

Passerculus sandwichensis. Savannah Sparrow. On June 15, a male was collected on a muskeg area near Petersburg. A Savannah Sparrow had been observed singing at the same site on the two days before collecting, and a second bird, presumably a female, was also observed several times. The date of observation and the fact that two birds were present suggests that nesting was in progress. This bird was identified as *P. s. nevadensis*, a race not previously recorded in Alaska. According to the 5th edition of the A.O.U. Check-list, its range extends northward and westward to northeastern British Columbia.

Another Savannah Sparrow was taken on May 14 at the Petersburg dump. This bird was identified as *P. s. crassus*, which, according to Gabrielson and Lincoln, is the common breeding Savannah Sparrow on the islands and mainland in the area southward from Juneau and Chichagof Island to the Queen Charlotte Islands.

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An Experiment on a Flammulated Owl.—A Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*), currently in residence at the San Diego Zoo, was subjected to an experiment to determine whether it would undergo torpidity.

This owl was donated to the San Diego Zoo on October 10, 1962, by members of the crew of the U.S.S. "Tulare" (AKA-112). Through the courtesy of Capt. D. B. Ramage, commanding officer, and Lt. (JG) D. R. Timm, who secured the bird, I am able to report the following details. The ship had been in port in San Diego, San Diego County, California, for at least a week prior to the morning of October 9. After a day's voyage extending to about 30 miles due west of San Diego, the ship berthed at about 4:00 p.m. at the United States Naval Repair Facility in San Diego. The owl was first noticed at about 8:30 a.m. on October 10. It was easily captured by Lt. Timm, who noted that it made almost no effort to escape from his hands. The bird's relative inactivity led Lt. Timm to believe that it was "sick, old or exhausted." This quietness on the part of a small owl in broad daylight, however, is probably normal behavior.

The circumstances related above suggest that the owl probably found its way to the ship during the night of October 9-10. It is unlikely that it would have been present but unnoticed for the preceding week, or that it would have reached the ship at sea. At any rate, the Flammulated Owl has never before been recorded along the coast line of California. The localities nearest to San Diego from which records of the species are available are the San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino County, approximately 100 miles to the northeast, and Mount Pinos, Ventura County, some 200 miles to the northwest (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:189-190*).

In a discussion of the supposed migratory status of the Flammulated Owl, Johnson (Wilson Bull., 75, 1963:174-178) suggested that this species might undergo periods of torpidity in the winter. To test this possibility, Mr. K. C. Lint, Curator of Birds at the San Diego Zoo, made available to me the bird that had been captured on the "Tulare." The bird was borrowed on the morning of March 5, 1963, 48 hours after its last feeding. It was placed in a refrigerator which maintained a fairly constant temperature of 40° F. (plus or minus one degree). On the morning of March 7 it was removed from the refrigerator, still awake and alert. The bird had been checked several times during the 48-hour period of refrigeration, but nothing was observed that would suggest torpidity.

The negative results of this single experiment should not be interpreted as entirely disproving Johnson's suggestion. This experiment was done on a bird which was obviously a migrant; if there is a polymorphism in either a tendency to migrate or a tendency to become torpid, a migrant bird would be the least suitable subject for an experiment of the nature of this one. Also, it may be that a longer period of starvation, a longer period of refrigeration, or a lower temperature would be necessary to induce torpidity in this species, if it occurs.

In addition to the persons mentioned above, I wish to express my appreciation to Drs. Thomas R. Howell and George A. Bartholomew for their comments on the experimental procedure.—RICHARD C. BANKS, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, June 1, 1963.*