

lose a great deal of weight, with little loss prior to that time (Fig. 3).

If we are correct in believing that most desertions we noted were an artifact of our methods, then Zwickel's (1975) figure of 57% minimal nesting success for Blue Grouse in this area should be changed to 63%. If we then apply fertility and hatchability figures reported by Zwickel to this figure, minimal hatching success becomes 60% rather than 54%, as reported earlier.

Many people and organizations contributed to this

study (Zwickel 1975). A. T. Bergerud, University of Victoria, and J. F. Wittenberger, University of Washington, contributed helpful comments on the manuscript. All assistance is appreciated.

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## NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE HAINES AREA OF SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA

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Study of a collection of birds I made in 1972 and 1975 near Haines, southeastern Alaska, and in adjacent British Columbia uncovered some forms of interest. All specimens are in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. The Klehini River flows from 12 miles NW of mile 46 of the Haines Highway into the Chilkat River (see Webster 1975 for map). The historic village of Klukwan is on the Chilkat River, one mile downstream from the confluence with the Klehini, and at mile 20 of the Haines Highway. Marshes begin on the west side of the Chilkat River 2 miles upstream (NW) from Klukwan. The area is within the humid coniferous forest region, but timberline is at about 800 m elevation. The terrain is extremely rugged and mountainous, with numerous glaciers. Precipitation, at least in the valleys, is distinctly less than in most of southeastern Alaska (Newman and Branton 1972).

*Canachites canadensis atratus*. Spruce Grouse. The only record from Southeastern Alaska is by Hartlaub (1883), who reported that the Krauses in 1882 took females and young at Portage Bay (= Haines) and Tlehini (= Klehini River; possibly in British Columbia as the boundary line was then uncertain). From the adjacent coastal forests of British Columbia north of the range of *C. c. franklinii*, the only record of Spruce Grouse is that of Swarth (1922:205-6) from Flood Glacier, on the Stikine River. My records are from mile 46 on the Haines Highway, beside the upper Klehini River, British Columbia, in Mountain Hemlock-Sitka Spruce forest. Here we watched a hooting male on 18 June 1972 and I collected a female on 21 June 1975. I compared the specimen with Swarth's Flood Glacier female (MVZ), as well as with 6 female topotypes of *C. c. atratus* from the Prince William Sound area, 13 female *C. c. osgoodi* from southern Alaska, southwestern Yukon, and northwestern British Columbia, and 11 female *franklinii* from western and central British Columbia. The race (in females, based on dark, blackish coloration) and its extension south to the Chilkat and Stikine are clear, despite the depreciation by Friedmann (1946:137) and the omission of the Flood Glacier locality from the A. O. U. Check-list (1957:127). The female reported here is decidedly the darkest, blackest specimen of the *species* I have seen, and with the

most extreme restriction of the terminal bar on the rectrices.

*Certhia familiaris montana*. Brown Creeper. I collected an immature female of this common species near Klukwan on 9 October 1972. Like those reported from Glacier Bay by Grinnell (1909:237) and Brooks (1915), it does not belong to the southern coastal race, *occidentalis*, but rather to the paler, grayer, northern and interior race. There is considerable difference of opinion as to the proper name of the grayer race from Alaska. Following Grinnell and Brooks, Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959:636) called it *montana*. Aldrich (1946) called it *caurina*, lumping it with populations from interior Washington. Phillips (1964:116) called it *americana*. Pending revision, I use the name of the race most similar in color.

*Catharus guttatus guttatus*. Hermit Thrush. I collected two fall specimens and three summer specimens near Haines. All belong to the dull-colored, dark olive population from Yakutat mentioned by Aldrich (1968).

*Anthus spinoletta pacificus*. Water Pipit. Three specimens were collected near Haines in September and October of 1972. In identifying these, I investigated *A. s. geophilus* (Oberholser 1946), including statements by Lea and Edwards (1950) and Phillips (1964:138) supporting this race. Although autumn birds from western Alaska tend to be browner (than *A. s. rubescens*, *pacificus*, or *alticola*), I find this slight and erratic and prefer not to recognize *geophilus*.

Within the series of 76 Alaskan pipits I used for identification was the specimen (immature ♀ CAS30778 taken by Harrold 10 September 1927 on Nunivak Island) reported by Swarth (1928) and other authors as *A. s. japonicus*. I carefully compared it, particularly with a series of 39 recently-taken *japonicus* (MVZ). The wing length, 80 mm, is average for *A. s. pacificus*, but too short for *japonicus*. In my opinion, the specimen belongs not to the Asian race, but to *pacificus*, or to *geophilus* if that race be recognized, for it represents an extreme of the brown coloration. Oddly, *japonicus* resembles *rubescens* of eastern North America, in its dark dorsal color and extensive ventral streaking, more than any of the western North American races.

*Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus*. Redwinged Blackbird. Some years ago (Webster 1948), I recorded two specimens from southeastern Alaska, noting that the species was a straggler from the interior. Since that time its status has changed, and it breeds in small numbers along the mainland of southeastern Alaska (Kessel and Gibson, in press). In June 1975,

we found a breeding colony in a marsh 3 miles NW of Klukwan; four territorial males and at least that many females were present. I collected a male which proved to have the large size and heavy bill of the northern race. Like several other species of land birds, this species has recently invaded the coast from the adjacent interior (Swarth 1936).

*Passerculus sandwichensis crassus*. Savannah Sparrow. I have difficulty in distinguishing this race in specimens taken in June and July, although fall birds are much buffier (less reddish) and have more yellow about the head than those of *P. s. anthinus*. The more slender bill of *anthinus*, mentioned by Peters and Griscom (1938) and others as distinguishing the two races, is erratic in series of *anthinus* from southwestern Yukon and northwestern British Columbia (although consistent farther north). The character is likewise erratic in series of *crassus* from the Howkan (May) and Wrangell (June and July) areas of southeastern Alaska. I collected five specimens of *crassus* near Haines in September 1972; presumably they represent the local breeding population which occurs in summer in both salt marshes and alpine meadows. Peters and Griscom (1938) did not list *crassus* from north of Baranof Island, and Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959:777) listed none from north of Juneau and Chichagof Island. The last authors, however, did list as *anthinus* one June specimen from Haines and two from Glacier Bay.

*Junco hyemalis cismontanus*. Dark-eyed Junco. Many juncos near Klukwan in the fall of 1972 appeared to belong to various races. The three females I collected, however, all proved to be this race when carefully measured and compared. According to Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959:782) there is only one previous record of this subspecies from Alaska—a specimen taken on Douglas Island, 9 October 1940 by Williams.

*Melospiza melodia*. Song Sparrow. These sparrows were sparse in summer in the Haines area, but fairly common from 5 September to 10 October 1972. A male in breeding condition taken 7 June 1975 beside a marsh 3 miles NW of Klukwan is *M. m. inexpectata* > *caurina*; three fall specimens are *caurina*.

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