

to the type locality of *Melospiza melodia bendirei* at Tempe Butte, Maricopa County, Arizona. These specimens all showed clearly the color characters ascribed to the new race, *M. m. bendirei*, by Phillips (Auk, 60, 1943:242). In his original description Phillips neglected to mention any differences in dimensions—characters which would have strengthened the case for this race. The following measurements, in my estimation, should be added to the description of the subspecific characters of *Melospiza melodia bendirei*:

<i>M. m. bendirei</i>	Wing	Tail	Exposed Culmen
6 ♂♂	(65.3-68.4) 67.7	(68.0-73.0) 70.8	(12.0-13.2) 12.5
3 ♀♀	(61.8-64.0) 62.7	(64.0-68.5) 66.5	(12.0-12.2) 12.0
<i>M. m. saltonis</i>	Wing	Tail	Exposed Culmen
4 ♂♂	(63.9-66.0) 64.9	(66.0-68.3) 66.6	(11.5-12.5) 12.0
4 ♀♀	(61.3-63.9) 62.9	(62.9-66.2) 64.2	(11.2-12.0) 11.5

In all instances the specimens were April and May birds in which there was as yet very little evidence of feather wear. On the basis of these data, *M. m. bendirei* is further separable from *M. m. saltonis* by its longer tail and slightly longer wing, differences which are more pronounced in the adult male. The specimens examined indicate that there is no justification for any changes in the limits of the breeding range of *M. m. bendirei*, but they do emphasize more fully the restricted and limited breeding areas for song sparrows in central and southeastern Arizona.

Melospiza melodia fallax. Since more adequate comparative material is at hand and the *montana-fallax* complex has at last been clarified, I find it desirable to report further on the song sparrows of the Uinta Basin, Utah (see Twomey, Annals Carnegie Mus., 28, 1942:341-490). The breeding birds of the Wasatch Mountains, Uinta Mountains, and as far east as Moffatt County, Colorado, belong to *Melospiza melodia montana*. Unfortunately only one breeding specimen was taken at Hill Creek, forty miles south of Ouray on the Tavaputs Plateau, Utah. Except for the slightly more pronounced streaking of the back feathers, this bird is identical with specimens of *Melospiza melodia fallax* which were taken three miles south of St. George, Utah. This breeding bird extends the range of *fallax* to the southern edge of the Uinta Basin. In a series of eight song sparrows collected in the vicinity of St. George, Utah, between October 12 and 18, 1937, six were *Melospiza melodia montana* and two were *Melospiza melodia fallax*.

From September 4 to 6, 1940, a considerable concentration of song sparrows was encountered along the Verde River, four miles southeast of Cottonwood, Arizona, which is just east of the type locality of *fallax*. The three specimens collected were *Melospiza melodia fallax*. Further field work in this area of Arizona will undoubtedly prove that there are still many excellent breeding localities for song sparrows throughout this part of the State and that the type specimen of *M. m. fallax*, collected January 22, 1858, could have been a resident bird rather than a migrant.—ARTHUR C. TWOMEY, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, December 19, 1946.

Additional Notes on Cranes in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon.—It was with considerable interest that I read Thatcher's report of cranes about Diamond Lake, Douglas County, Oregon (Condor, 49, 1947:42), for on May 25, 1941, my sister and I found a pair of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) nesting on Mud Lake, at about 4800 feet elevation, a few miles south of the Three Sisters Mountains in western Deschutes County, Oregon. The nest contained two eggs, which were not disturbed. It was placed some 100 yards from the shoreline in an area of shallow, treacherous bog. We were able to approach the nest and obtain a set of Kodachrome photographs of the nest and also of the parent birds. It was not possible to return to the nest later and determine the result of the nesting.

Eastern Lane and Douglas counties and western Deschutes and northwestern Klamath counties are dotted with innumerable permanent shallow ponds and lakes. Several miles to the south of Mud Lake is a Crane Prairie, now a reservoir, so named because of the early day abundance of cranes in the vicinity. There may be extensive nesting of cranes throughout this area, but due to its general inaccessibility, the true extent of breeding will be difficult to ascertain.—GORDON W. GULLION, Eugene, Oregon, February 21, 1947.

British Columbian Records of the Clay-colored Sparrow.—On May 29, 1946, in the course of a ten-day visit to Okanagan Landing in south-central British Columbia, I observed three males of the Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). These were found in an old clearing about three miles south of the Okanagan Landing post office, along Cameron's Point Road. The ground vegetation of the clearing was a relatively dense cover of grasses, herbs, and low shrubs; young deciduous trees and tall shrubs were scattered every few feet throughout the clearing. The latter were used as singing posts by the male sparrows, which were well spaced and were singing regularly. Observations in mid-morning and again in the late morning, totalling about an hour, indicated that they had selected and perhaps established territories. During most of this time, all three males sang simultaneously. After a

period of song, one of the males foraged quietly in the herbage and low shrubs from one to three feet above the ground. Although no other individuals were seen and although I was unable to revisit the area, all evidence pointed to the likelihood that these sparrows were local residents.

