

Calamospiza melanocorys. Lark Bunting. Approximately 30 birds of this species were found at St. George on 5 May 1965; one male (weight 42.3 g, testes 0.56 g) was collected. The specimen (ZNPM 1670) represents the third record for southwestern Utah. The species was first reported for the region by Hardy and Higgins (Proc. Utah Acad. Sci., Arts, and Letters, 17:109, 1940), who noted four specimens taken at Washington, Utah, 10 May 1940. Behle (Bull. Univ. Utah, 2:73, 1943) also collected a specimen in the Beaver Dam Mountains on 6 May 1941.

Apparently the species was present throughout the tri-state area from 27 April through 15 May 1965. Wauer first observed a flock of 14 individuals at Beaver Dam on 27 April; Russell found a lone male in company with a flock of Lark Sparrows (*Chondestes grammacus*) at the Terry Ranch in Beaver Dam Wash on 8 May and another lone male at St. George on 15 May. In Arizona it is considered rare in the western part of the state (Phillips *et al.*, *op. cit.*, p. 191). Linsdale (*op. cit.*, p. 245) considered it to be an "irregular winter visitant" in Nevada. Apparently it is an irregular spring migrant in the Virgin River Valley.

Zonotrichia albicollis. White-throated Sparrow. A single female, of at least two individuals which were heard singing three days earlier, was taken in Oak Creek Canyon, Zion National Park, on 29 October 1965. The specimen (ZNPM 1696) weighed 23.4 g (ovary 1×1 mm), and represents the first of this species collected in southern Utah. Earlier records in southwestern Utah include three seen with a large flock of *Z. leucophrys* at Springdale on 20 November 1964 (Wauer and Carter, Birds of Zion National Park and Vicinity, Zion Natl. Hist. Assoc., p. 85, 1965), and Russell found a lone bird in company with *Z. leucophrys* at the Terry Ranch in Beaver Dam Wash on 15 May 1965. On 11 January 1966 he noted another lone bird near St. George.

Zonotrichia atricapilla. Golden-crowned Sparrow. Until now there have been only two records of this species for Utah. Both of these are from Zion Canyon; W. S. Long collected one (ZNPM 365) in Zion Canyon on 16 January 1936, and Grater observed one here on 7 March 1942 (Woodbury *et al.*, *op. cit.*, p. 35). Wauer found the species present at Springdale throughout the winter of 1964-65. Three individuals were banded (one each on 20 January and 15 and 24 February); the 15 February bird (band number 101-234018) was released four miles from the place of capture and was recaptured on 23 February at the same location where it was originally captured. Additional fall records include birds banded in Oak Creek Canyon, Zion National Park, on 29 October and 4, 14, 16, and 18 November 1965. A single specimen was taken here on 15 November 1965; it (ZNPM 1717) was a female (ovary 2×1 mm) that weighed 27.9 g. Russell observed an immature with a small yellow frontal patch one mile west of Santa Clara on 28 December 1965. An additional winter sighting is an adult seen with a small flock of *Z. leucophrys* at Rogers Spring, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Clark County, Nevada, by Russell on 4 February 1963.

Apparently, this species is also a spring migrant through southern Utah, as one was seen in Shunes Creek, Washington County, 22 April 1963, by Carter, and Wauer observed one at Springdale on 13 April 1964.

Melospiza georgiana. Swamp Sparrow. A male Swamp Sparrow was taken at the Springdale Ponds on 2 March 1965. The specimen (ZNPM 1629) was racially identified by Short as *ericrypta* and represents the second record for the Virgin River Valley and the third for Utah. Yarrow and Henshaw of the Wheeler Survey collected one near Washington on 23 October 1872 (Henshaw, Rept. Geog. and Geol. Expl. and Surv. West 100th Mer., 5, p. 385, 1875). A second specimen was taken near Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, on 20 February 1952 (Behle, Condor, 56:312, 1954). An additional record is of a sighting of the Swamp Sparrow near the confluence of the Virgin and Santa Clara rivers, two miles south of St. George, by Wauer, on 9 February 1966.—ROLAND H. WAUER, *Big Bend National Park, Texas*, and RICHARD C. RUSSELL, *3620 Barcroft View Terrace, Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia, 22 July 1966*.

