

Repeated consideration of these matters in expanding studies over a period of nearly 40 years has sustained fully my early opinions. To place the Corvidae at the highest level on the basis of greater mental capacity is to ignore these actual facts.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., January 15, 1957.*

Unusual Early Winter Records from Oregon.—In 1953 and 1955, field work in connection with distributional studies being carried on for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service took me into Oregon for a brief interval in late November and December. My activities then were concerned largely with migratory game species, but notes were kept of other birds observed while in the field, and an occasional specimen was taken to verify unusual occurrences. Among the latter, the following seem of sufficient interest to justify placing on record at this time. In each instance subspecific determination was made by John W. Aldrich.

Regulus calendula cineraceus. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. At Pendleton, on December 12, 1953, a male was collected as it fed with a flock of Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) in woods bordering the Umatilla River. Gabrielson and Jewett (*Birds of Oregon, 1940*) consider this species rare in winter in eastern Oregon and state that only *Regulus calendula grinnelli* has been taken east of the mountains at this time of year. It is of interest, therefore, that this specimen was found to represent the race *cineraceus*.

Dendroica townsendi. Townsend Warbler. Rather unexpected was the presence of a female Townsend Warbler at Pendleton on December 12, 1953, where it was feeding with the previously mentioned flock of Black-capped Chickadees in woods bordering the Umatilla River. Gabrielson and Jewett list but three winter records for the state, all for the Portland area; this is apparently the first record at this season of the year for eastern Oregon.

Wilsonia pusilla pileolata. Pileolated Warbler. At Coquille, 17 miles south of Coos Bay, a female Pileolated Warbler, representing the race *pileolata*, was collected on December 6, 1955, as it fed alone in underbrush fringing a small stream. This would appear to be not only the first winter record of this race for Oregon, but also the first record for its occurrence in the western part of the state. Gabrielson and Jewett give the status of *pileolata* in Oregon as a fairly common summer resident east of the Cascades, with extreme dates of occurrence as April 29 and September 21.

Melospiza lincolnii gracilis. Lincoln Sparrow. Although considered by Gabrielson and Jewett (*op. cit.*) as an uncommon migrant in the state, the presence of *gracilis* in western Oregon in December suggests the possibility that the Lincoln Sparrow winters in at least small numbers. At Coos Bay on December 7, 1955, three individuals were noted feeding with Song Sparrows in alders bordering a stretch of open marsh and a male that was collected was found to be typical of this northern coastal race.

Melospiza georgiana ericrypta. Swamp Sparrow. At Tillamook, on November 29, 1955, a female Swamp Sparrow, representing the race *ericrypta*, was collected as it fed with other sparrows in alders bordering a large open marsh. As far as now known this is the first record for the occurrence of this species in Oregon.—THOMAS D. BURLEIGH, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Moscow, Idaho, January 14, 1957.*

Migratory Flight of a Zonotrichia at 10,000 Feet Above Ground Level.—On October 31, 1956, Mr. Francis Drake was flying a single-engine Beech Bonanza airplane from Sacramento to San Bernardino, California. Between 9:00 and 9:15 p.m. while following a Civil Aeronautics flight plan at 10,000 feet above sea level, he felt a dull thud in the forward part of the plane. On landing at San Bernardino he inspected the front of the plane and found a dent at the right border of the air vent. Part of a bird was lodged in the air intake and this was retrieved for identification. It proved to be the foot, tarsus, and lower shank of a sparrow of the genus *Zonotrichia*. I am much indebted to Marshall G. Richardson and J. Stuart Rowley, as well as to Mr. Drake, for supplying information about this incident and for forwarding the specimen for examination.

The foot and lower leg feathering match in all details of size, color, and structure those of a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*). The tarsus and foot are too large for *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. However, the Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*), which reaches California in small numbers, cannot be distinguished on the basis of these parts from the Golden-crowned Sparrow. But