British Columbian records of *Spizella pallida* are few, but it now appears that the 1931 A. O. U. Check-list is in error when it states (p. 349) that this species is merely "casual in British Columbia." The latter statement is apparently based on the work of Swarth and Brooks (Pac. Coast Avif., No. 17, 1925:95), who cite only one definite record, that of two specimens taken on July 3, 1901, in the Cariboo district (Brooks, Auk, 20, 1903:283; 22, 1905:83). One of these, a male (A.B. no. 5161), is now in the

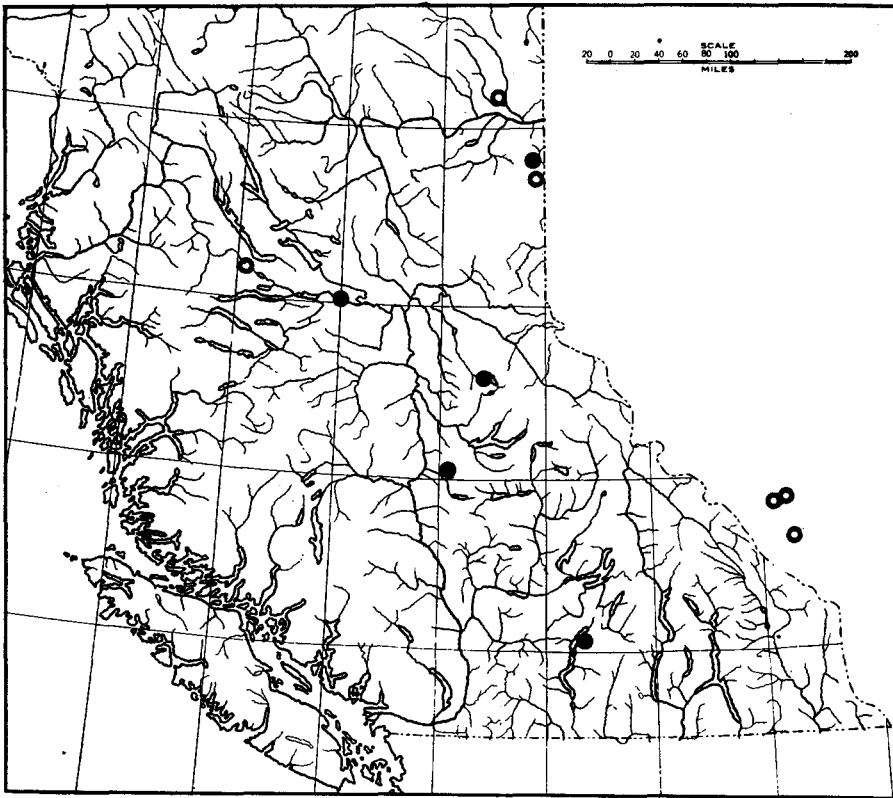


Fig. 22. Distribution of the Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) in central and southern British Columbia. Dots indicate localities from which specimens have been examined; circles, localities reported in the literature.

collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology; its label reads "Carpenters Mt (150 mile) / Cariboo district." Other specimens in the same collection, previously unreported, are a male (M.V.Z. no. 65716; "testes 7. mm.") collected at Indianpoint Lake on June 6, 1934, by Alden H. Miller; a male (M.V.Z. no. 83105; "singing," testes "very large") collected on June 5, 1925, and a juvenal female (A.B. no. 5156) collected on November 14, 1929, both at Okanagan Landing by Allan Brooks; and an adult female (A.B. no. 7856) taken on September 2, 1934, at Vanderhoof by Allan Brooks ("others seen . . . evidently nests there").

Other recent records are those of Racey (Murrelet, 11, 1930:71) and Cowan (Occ. Papers Brit. Col. Prov. Mus., No. 1, 1939:59) from the Peace River district and of Munro (Occ. Papers Brit. Col. Prov. Mus., No. 6, 1947:106) from Bulkley Lake, north of Francois Lake in central British Columbia. All cited records are mapped in figure 22. Recent records from an adjoining part of Alberta (Clarke and Cowan, Can. Field Nat., 59, 1945:102) are also shown.

