territory occupied by the pair present the preceding year, but also ranged several hundred yards from this land. Evidently lacking a mate, the bird left our ranch June 4, and was not seen again that year.

On the morning of May 26, 1931, a solitary male Western Field Sparrow again appeared at the same territory. It sang frequently that day and the day following, then disappeared. No other record of the species was obtained during the season.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana*.

**Notes from Northampton, Mass.**—The following observations made during November and December, 1931, seem worthy of record

*Chaulelasmus streperus*. GADWALL.—On November 1, I flushed thirty-two ducks from a pond. All were black except the leader, which was gray and strangely small and showed white in the wing. On November 3, I found this duck again: it flew with three Blacks past me (not away from me as before), and showed a pure white speculum *framed in black*, so that it looked transparent. Size, lean shape, and narrow wings all confirmed the identification. The latest date for the species in Massachusetts given by Forbush is November 1.

*Aix sponsa*. WOOD DUCK.—Flocks of twenty and over were noted in October and a few drakes stayed almost through November. The last was seen Thanksgiving Day, November 26, an unusually late date here.

*Nyroca collaris*. RING-NECKED DUCK.—Two drakes appeared in November, one the close comrade of the female Canvasback, the other on Thanksgiving Day at Ashley Ponds, Holyoke, where it dove for food in the shoals along shore and refused to fly though approached within thirty feet.

*Nyroca valisineria*. CANVASBACK.—November 22 was very warm and still, but a cold wave was reported in the Northwest. A large gray white duck was seen preening on top of a muskrat-house in the pond at Northampton where the other ducks above noted had been seen. Canvasbacks have been recorded in our valley only once before (Dec. 9, 1928), but when this bird got down and swam, the profile was unmistakable. A female, she was constantly companioned by a male Ring-neck, which kept watch while she slept and did not begin diving for food until she awoke and began