

he had apparently helped feed young. In 1962 another male was observed feeding young at the nest of an established pair. Later in the season this helper male was seen near the site of the first nest, feeding young of a different brood (this brood accompanied by another banded female).

These observations suggest that extra "helpers" feeding young of these warblers may not be uncommon. Indeed, it is possible that such interactions occur with sufficient frequency as to be significant in the population dynamics of the species. The situation involving the hybrids illustrates the complexity of relationships which can exist within such trios. Many questions remain to be answered. Are helpers invariably first-year birds? May individuals of both sexes be helpers? How does the presence of the helper affect the relationship between members of the pair being assisted? Further observations, particularly of color-banded birds, are necessary to provide data to clarify these and other questions relating to this interesting phenomenon.

I am grateful to Ernst Mayr and S. Dillon Ripley for informing me of the occurrence of the hybrid warblers at Litchfield. Gordon Loery and Mrs. A. R. Miles guided me to the spot where the hybrids had been seen, and Loery, through the White Memorial Foundation, kindly provided me with overnight accommodations. The report has benefitted also from discussions I had with Frank Gill, who also provided field notes, and Wesley E. Lanyon.—LESTER L. SHORT, JR., *Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Museum, Washington 25, D.C.*

Notes on the Horned Larks of western Minnesota and the Great Plains.

—Roberts (*Birds of Minnesota*, Minneapolis, Univ. of Minnesota Press, 1932) recognized four subspecies of Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) in Minnesota as follows: two large, migrant, arctic forms, *E. a. alpestris* and *E. a. hoyti*; *praticola*, the race nesting over the largest portion of the central and eastern sections; and *leucolaema*, the nesting bird of the western counties. The latter was based on a number of specimens labeled as *enthymia* by H. C. Oberholser. The A.O.U. Check-list (fifth edit., 1957) does not recognize a pale prairie form as nesting within the state. Actually, while 14 males from Rock, Lac Qui Parle, and Wilkin counties, collected in the early part of the nesting season, average slightly darker than do 9 recently-taken males from South Dakota, the former are easily separable from *praticola* of southeastern Minnesota; and the stated range of the pale prairie form should therefore be modified to include the western tier of counties of Minnesota.

To determine the proper name to apply to the birds of western Minnesota, we must review the nomenclature of the prairie nesting forms. East of the Rocky Mountains, there is a series of pale populations. These are somewhat paler and grayer to the east (North and South Dakota), intergrading with *praticola* in central Minnesota, and somewhat browner to the west, the last grading into more reddish birds in the southwest. These populations are divided into five subspecies in the A.O.U. Check-list (1957) as follows.

E. a. enthymia (Oberholser) (*Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus.* 24: 807, 1902), the palest and grayest-backed of the forms, inhabits the eastern prairie regions, west to eastern Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. Type locality: St. Louis, Saskatchewan.

E. a. leucolaema Coues (*Check-list of North American birds*, 1874, p. 125) was described from Fort Randall, South Dakota. However, the type series was thought by Oberholser to have consisted of migrants of the somewhat browner western population. This permitted him to rename the eastern population *enthymia*. *E. a. leucolaema* is currently considered to range from western Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado south into eastern New Mexico and northwestern Texas.

E. a. utahensis (Behle) (*Condor*, 40: 89, 1938) is a pale grayish form with more richness about the nape, and with a universally deep yellowish throat, forehead, and eye-stripe. It was described from the flats near Salt Lake City. Its range is described as western Utah and eastern and central Nevada.

E. a. occidentalis (McCall) (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia*, 1851: 218), the brownest or reddest of the prairie forms, occupies western New Mexico and eastern central Arizona. The type locality is Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"*Otocorys alpestris arenicola* Henshaw" (*Auk*, 1: 259, 263, 265), described from the "Great Basin of the United States and Rocky Mountains" with the type locality restricted to Denver, Colorado, through later selection of a type by the original author (cf. Deignan, *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 221: 302, 1961) is currently considered a synonym of *E. a. leucolaema*.

However, there are several nomenclatural problems involved and the currently recognized status of the names *leucolaema* and *enthymia*, based largely on Oberholser's revision (*op. cit.*), appears to be in need of careful reconsideration.

Coues' description of *leucolaema* (cf. Deignan, *op. cit.*) was restricted to three males taken at Fort Randall, Gregory County, South Dakota, on 8 and 12 March, in the early part of the breeding season for South Dakota populations. Oberholser (*op. cit.*: 823) wrote of Coues' series: "These three specimens, notwithstanding the date, *possibly* [*italics mine*] do not represent the breeding birds of the region, for they appear more closely to resemble samples from northern Colorado." Oberholser supported his thesis, in part, on supposed slight differences in size between the eastern and western prairie populations. His measurements for *enthymia* are: wing, 101–107.5 (average, 104.8) mm versus 101–108 (average, 105.8) mm for the populations which he considered *leucolaema*. The wing chords of 7 territorial males from South Dakota in the University of Minnesota collection average 106 mm, while the wings of 14 males of the pale form from western Minnesota measure 101–109 (average, 105) mm.