The two summer records from Okanagan Landing appear to be the southernmost for British Columbia for the breeding season. This point is of interest in light of the possibility that the interior

British Columbian population of the Clay-colored Sparrow may be derived from around the northern end of the Rocky Mountain mass and thence east from the Canadian parklands and plains, the metropolis of this species. It is noteworthy that in the Peace River district, through which the Clay-colored Sparrow would probably have entered British Columbia if this hypothesis is correct, this species is "the most abundant sparrow" (Cowan, Occ. Papers Brit. Col. Prov. Mus., No. 1, 1939:15). Elsewhere, however, the records suggest sparse and local distribution; in a report on the Cariboo district, for example, Munro (Can. Jour. Res., ser. D, 23, 1945:91) could only cite Brooks' earlier records. Observations on date of spring arrival at the several localities mentioned here can throw light on the question of source and spread of the species.

Thus, according to present information, *Spizella pallida* occurs commonly in the Peace River district of east-central British Columbia and locally, perhaps only sporadically, west to Bulkley Lake and south to the Okanagan region. Some British Columbian records of *Spizella pallida* may have been overlooked in the preparation of this note, but I have attempted only to report unpublished records and to point out that these, together with other recent records, are adequate basis for the inclusion of interior British Columbia in the normal range of the species.

Mrs. Marjorie Brooks and Allan Cecil Brooks generously permitted me to extract notes from Major Brooks' personally annotated copy of the British Columbian list. Mr. Kenneth E. Racey of Vancouver, British Columbia, kindly showed me three specimens of *Spizella pallida* which he obtained at Dawson Creek. Through discussion with Dr. I. McT. Cowan of the University of British Columbia, the possible northern derivation of the Okanagan population was suggested.—FRANK A. PITELKA, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 10, 1947.*

Offshore Records of Mourning Dove and Hermit Warbler from Baja California.—

While I was in the Navy, our ship operated frequently out of San Diego, California, usually southward along the Lower Californian coast. On May 8, 1946, three Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) came aboard. Our position at that time was roughly 60 miles due west of Ensenada, Baja California. The nearest land was probably the Coronados Islands, at least 50 miles northeast of us. One dove disappeared, but the remaining two stayed with us until our return to San Diego at the end of the week. They finally left the ship when we were about two miles from Point Loma, flying low over the water straight toward it.

On May 9 a Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) was found dead on deck in the morning, when we were still in the same area, 60 miles west of Ensenada.—ARYAN I. ROEST, *Corvallis, Oregon, February 13, 1947.*

Starling in British Columbia.—On January 15, 1947, Mr. A. J. Braun collected four Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) from a flock of eight which appeared in the vicinity of Oliver, a village in the Okanagan Valley 15 miles north of the international boundary. The four specimens were mounted, and I recently have examined one of them, an adult sexed as a male. There are earlier but unconfirmed reports of Starlings seen in the Cariboo Parklands, at Williams Lake and at Alkali Lake; but so far as I am aware, the Oliver specimens are the first taken in British Columbia.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B.C., February 4, 1947.*

Frigate Birds and the Laysan Rail.—Baldwin's (Condor, 49, 1947:14-21) account of the Laysan Rail (*Porzana palmeri*) is interesting to me as I had the pleasure of participating in the Bishop Museum "Tanager" Expedition to Midway and Laysan islands in 1923. It is my impression that a Frigate Bird (*op. cit.*:16) cannot catch any animal that would try to escape by dodging. I believe that the rails could have escaped an attack by dodging. As for Dill's statement that a Frigate Bird picked up full grown rabbits, I would like to hear that this observation has been repeated. Mr. Lewis W. Walker of the San Diego Society of Natural History has experimented with the weight-lifting ability of the large birds of prey and found that their lifting power is very small. The Frigate Bird, according to my memory, does not weigh more than a full grown rabbit—of the size that I saw and killed on Laysan—and I doubt very much that a Frigate Bird could lift a half grown individual or that a rabbit in good health could be caught by a Frigate Bird. One tale, that a Frigate Bird cannot rise from the water, I disproved by taking a Frigate Bird into the water where I held it submerged all but the head. Upon releasing the bird, it rose clear with one down stroke of the wings.

We did not find any fresh water on Wake Island where rails were numerous, which would make it appear that the Wake Island rail can subsist without water (*op. cit.*:19). On the other hand there was permanent water on Laysan and Midway, where some faucets were always left dripping for the canaries, finches and rails. We brought a few rails back to Laysan and liberated them, but they apparently did not find the fresh-water "spring," as we found them all dead along the shore of the lagoon. I believe the Laysan Rail needed fresh water and that its introduction to a waterless island was a foredoomed failure.—CHAPMAN GRANT, *San Diego, California, February 10, 1947.*