

winter (1931-32). On November 28, 1931 W. S. Long, fellow member of the museum staff, and myself sighted a flock of sixty or more of these birds which flew close enough to be identified as crossbills. Crossbills were not seen nor reported again until February 20, 1932, when I managed to collect six birds out of a flock of fourteen near the same place. On the following day, at the same locality, where the birds were feeding on wild sunflower seeds, Mr. Long and I each managed to secure a specimen, and two other were seen. On March 1 they were discovered feeding in the pines on the campus and on March 1, 2, and 4 various persons reported seeing between thirty and forty of the birds on the campus at a time. Other records in varying numbers were made on the campus up to March 15, and another large flock was reported on the 25th. On the following day Mr. Long and myself collected sixteen of the birds about two miles north of Lawrence, which were discovered feeding on the ground, picking up wild sunflower seeds. Eight were observed on the campus on the 27th; seven on the 30th; sixteen on April 4, and finally Mr. Long reported four individuals observed at close range on May 23, also on the campus.—J. D. BLACK, *Museum of University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.*

**On the Validity of the San Clemente Island Bell's Sparrow.**—Many years ago Ridgway<sup>1</sup> named the Bell's Sparrow of San Clemente Island, California, *Amphispiza belli clementeae* on the basis of supposedly larger size. A short time later<sup>2</sup> the same author discredited the race because he believed that the differences were "too slight to warrant recognition." It is true that the table of measurements<sup>2</sup> shows the wing and tail of the San Clemente specimens to be almost identical with California and Lower California birds, but nevertheless the larger bill size of the island birds is readily apparent in the published figures.

For some years there have been four worn-plumaged birds from San Clemente in the Dickey collection at the California Institute of Technology, all of which showed the definite character of relatively large bill and, in addition, a slightly paler and grayer dorsal coloration. On October 25, 1930, Mr. J. R. Pemberton, to whom I am indebted for various opportunities to visit the islands of the Santa Barbara group, provided the necessary transportation on his yacht 'Petrel' and, among other birds, I was able to take on San Clemente five fresh-plumaged Bell's Sparrows. Search of other local collections disclosed eight worn-plumaged adults and five juveniles in the Los Angeles Museum, thus making available for study 22 examples of the species from San Clemente Island. Comparison of this series with a series of 31 *Amphispiza belli belli* (Cassin) from localities ranging from San Martin Island and San Quintin, Lower California, north to San Benito County, California, shows that some distinctive characters are apparent in the San Clemente series. I fully agree that there are no tangible differences in the wing and tail dimensions as between island and

<sup>1</sup> Auk, 15, July, 1898, 230 [Separates issued May 13 or 14].

<sup>2</sup> Birds of No. and Mid. Amer., 1, 1901, 267.

mainland birds, and that in very worn plumage the color differences are so slight as to be barely perceptible, even in series. However, the following particulars are definite and seem to me to afford ample grounds for the recognition of the insular race.

In comparison with *belli* the island birds have slightly, but noticeably, longer bills; the dorsal coloration of freshly plumaged adults is definitely paler, grayer, and more clearly streaked, and the juveniles are paler and with very much narrower ventral streaking; the juveniles, in fact, resemble the young of *Amphispiza belli canescens* Grinnell more than they do those of *belli*. The exposed culmens of 25 *belli* (sex ignored) average 8.9 mm. while those of 17 *clementeae* average 10.1.

The characters of *belli* are most pronounced in the San Diego Faunal District. Specimens from San Benito County (Mulberry) are not so typical for they are slightly paler in color. This presumably is the result of contact between *belli* of the coastal slope and *canescens* of the interior valleys.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California.*

**Clay-colored Sparrow in New Jersey.**—On May 8, 1932, J. L. Edwards of Montclair, N. J., sitting with the writer in a parked car at the end of the road south of Beach Haven, N. J., happened to see an unfamiliar-looking sparrow feeding on the bare sand very near the car. Close to it was a Field Sparrow which permitted size comparison. The stranger was a small-bodied bird with the shape and general proportions of a Chipping Sparrow. We studied it carefully for a long time at close range and identified it as a Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). We had no gun and a later "armed" visit on May 12 was unsuccessful, and although we believe that we saw the bird again, it escaped due to the high wind and rain.

Prompt checking of our mental picture and written notes against museum specimens removed any shadow of doubt from our minds as to the bird's identity. It agreed in every detail. The bird was unstreaked below, underparts white with a definite dark wash on the sides of the breast. There was a rather thin light medial line through the darker crown and a white line over the eye. The upper parts showed very little if any rufus and the general effect was of a rather light colored bird. The back was finely streaked with alternate lines of dark and a color we described first as cream, then as creamy buff. The rump color, as closely as we could judge, conformed to the specimens examined.

The credibility of the identification is increased somewhat by the rather recent collection of specimens on Cape Cod, Mass., by Oliver Austin, Jr. The species may not be as rare in the East as has been supposed.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

**Migration Dates for the Snow Bunting in Montana.**—The scarcity of published data from Montana concerning the migrations of the Eastern