

writes me that a pair made their home near his house at Newport last summer, and mentions April 19, 1908, as an early date. This year he has had two in the same place since March 24.

CONNECTICUT.—Mr. A. W. Honywill, Jr., reported in 'Bird Lore Census' <sup>1</sup> a Carolina Wren seen at *New Haven* on December 25, 1908. Mr. C. H. Pangburn <sup>2</sup> found two Wrens in the same locality at New Haven on December 29, and shot one there on January 2, 1909. Dr. Bishop, in his letter above referred to says: "Mr. Dwight B. Pangburn tells me that he or his brother, Clifford, have seen as many as three at one time this past winter in the region mentioned in 'The Auk'; but that none have been seen since March 10."

I wish to thank the numerous observers who have kindly put their records at my disposal, and have made this report possible.

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### SOME ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF TOWNSEND'S BUNTING.<sup>3</sup>

BY RUTHVEN DEANE.

THROUGH the kindness of the late Mrs. Lucy Audubon Williams,<sup>4</sup> I am enabled to add a more detailed account of the capture of this unique specimen, as furnished to Audubon by Dr. John K. Townsend <sup>5</sup> on September 27, 1833. Audubon's first mention of this bird (*Orn. Biog.*, Vol. II, 1834, p. 183, pl. 400; Vol. V, 1839, p. 90) merely states that it was discovered in the vicinity of Philadelphia, and it is not a little strange that he did not give such details

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<sup>1</sup> Bird Lore, Vol. XI, 1909, p. 22.

<sup>2</sup> Auk, Vol. XXVI, 1909, p. 195.

<sup>3</sup> *Spiza townsendii* (Aud.), A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds, second edition, p. 331, 1895. Hypothetical List. "Its peculiarities cannot be accounted for by hybridism, nor probably by individual variation."

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Lucy Audubon Williams, born June 30, 1838; died February 21, 1909

<sup>5</sup> Dr. John Kirk Townsend, born October 10, 1809; died February 6, 1851.

of its capture as was furnished to him by Townsend the previous year, particularly as the bird was new to science.

As Townsend's description, sent to Audubon, is headed "*Emberiza Auduboni* — Audubon's Bunting," he evidently intended to name the species after Audubon, who in turn reversed the compliment, no doubt thinking it should bear the name of its discoverer.

Audubon, in his short account, did not give the date of capture, but we find the following record in Dr. Michener's <sup>1</sup> '*Insectivorous Birds of Chester County, Pennsylvania*' (U. S. Agricultural Report, 1863, p. 287): "New Garden, 11th of 5th month, 1833.— This morning my friend John K. Townsend, in company with John Richards, while in quest of birds for my cabinet, shot a bunting<sup>2</sup> in William Brown's cedar grove, near New Garden meeting-house, which is believed to be a nondescript. We have given it the provisional name of *Euspiza albigula*, or white-throated bunting."

Contrary to the above, Townsend, in his original manuscript, now in my possession, gives the date of capture as *12th of June, 1833*. Townsend, however, may have recorded from memory four months later, while we know that Michener's record was taken from his diary.

Accompanying the Townsend manuscript is a verbatim copy in the hand-writing of Mrs. Audubon. Heading this copy, in Audubon's hand, is written, "read on the other side first." On the back of the sheet he had written, to preface Townsend's description, the following:

"On my reaching Philadelphia<sup>3</sup> bent on going to the Floridas once more, I had the pleasure of renewing my acquaintance with John K. Townsend Esq. of that city. His zeal for the study of ornithology was unrelented. I saw this in his fine eye whilst he with enthusiastic glee spoke to me of a new bird lately procured by himself. I saw this bird and accepted it to make the drawing now before you, and as its habits are yet unknown, I merely can give a copy of Mr. Townsend's letter to me on the subject."

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Ezra Michener, born 1794; died 1887.

<sup>2</sup> This mounted specimen was in Dr. Michener's cabinet for twenty-four years. It was then (1857) deposited with the Smithsonian Institution, but was not catalogued (No. 10.282) until May 21, 1858.

