

constant so far as birds from the two regions are concerned, the comparatively very small number of specimens of intermediate character coming of course from neutral territory.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

Spizella pusilla wintering near Hartford, Conn.—This species seems to have some inclination to winter in this vicinity, as will be seen from the following data: While collecting Jan. 11, 1886, I saw four, three of which I shot for positive identification. Jan. 26, of this same year, I saw another which was in company with a flock of *Spizella monticola*. I could not find them again during the winter of this year. On Jan. 20, 1887, noticing a small Sparrow hopping around the door-yard I soon approached it, and found it very tame, and noticed that it was a typical *Spizella pusilla*. This bird remained around here, during a very 'cold snap,' until Jan. 26, after which it suddenly disappeared. From these facts, I think their stay here must have been voluntary, for the coldest weather failed to drive them away, and there were several seen at different times, which proves clearly enough that they were not all disabled birds.—WILLARD E. TREAT, *East Hartford, Conn.*

Change of Winter Habitat in the Grass Finch.—I take the following entries from my note book: "January 2, 1885. Shot four males from a flock of twelve *Pooecetes gramineus confinis*, the first I ever saw here in winter. They seemed to want to feed in one spot of stubble and would return to it after being fired at.—Jan. 5. Saw Grass Finches.—Jan. 8. Saw same flock of Grass Finches.—Jan. 12. I saw a flock of one dozen Grass Finches at the school house.—Jan. 13. I saw two dozen Grass Finches at the school house; think they came from the south; also Savanna Sparrows, and a flock of Waxwings. Mercury 30° F.—Jan. 16. Cold high wind all night. Temperature about zero. I saw three Grass Finches and a Song Sparrow.—Jan. 17. Mercury 9° (above). The Grass Finches are still feeding at the stock corral; not more than half a dozen seen at one time.—Jan. 22. Mercury 32°; wind E. S. E.; rain and sleet. In a two mile walk I saw a large flock of Grass Finches. In comparing ten skins eight of the skins are exactly intermediate between the typical *gramineus* and the var. *confinis*. One is typical *gramineus*, shot here (Cook Co., Tex.) March 12, 1880. One is var. *confinis*, shot at Colorado, Tex., May 18, 1882.—Feb. 2. I shot and compared three Grass Finches; they seem to constantly stand between the type and the variety; the bill of the western bird may be a little longer and the ear-coverts whiter or grayer. Size in inches:

♂	Length, 6.30	Wing, 3.10	Tail, 2.60
	" 6.25	" 3.00	" 2.35
♂	" 6.00	" 2.90	" 2.50."

From the above it may be seen that the birds persisted in staying through January, and my notes show that they were seen at intervals until March 12, when they were heard singing.

On Nov. 17, 1885, the bulk passed south, and on Dec. 10 the mercury fell to 15° below freezing. This was the coldest weather until Jan. 7, 1886. On Jan. 6, 1886, a flock of fifteen were seen, and were repeatedly seen up to Jan. 20. Where those birds came from and why they came at such an unseasonable time of the year is the question. It will be seen that they passed south in November, 1885. It will be further noted that there was only four days difference in the time of arrival in January, 1885, and that of 1886. For three weeks prior to their arrival in 1885 it was very cold for this climate. For three weeks prior to their arrival in 1886 the temperature was moderate. During January, 1886, they endured weather 4° below zero.

If winds are to be considered as affecting the flight of birds, these Finches must have come from the N. W., as it had blown from that quarter for five successive days, and one day it blew with great violence all day. They were just ahead of the 'blizzard' of Jan. 7, which was also from N. W. But why should they come in advance of the cold in 1886, and through it in 1885? Mr. Nehrling (Bull. N. O. C., Vol. VII, p. 12) says: "Grass Finch. Only found during migrations. None remain, so far as I know, to winter or to breed." His observations were made near Houston, Tex. Mr. Geo. B. Sennett's 'Notes on the Ornithology of the Lower Rio Grande of Texas,' page 17, says: "*Poæetes gramineus confinis* (Gm.) Bd. Western Grass Finch. ♂ Apr. 9th, Brownsville. ♀ Apr. 29th, Hidalgo." Dr. J. C. Merrill's 'Notes on the Ornithology of Southern Texas' (Fl. Brown), page 126, says: "*Poæetes gramineus* var. *confinis* Baird. Spring and Autumn."

It is probable from the longitude of the localities in which the above observations were made that a large per cent. of the Grass Finches are of the intermediate form.

It is worthy of note that Grass Finches were wintering south of the Rio Grande in 1876, and on the northern border of Texas in 1886.—GEORGE H. RAGSDALE, *Gainsville, Cook Co., Tex.*

A Song Sparrow wintering in Eastern Maine.—During the winter of 1885-86 I received a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza fasciata*) from a friend, who secured it on January 23, 1886. The bird found abundant food during its winter sojourn in the chaff and other refuse from a large barn, in the immediate vicinity of which was a protected covert that afforded it ample shelter. On dissection it proved to be a male in good condition. Considering the date and locality, it may fairly be said to have been wintering.—LEWIS M. TODD, *Calais, Me.*

The Song Sparrow in New Brunswick in Winter.—I have seen the Song Sparrow occasionally in New Brunswick during the winter months, and Mr. Francis Bain says a few regularly remain on Prince Edward's Island all winter.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

Unusual Nesting-Site of the Song Sparrow.—Mr. Wilbur F. Lamb, of Holyoke, Mass., writes me under date of May 30, 1887, as follows: "I