Individual Variation in Natal Pterylosis of Red-winged Blackbirds.—Pterylosis of young passerines has in recent years received increased attention in terms of adaptation and taxonomy (see Burckhardt, Rev. Suisse Zool., 62:314-319, 1955; Wetherbee, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 113:339-436, 1957; Collins, Bird-Banding, 34:36-38, 1963). The following report empha-

sizes the importance of studying intraspecific variation as illustrated by new data on Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*).

During visits to 20 nests at Foster's Island, Seattle, Washington, in May and June 1965, I examined a total of 58 live nestlings from hatching to approximately five days of age. Four young from two of the nests had exceptional natal downs on the interscapular region of the spinal tract (pterylographic terminology of Wetherbee, *op. cit.*, pp. 347). In one of these nests one of the two young possessed more than five interscapular natal downs. At the other nest of four young, two exhibited only one natal down in the interscapular region, while a third had more than five. The other 54 young at Seattle lacked downs in the interscapular region. In addition, Wetherbee (*op. cit.*) examined 10 preserved Red-winged Blackbirds of similar ages from the eastern and central United States and did not find any natal downs on the interscapular region. Indeed, on the basis of Wetherbee's survey it appears that interscapular natal downs have not previously been reported for any species of the family Icteridae.

Furthermore, Wetherbee reported absence of natal downs on the manus in Red-winged Blackbirds, but very small downs were present in this region on each of the three nestlings examined for this purpose in Seattle.

Only a single unattached natal down was seen among all the nestlings at Seattle, but dislodged downs could readily be blown away or overlooked by an observer. Nevertheless, since I could confirm the presence and quantity of interscapular downs as much as five days after initial observation, it appears likely that most of the intraspecific variation of 0-5 days of age was due to differences in normal prehatching development rather than posthatching adventitious loss.

As the nestlings examined for natal pterylosis were also used for ecological studies, collecting specimens for sexing was not practical. However, the infrequent occurrence of the exceptional natal downs of the interscapular region indicates that they are probably not a secondary sexual characteristic.

The exceptional interscapular downs are possibly correlated with hatching relatively early in the season, but additional data are needed to confirm this point. The two nests containing the four exceptional birds were among four nests with young hatching during the first week of a hatching period which exceeded six weeks for the entire 20 nests. Although no accurate counts of total numbers of downs were possible under field conditions, rough counts on three birds hatched in the first week indicated that the one having extra downs in the interscapular region also had a greater number of natal downs on the entire body. It is thus possible that the presence of interscapular natal downs is indicative of a higher total number of natal downs. If the relatively sparse natal downs of such young passerines serve in insulation, birds hatched in cooler weather earlier in the season might gain a potential selective advantage in possessing additional natal downs.

Although natal pterylosis may sometimes serve as a useful taxonomic character in passerine classification, the accumulating data of the present and previously cited studies indicate that in many cases only relatively large samples will reveal the extent of normal variation within a single passerine species. In addition to geographic variation (see Burckhardt, *op. cit.*), there may also be variations within a single locality or even a single nest as exemplified in the interscapular region of the Seattle population. Future studies on intraspecific variation in passerine natal pterylosis should consider possible seasonal variation within local populations.

Gordon H. Orians gave valuable information on the Red-winged Blackbirds at Seattle.—
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Cassin's Kingbird and Plumbeous Solitary Vireo in the White Mountains of California.—The avifauna of the eastern part of California is poorly known compared with that of other parts of the state. The White Mountains in Inyo and Mono counties were, in fact, themselves poorly known until 1954, when a party from the University of California at Berkeley added several species to the list known to breed there (Miller and Russell, *Condor*, 58:75-77, 1956). Our casual observations there indicate that much remains to be learned of the avifauna of this region. The following two species have not previously been reported from the White Mountains.