<sup>3</sup> On September 14, 1833, Dr. John Bachman wrote an urgent letter to Audubon to again visit him at his home in Charleston, S. C. This invitation was accepted and he was evidently on his way there when passing through Philadelphia.

While Audubon had the specimen in hand to color and describe, he evidently used Townsend's description and measurements, though somewhat rearranged. There can be no doubt but that all this was prepared for publication, but for some reason was never used.

*Copy of Townsend's Original Manuscript.*

"EMBERIZA AUDUBONI.

"Audubon's Bunting.

"I obtained this bird, (which I have honored with the name of our distinguished countryman) in New Garden, Penn. on the 12th of June 1833. It was first observed sitting listlessly upon a fence rail, but upon being approached flew to the top of an adjacent tree from which it emitted a succession of lively notes somewhat resembling the song of the Indigo Bird (*Fringilla cyanea*) but louder and more varied. Its flight was performed by short quick jerks of the wings and undulations of the body. It was with extreme difficulty that I approached sufficiently near to shoot, it being very shy and watchful and passing rapidly from tree to tree. Anxiety to procure it prevented my observing its habits more particularly. I have since visited the spot repeatedly but have never seen another individual.

"Male — Upper mandible black, middle edge white, lower light blue with a longitudinal line of black extending from the point half way to the base; irides light hazel; head dark plumbious, indistinctly spotted with black; cheeks and breast light plumbious; line over the eye white; throat white, with a black line extending from the base of the lower mandible down each side of the neck and terminating on the breast in a few small oval spots; outside the black line on each side of the throat is a broader stripe of white ending with the base of the auriculars; back varied with black and brown; wings plain dusky, the first and second primaries equal and longest, the lesser coverts edged with pale brown; shoulders yellowish white; rump and emarginate tail uniform with the wings; breast tinged with ochreous, the color gradually deepening upon the belly; below and inferior tail coverts brownish-white; legs and feet dusky. Length 5½ inches. Extent 9 inches.

"I was at first inclined to consider this species as identical with the Black-throated Bunting (*Fringilla americana*) setting aside the very considerable dissimilarity which I observed in its habits, voice &c. More particular observations however, and a careful comparison of the individual with descriptions and specimens has convinced me beyond the shadow of a doubt that my bird is new, and in this belief I am sustained by Mr. Audubon than whom there cannot be better authority.

"There is a species described by Vieillot under the name of *Fringilla*

*grisea* and said to inhabit the U. States which somewhat resembles the present in its markings, but upon comparison they will be found specifically distinct.

“John K. Townsend, Philad.  
Sept. 27th, 1833.”

[Superscribed]  
“John James Audubon Esq.”

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ANNOTATED LIST OF THE WATER BIRDS OF WELD,  
MORGAN AND ADAMS COUNTIES, COLORADO,  
SOUTH TO THE FIRST SECTIONAL LINE BE-  
LOW THE FORTIETH PARALLEL.

BY A. H. FELGER.

*With Three Maps.*

EASTERN Colorado has come to rank prominently as a section of our country where water birds, waders, and shore birds may, in suitable localities, be found in abundance. This is attributable in the main to two complementary causes, (1) the close settling of the Mississippi Valley with the attendant drainage of the sloughs and marshes of that region, (2) the construction on the eastern slope of Colorado of great numbers of reservoirs, or artificial lakes, for the purpose of storing water for irrigation. From these reservoirs there extend in all directions through the surrounding farm lands net-works of irrigating ditches, producing luxuriant growths of alfalfa, grains, weeds, and wild grasses, which in turn afford most excellent feeding and breeding grounds for many species. About a great many of the reservoirs, too, has grown dense vegetation consisting of deep borders of sedges, cattails, and rushes, which furnish much desired protection both in and out of breeding season.

This section is, moreover, cut by numerous streams, which collect the melting snow from the eastern mountain slopes and start it on its journey to the Gulf of Mexico. Many of the smaller of these streams, it is true, are dry during the summer, but in the spring, when the northern flight of birds is at its height, their banks in many