

Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys (p. 102). The four specimens in the collection are *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*, which is the winter visiting race in this district—not *Z. l. leucophrys*.

The record of *Dendroica townsendi* (p. 103) taken on September 8, 1918, should be changed to *Dendroica occidentalis*.—MARGARET W. WYTHE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, December 18, 1928.*

On the Courtship of the American Bittern.—On May 8, 1928, near the north end of Osooyos Lake, British Columbia, the writer and Mr. S. J. Darcus of Penticton, British Columbia, witnessed the display of a male American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and the consummation of his courtship.

The observers' attention had been attracted by a Bittern's "pumping" coming from a recently flooded meadow where the growth was not sufficient to conceal any of the birds that were present. A scrutiny of this area with 6-power binoculars revealed the author of the sounds, some ninety yards distant, standing bolt upright in the shallow water, with neck outstretched and bill pointing skyward. Twenty-five yards farther out, fully exposed to view on dry ground bare of vegetation, crouched a second bird with head drawn in close to the body which was in a nearly horizontal position. This second bird proved to be a female. Suddenly the nearest bird began to "pump"; two "pumps" in quick succession, then repeated a minute or so later. During these efforts the body was thrust forward and bill pointed towards the water. After "pumping" the third time he assumed a stooping attitude and stalked slowly through the shallow water toward the motionless, crouching female, displaying as he did so a large area of white behind the shoulders. When within six feet or so of his mate he began walking around her in a circle, still stooping and displaying still larger patches of white. Suddenly came a movement so fast as almost to escape detection, and the female disappeared beneath the outspread, vibrating wings of her mate. Congress completed, the male stood quietly to one side while the female shook herself just as a domestic fowl does under the same circumstances.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, December 3, 1928.*

Eight-mile Censuses in 1927.—In the CONDOR for May, 1927 (pp. 144-147), I discussed 13 eight-mile censuses made over a tract of diversified country in central Oklahoma during 1926. Since we have left Oklahoma, it seemed advisable to give the results of the five censuses taken in Cleveland County in 1927, so that they can be compared with the corresponding ones of 1926. (Numbers of species are given first, individuals second.)

1926. January 1, 39: 2400; February 1, 35: 1400; March 20, 45: 600; April 24, 61: 460; May 4, 66: 450.

1927. January 8, 33: 760; February 22, 36: 1600; March 28, 47: 900; April 24, 59: 500; May 5, 67: 600.

The numbers of species are very much the same during the two years except in January; the numbers of individuals differ more, but not very much, again with the exception of January. In 1927 there were more birds from late February on, than had been seen in 1926 except on April 24 when they were practically the same. The reason for the striking difference in the two Januaries lies largely in the great abundance of blackbirds in 1926 and their entire absence in 1927; moreover, twice as many sparrows were recorded in 1926 as in 1927, and four times as many Crows and Meadowlarks.

The really surprising agreement of the findings in both years in March, April and May—the main migration months—gives additional evidence of the relative stability of the bird population in this region, due apparently to the small number of transients.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio, January 3, 1929.*

Bird Notes from Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, During the Summer of 1928.—On July 1 a Dusky Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii californicus*) was flushed from under a pine near Pine Knot. This species seems to be of rather unusual occurrence in this locality and had probably drifted up from the more favorable surroundings of the desert slope to the east.

Two Western Gnatcatchers (*Poliptila caerulea obscura*) were seen on July 1 in a little cañon at 7000 feet altitude, among the pines in a typical Transition associa-