

classed with *M. l. lincolnii* and not with the long-winged *M. l. alticola* of the Rocky Mountains of the United States and of the Sierra Nevada of California. At that time it was known that *alticola* bred in southern Oregon in the Crater Lake district.

In 1938, six breeding Lincoln's Sparrows were collected in the Cascade Mountains of central Oregon (vicinity of Bend) and twenty-three were taken in the mountains to the eastward (Ochoco National Forest, Wheeler and Crook Counties; Blue Mountains, Baker and Grant Counties). The four males from the Cascade Mountains vary in wing length from 64.6 to 67.8 mm. and average 65.6, and the two females measure 61.8 and 61.0. These are normal dimensions for *alticola*. The seventeen males and six females from eastern Oregon average 64.9 and 60.9 mm., respectively. These averages are similar to those for several of the populations of *alticola* and are but slightly lower than the general averages for that race (op. cit., pp. 151, 156). Individual males of *alticola* usually do not have wings shorter than 64.0 mm. In the sample from eastern Oregon three males fall below this minimum. Some of the group of five birds formerly available to us also fell below this limit and it is now seen that that group was not representative. The population of eastern Oregon as a whole clearly pertains to *alticola*, but it is not an extreme development of this race and it includes more than the normal proportion of small-sized variants.

The Oregon birds display variation in back color similar to that in populations of *alticola* from the southern Rocky Mountains. The variations in width of stripes are like those in birds from the Sierra Nevada. The occurrence of variants is as follows: ruddy, two; moderately ruddy, three; brown, twenty-three; narrow stripes, twenty-two; moderately broad stripes, six (compare op. cit., figs. 26, 28).

In summary, it is found that the Montane Lincoln's Sparrow, *M. l. alticola*, ranges northward in the Cascades of Oregon at least to the Three Sisters Peaks, and throughout the mountains of eastern Oregon wherever suitable habitat for the species is present. Probably *alticola* occurs even farther north in the Cascade Range, but determination of the exact geographic relations of *M. l. lincolnii*, *gracilis* and *alticola* in Washington and southwestern British Columbia awaits the assembling of breeding series from those regions.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.

Lapland Longspurs in Bolivar County, Mississippi.—On December 2, 1938, in company with Mr. Van B. Chaney, county game warden, I was driving along the crown of the Mississippi River levee four miles (two miles by airline) north of Rosedale, Bolivar County, Mississippi, when we observed a flock of five longspurs feeding with a large flight of American Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta rubescens*) on burned-over ground along the slopes of the levee. I collected two of the birds and forwarded the skins to Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., who identified them as Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*). I believe these are the first specimens of this form taken in Mississippi.—M. GORDON VAIDEN, *Rosedale, Mississippi*.

Winter bird notes from the North Carolina coast.—In connection with investigations of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina, carried on in the past winter by the writers, certain bird observations were made which appear worthy of record.

SNOWY OWL, *Nyctea nyctea*.—While driving on Chicamacomico Island from Oregon Inlet to Cape Hatteras, on December 13, 1937, Dr. Carl Russell and Howard noted a Snowy Owl in flight along the roadside at a point approximately twenty-two miles

north of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The owl had evidently been perching near the sand trail—an alleged road—on the island, since it flew about 150 yards, alit upon a tussock and faced the automobile. The observers were able to study the bird carefully, as it remained in this position for several minutes.

There are few records for this species in the State. Pearson, Brimley and Brimley ('Birds of North Carolina,' North Carolina Geol. and Econ. Surv., 4: 184, 1919) list three specimens and a few sight records and Gross (Auk, 44: 488, 1927) mentions three specimens taken in the State in 1926. The above, however, appears to be the first recorded occurrence of the Snowy Owl on the North Carolina banks.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, *Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*.—On January 10, 1938, we were surprised to find a gnatcatcher on the wooded dunes of Collington Island, Dare County, near the shore of Albemarle Sound. The bird was watched for some time, as it fed within a few feet of us, moving nervously from one weed-stalk to another.

The only previous winter record for the State, also obtained on the Banks, was made by Johnson, Nichols and Griscom (Auk, 34: 220, 1917) who observed a bird at the Monkey Island Hunting Club, Currituck Sound, on December 30, 1916.

SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*.—As the Snow Bunting is so rarely noted in North Carolina in winter, we are reporting a group of four, seen on January 14, 1938, with a flock of about thirty Horned Larks on the sandy flats a mile northwest of Cape Hatteras, Dare County.

Pearson, Brimley and Brimley (op. cit., p. 233) state that the species has been recorded twice in North Carolina, listing specimens taken at Pea Island on the coast and at Oriental. There are recent sight records for White Lake, Bladen County (Auk, 52: 460, 1935) and Lake Mattamuskeet (Auk, 52: 319-320, 1935). Cottam, Nelson and Williams (Auk, 54: 549, 1937) found large flocks on the coast at Kittyhawk, January 25, 1937, and collected specimens. All of the above records are from the eastern part of the State.—JAMES O. STEVENSON AND WILLIAM JOHNSTON HOWARD, *National Park Service, Washington, D. C., and Richmond, Virginia.*