

Pine Siskin Nesting at Cloudfcroft, New Mexico.—On June 13, 1943, about 3 p.m., we discovered two young birds near our home in Cloudfcroft, Otero County, New Mexico. They were placed in a cage near an open window so that their calls could be heard outside. After a short time, a Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) appeared at the window and seemed to be disturbed about the young birds. When the cage was placed outside and opened, the parent bird returned and fed the fledglings. The young birds were then placed on a branch of a near-by fir tree and left in the care of the parent.

Cloudfcroft is situated at 8600 feet elevation in the Sacramento Mountains and the dominant trees in the vicinity are yellow pine, Douglas fir, white fir, and Gambel oak.

The young birds could not have been out of the nest long at the time they were taken, since they were able to fly only a few feet. The nest where they were hatched was not found.

This is the second record of the Pine Siskin nesting in New Mexico, the first record being from Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1920, at an elevation of approximately 7000 feet (see Bailey, *Birds of New Mexico*, 1928:699). This second record extends the known nesting range of this species in New Mexico 185 air miles southward.—R. FRANK HEDGES and ROBERT ORRIN HEDGES, *Soil Conservation Service, Cloudfcroft, New Mexico, July 19, 1943.*

Breeding Savannah Sparrows of the Southwestern United States.—Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) collected by J. Stokley Ligon in 1914 at Big Lake [= Marsh Lake], 22 miles south and west of Springerville, Apache County, in central eastern Arizona, apparently are the first evidence that this species breeds in Arizona. Six specimens collected, from August 3 to 10, were adults in worn plumage, except one juvenile taken on August 7. Another specimen was taken on June 24.

Ligon, in his field report in the files of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, dated August 12, 1914, states that the birds were "fairly common in the marshes in the Big Lake region, from 7,000 to 10,000 feet elevation," while, in his report of the Springerville region, he states that "the Savannah sparrow is also fairly abundant in the marsh a half mile southwest of the city, where it ranges over about a fourth section (160 acres) of land, and where it is breeding." Ligon further states that "this place (one-half mile southwest of Springerville) and Big Lake" are the only places that he has found the Savannah Sparrow, and that "they do not breed elsewhere in southern Apache County."

Major E. A. Goldman and Dr. H. H. T. Jackson also collected breeding Savannah Sparrows from the Big Lake region, taking two on June 16, one on June 7, and one on July 19, 1915. One other bird was shot at long range but was lost in the sedges. Goldman in his catalogue states that "the birds were in breeding condition."

Dr. Alexander Wetmore (*Auk*, 37, 1920:405) found Savannah Sparrows in small numbers at Lake Burford, New Mexico, on May 28 and 30, and on June 6. Although no nests were found, he remarks that "they apparently bred." At Taos, New Mexico, Vernon Bailey collected two Savannah Sparrows in the meadow, and in his field report in the files of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, he states that "they were abundant on July 14, 1904."

After the discovery that Savannah Sparrows breed in eastern Arizona, and apparently also in northern New Mexico, the writer endeavored to identify them. He was amazed to find the dissimilarity of these specimens and examples of *Passerculus s. nevadensis*, which race it was assumed the birds of the southwestern United States should most closely resemble. Thinking that possibly they might represent an extension of range northward of *P. s. brunnescens* (Butler, *Auk*, 5, 1888:265) from Mexico, because of their dark coloration, the author compared them with breeding examples of this form from the Valley of Mexico, but they were found to differ markedly. Search of the literature disclosed that Camras (*Field Mus. Nat. Hist.*, Zool. Ser., 24, 1940:159) had described the breeding Savannah Sparrows of west central Chihuahua and that he had named them *Passerculus sandwichensis rufofuscus*.

The type series (excluding the type) of *rufofuscus* was kindly loaned for comparison by the Field Museum. The breeding birds of Arizona and New Mexico proved to be indistinguishable from this form, thus extending the range of *rufofuscus* northward to the White Mountains of eastern Arizona and the mountains of northern New Mexico. It should be noted that so far as known no Savannah Sparrows have been found breeding between the type locality of *rufofuscus* (Babicora, Chihuahua), the White Mountains of Arizona (Springerville and Big Lake), and the mountains of central northern New Mexico (Taos and Lake Burford). Approximately 400 miles separate the Chihuahua breeding birds from the birds of central eastern Arizona, and approximately 375 miles separate the Arizona colony from the birds apparently breeding in New Mexico. Thus it would appear that over that part of its range which lies in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico the Savannah Sparrow breeds only in very local, isolated areas.

In addition to the specimens already mentioned there is an example of *rufofuscus* taken at Fort Clark, in western Texas, on April 2, 1898, by E. A. Mearns, and one collected by J. D. Ogilby on January 11, 1880, without more locality data than "Texas"; both these specimens are in the United States National Museum. The only other positive records of occurrence of this race are two winter specimens in the Biological Surveys collection taken by Nelson and Goldman on December 25, 1902, at Ocotlan, Jalisco. Burleigh and Lowery (Occas. Papers Mus. Zool., Louisiana State Univ., 12, 1942:208) refer to three specimens of the Savannah Sparrow taken by them in southern Coahuila, one of which they reported as *brunnescens*. If not already done, a re-examination of this specimen should be made to determine its possible relationship to *rufofuscus*.

Although differing noticeably in coloration from *nevadensis* of the Great Basin region in the western United States, *rufofuscus* is similar to *brunnescens* of southern Mexico. It has a decided brownish tone, or ground color, to the upper surface, with the dark areas both above and below heavier. Thus *rufofuscus*, in fresh plumage, is very similar to *labradorius* of northeastern North America, but is even darker and more rufescent than that race. Also it approaches specimens of *P. s. alaudinus* [= *bryanti*] from the coast of central western California, but can be distinguished from that race by its larger size, especially the wing, and by its more rufescent coloration. From *anthinus* [= *alaudinus* of the A. O. U. Check-list] it differs chiefly by virtue of its darker coloration and smaller size.

The separation of populations from northern Mexico and interior southwestern United States under *P. s. rufofuscus* makes necessary the re-characterization of *P. s. brunnescens* from the southern part of the Mexican tableland. This race approaches the eastern form, *P. s. mediogriseus* (Aldrich, Ohio Jour. Sci., 40, 1940:1) somewhat in its relatively grayish rather than brownish tones. It is somewhat more heavily streaked with black than this race, however. It is not unlikely that some Mexican specimens, which Peters and Griscom (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 80, 1938:472) refer to *anthinus* [= *alaudinus*] because of their rich brown tones, really are examples of *rufofuscus*, for, as now understood, *rufofuscus* is a very brownish-toned race (even more so than *anthinus*), and *brunnescens* is a more grayish-toned race, with contrasting dark streaks. Although in spring and summer the tones are largely obscured by wear and fading, worn birds can usually be distinguished.

—ALLEN J. DUVAL, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., May 5, 1943.*