

single motion but held them out 4–5 seconds as compared to the Brown Thrasher which kept its extended only 1–2 seconds. None of the other birds present extended their wings. After 20 minutes the snake crawled out of sight in some dense bushes and all the birds left the immediate area.—EDWIN D. MICHAEL, *Biology Department, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961 (Present address: Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506).* 28 July 1969.

Re-evaluation of two supposed hybrid birds.—In 1967 Keith L. Dixon requested information on a reported hybrid chickadee supposed to be in the U. S. National Museum. The specimen could not be found at that time but it was recently discovered in the course of routine expansion and rearrangement of the Paridae in the USNM collection. When I informed Dr. Dixon that in my opinion the bird was not a hybrid he urged preparation of a note indicating the apparent basis of the record. It seems appropriate to include comments on a White-crowned Sparrow specimen also misidentified as a hybrid, a situation of which I have been aware for some years.

Parus atricapillus × *P. gambeli*.—This hybrid combination was reported by Suchetot (1897) on the basis of a specimen in the U. S. National Museum about which Robert Ridgway had written him. Ridgway is quoted as saying that the bird was in every respect exactly intermediate between the two forms. No other information about the specimen is given. The record is repeated by Cockrum (1952) and Gray (1958) without comment.

Specimen No. 60433 in the U. S. National Museum almost certainly is the bird about which Ridgway wrote. The locality on the label is "Bitter Cottonwood;" the museum catalog expands this to Bitter Cottonwood Creek, Wyoming Territory. The bird, which is not sexed, was collected by H. D. Schmidt on 14 August 1870 and was originally identified as *Parus atricapillus*. The notation "& *P. montanus* (*Hybrid!*)" was later added to the label by Ridgway; the name *montanus* as used in that instance refers to the present *Parus gambeli*. The specimen is in fairly good condition, but the head is somewhat flattened.

Contrary to the remark attributed to Ridgway, this specimen appears to be typical of *P. atricapillus* in every respect of size, proportion, bill shape, and color, except that it possesses traces of white superciliary stripes. The feathers that make up these stripes are merely edged with white rather than fully white tipped as in *P. gambeli*, and the stripes do not join across the forehead as they do in that species. A relatively small number of feathers is involved in the stripes, which do not extend as far posteriorly as in typical *gambeli*. I believe that this bird is best considered an aberrant example of *Parus atricapillus* rather than a hybrid between that species and *P. gambeli*. Wetmore (1931) mentions examining "a number" of Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees (*P. carolinensis*) with one or more white feathers at the junction of the auricular and crown patches, where the stripe on *P. gambeli* occurs.

Zonotrichia leucophrys × *Z. albicollis*.—This hybrid combination was twice reported by Abbott (1958, 1959) on the basis of a single male bird taken at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on 5 January 1958. The specimen is No. 468554 in the USNM.

James K. Lowther and I examined this specimen on separate occasions in 1962 and we independently concluded that it is an example of *Z. l. gambelii* and not a hybrid. The "very large and broad loreal area" cited by Abbott (1959) as a criterion for the hybrid determination results in large part from the make of the skin.

The bend of the wing is not "lemon yellow" as stated by Abbott (op. cit.) nor is it the same as the color of the bend of the wing in *albicollis*. The bend of the wing on the bird in question is faintly tinged with yellow and but slightly more yellowish than normal for *Z. l. gambelii*, well within the range of color shown in the species. The other features of the bird cited by Abbott are within the range of variation of the white-crown. A whitish throat patch, present in the bird under consideration and the feature at first most suggestive of hybridization although not specifically mentioned by Abbott, is a not uncommon attribute of the White-crowned Sparrow; in the bird under consideration, it is merely more extensive than usual. There is no evidence of the black malar stripes which often serve to set off the throat patch in the White-throated Sparrow.

Sibley (1956) reported a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Z. atricapilla*) with a white throat, an occurrence strikingly similar to the one under discussion. He also mentioned two others of that species with some white in the throat and a *Z. l. gambelii* with a very pale throat. Sibley wrote: "These facts suggest that there is a normal genetic basis for white in the throat plumage of *atricapilla*. It seems probable that the white throat in this otherwise normal specimen of *atricapilla* is due, not to hybridization, but either to the chance coalition of a larger than usual number of multiple factors affecting white throat plumage or to a mutation which affected the deposition of pigment in the feathers of this area." With the substitution of the name *leucophrys* for *atricapilla*, that statement aptly fits the present situation.

I am grateful to Keith L. Dixon, Roxie C. Laybourne, and Susan Covington for comments and assistance in the preparation of this manuscript.

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The avifauna of the Sand Draw local fauna (Aftonian) of Brown County, Nebraska.—The first birds known from the Sand Draw local fauna were reported by Jehl (*Auk*, 83:669-670, 1966). The fauna is considered to be Aftonian (first interglacial) in age (see McGrew, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Geol. Ser.*, 9:34-35, 1944, and Hibbard, *Michigan Acad. Sci., Arts, and Letters*, 62nd Ann. Rept., p. 19, 1960), and as Jehl (op. cit.) pointed out, "None of the avian fossils contradict this interpretation, and the presence of a large stork seems to support the view that this fauna lived in a warm, interglacial period." The fossils reported herein were collected by C. W. Hibbard of The University of