

Sprague's Pipit. The Fifth Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list (1957) defines the United States winter range of this bird as ". . . from southern Arizona, Texas, southern Louisiana, and northwestern Mississippi. . . . Casual in Michigan, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida." On November 27, 1958, three more Sprague's Pipits were heard and seen at the same place by G. Ronald Austing, Emerson Kemsies, Worth S. Randle, Richard E. Watkins, Paul W. Woodward, and Jean M. Wright. One of these was trapped and banded by this group. The trapped bird and the collected individual were found in similar vegetative situations.

Also present on November 15, 1958, was a flock of thirteen Smith's Longspurs (*Calcarius pictus*). Two (sex undeterminable) were collected by the writer and constitute the first fall records of the species in Ohio. The A.O.U. Check-list reports this species as occurring "casually to . . . eastern Ohio." It has been a regular migrant at the Oxford Airport every spring since 1949 (Kemsies and Austing, *Wilson Bull.*, 62: 37, 1950), but previous observation had revealed no fall records.

The three specimens have been placed in the University of Cincinnati Collection, where identification was confirmed by Emerson Kemsies, Curator of Ornithology.—JAY M. SHEPPARD, 51 Sherry Road, Wyoming, Ohio.

Occurrence of Pink Coloration in Adult Female Purple Finches.—During the past five years I have been operating a small banding station with "pull traps" on my lawn baited with mixed seed. I have become particularly interested in the Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) and the difficulty in sexing these birds *in vivo*. Purple Finches can be easily divided into three groups, according to coloration: 1) Adult males, showing the deep wine red typical of this species; 2) Brown birds, representing females and immature males; 3) Birds predominantly brown, but showing definite pink, of varying extent and intensity, over head, neck, rump, and sometimes out over the breast. It was this third group that was to me particularly interesting.

During the five year period I have banded 352 birds, of which 43 have returned to my station for two or more years. Of these 43, 25 were unquestionable males. Of these 25, 18 were a deep wine red on first banding, and 7 were brown. Of these 7, trapped as brown birds between April and July of one year, all returned the following year in April or May with the typical deep wine red of adult males. None showed any plumage intermediate between the brown and the deep red coloration of the succeeding spring. One of these males, banded as brown on May 1, 1957, returned the autumn of same year, September 21, 1957, fully red, and again on May 7, 1958, without having had any partial pink plumage.

The remaining 18 birds I have classified as females. Of these eleven have returned showing the definite pinkish color in question. Four of these have been followed for two years, and none has turned into the deep red color typical of the male.

At the fall 1957 meeting of the North Eastern Bird Banding Association I mentioned my theory about pink coloration in the adult female Purple Finch, and met with considerable difference of opinion. I was unable to find any description in the literature of this coloration in the female. Therefore, in the spring of 1958, I collected two specimens of Purple Finch, which I believed to be female, both showing this pink coloration. They were sent to Mr. James C. Greenway,

Curator of Birds, Harvard University. The histories of these two birds are as follows:

55-03635, banded April 9, 1954, brown. Retrapped May 12, 1955, brown; May 16, 1956, definite but slight pinkish coloration on head, neck and rump; May 10, 1958, no significant change since 1956.

57-33730, banded July 6, 1955, brown. April 16, 1957 rather bright pink on head, and neck, extending out onto breast and also on rump. May 10, 1958 still showing the same pink coloration as in 1957. This bird was sufficiently pink that the color was clearly visible at about 50 feet with the naked eye.

These two birds were examined by Mr. Greenway, who reported as follows:

"Both specimens of *Carpodacus purpureus*, sent by you for examination (F. and W. 55-03635 and 57-33730) are mature females. The ovaries of the latter were seen by both Dr. E. Mayr and myself, the former by me. They were normal and slightly enlarged in both, indicating an approaching breeding season."

I therefore believe that adult female Purple Finches, after several years, may show definite pink coloration; and that birds seen exhibiting this pinkish color may be older females, rather than immature males, as described in the literature.—
JOHN H. KENNARD, M.D., 967 Elm Street, Manchester, New Hampshire.

The First Record of Harris' Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula* (Nuttall), from Alaska.—On June 25, 1958, a female Harris' Sparrow was collected at Nikilik, a site at the mouth of the west arm of the delta of the Colville River, on the arctic coast of Alaska, at 70° 24' N., 151° 08' W. The identification has been confirmed by H. G. Deignan of the U. S. National Museum where the skin has been deposited (No. 469581). Dr. F. C. Lincoln who, with Dr. I. N. Gabrielson, has written a comprehensive book, "The Birds of Alaska" (1959), tells me (*in litt.*, July 14, 1958) that they know of no previous record of *Zonotrichia querula* from Alaska. The Harris' Sparrow has not before been recorded within 400 miles of the Colville River, and indeed is not known to be common for as much as 700 miles in an easterly and southeasterly direction (Preble, North American Fauna No. 27, 1908; Porsild, Canadian Field-Nat., 57: 19-35, 1943). There are no records of the species from the Yukon (Rand, Natl. Mus. Canada Bull., 105, 1946). Snyder (Arctic Birds of Canada, 1957) reports only two records of Harris' Sparrow from the barren grounds of Canada (Eskimo Point and Bathurst Inlet).

I was camped at Nikilik from June 13 to July 5. Two wooden houses, which are occupied, stand at this place and are the only prominent features in the flat tundra landscape. The bird was first seen late in the summer evening of June 19, 1958. It called persistently a thin high-pitched phrase (*wee-weee*) from the roof of one or other of the houses. It was extremely shy and, whenever approached, would fly out low over the tundra, or to another perch. The bird remained at Nikilik for five days, using the houses and other objects as places from which to utter its plaintive call. This was particularly evident during night-time hours. It was not until about 0030 hours on June 25 that my native assistant, Tommy Sovalik, was able to collect the bird. The date of the bird's appearance was rather late, for it arrived at Nikilik at a time when the earliest breeding passerines were already hatching. When shot it weighed 33.5 grams. Its habit of advertising its presence from a song post was such as one expects from male passerines, and I was, therefore, surprised to discover that the bird was a female. It is of significance to record that the prevailing daily wind direction recorded by the U. S. Weather