Oberholser's revision should be reconsidered in the light of the following facts:

1. Coues' description of *leucolaema* fits equally well any of the pale populations of the Great Plains or Great Basin.

2. The type series of *leucolaema*, if *not* local birds, may be impossible to identify with any of the minor subdivisions within the prairie populations. This is testified to by various designations on the labels of the three birds. Oberholser (*op. cit.*: 823) stated that the two topotypes were essentially like the type. However, U. S. National Museum No. 79108, the palest of the three, is noted to be "*enthymia* HCO," "Intermediate between *leucolaema* and *arenicola* R[idgway]," and "*arenicola* D[wight]." The other specimen, No. 85097, labeled "Paratype and Topotype" is noted as being "*leucolaema* HCO" and "not typ. *leucolaema* D." Number 79108 is essentially like two Dickinson, North Dakota, specimens (14 and 15 March, the latter with testes 0.08 inches) which respectively were considered "intermediate towards" and "nearer" *leucolaema* by Oberholser.

3. The type of *enthymia* is matched in paleness of the nape region and upper back by the two specimens from Dickinson; however, the feathers of the lower back of the type have darker centers, or these may be more exposed due to the "make" of the skin.

4. The type of *enthymia* is somewhat paler than the type of *arenicola*, which in turn is slightly paler than the type and two topotypes of *leucolaema*. It should be noted that the "co-type" of *arenicola* (cf. Deignan, *op. cit.*: 302) was at one time mounted and now is badly faded and has a pale yellowish cast throughout. It is obviously so badly discolored that it is worthless for systematic comparisons.

Thus, in view of the divided opinion on the status of the type series of *leucolaema*, it seems that the most conservative approach would be to follow Oberholser's own decision that at least one bird therein, number 79108, is typical of the local population, and to recognize *leucolaema* as the proper name for the eastern, palest, prairie form. Further, a revision of the whole complex is badly needed to determine if the prairie forms exhibit stepped clines, permitting the sensible retention of the present sub-specific limits. Allan R. Phillips and Joe T. Marshall, Jr. (pers. comm.) think that only two forms should be recognized, an eastern, pale grayish population and a western, variably more brownish or richer form which should be called *occidentalis*. While I would hesitate to combine the exceedingly pale grayish birds of the type locality of *utahensis* with the ruddy birds of the Arizona–New Mexico plateaus, the conclusions of Phillips and Marshall, based on large numbers of specimens from Arizona and adjacent states, indicate the need for a revision of this species of the entire region of central North America.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *Department of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, New York.*

Rufous-necked Sandpiper, *Erolia ruficollis*, in northeastern Ohio.—On the morning of 21 July 1962 I noticed a small sandpiper with a decidedly reddish head and neck among about 50 Least (*Erolia minutilla*) and Semipalmated (*Ereunetes pusillus*) sandpipers that were moving along open sand at Walnut Beach, Ashtabula, Ohio. Immediately I pointed out the bird to Paul H. Savage of Ashtabula and Ralph Browning of Phoenix, Oregon, who were with me.

When first seen, the bird was about 75 feet away (24 m). At this range the color of the head and neck was quite apparent and could be noted even without binoculars. After careful study we tentatively identified it as a Rufous-necked Sandpiper (*Erolia ruficollis*).

Upon further observation (as close as 15 feet) we found that it was slightly smaller than a Semipalmated Sandpiper. The bill was black, thinner than a Semipalmated's, closely resembling that of a Least. Legs and feet were also black. The head and neck were uniform bright reddish brown with a few dusky streaks on the crown and somewhat lighter superciliary line. This color terminated rather abruptly and was replaced by unmarked white on breast, abdomen, flanks, and under tail coverts. The white flanks were streaked inconspicuously with dusky. The back, scapulars, wing coverts, and rump were ochre, tinged with rusty and marked with dark brown. The flight pattern appeared similar to that of the other small sandpipers. The call note was a single or double *pip*.

Although the bird fed with the other sandpipers, it was not seen wading. Rather, it walked over the mud and picked nervously for food. Frequently other birds would chase and peck at it, and when the group was flushed, it flew by itself.

Savage and Browning returned later in the day and saw the bird again. That evening I was able to photograph it with a 500-mm telephoto lens at a distance of 25 feet. The next day the bird was still present and was seen also by Lois Savage and Arvid Ahlquist.

Photographs were sent to Drs. Alexander Wetmore, Dean Amadon, and the late Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, all of whom corroborated our identification. Study skins sent to us by Amadon further aided in our making the identification.