

mainland birds, and that in very worn plumage the color differences are so slight as to be barely perceptible, even in series. However, the following particulars are definite and seem to me to afford ample grounds for the recognition of the insular race.

In comparison with *belli* the island birds have slightly, but noticeably, longer bills; the dorsal coloration of freshly plumaged adults is definitely paler, grayer, and more clearly streaked, and the juveniles are paler and with very much narrower ventral streaking; the juveniles, in fact, resemble the young of *Amphispiza belli canescens* Grinnell more than they do those of *belli*. The exposed culmens of 25 *belli* (sex ignored) average 8.9 mm. while those of 17 *clementeae* average 10.1.

The characters of *belli* are most pronounced in the San Diego Faunal District. Specimens from San Benito County (Mulberry) are not so typical for they are slightly paler in color. This presumably is the result of contact between *belli* of the coastal slope and *canescens* of the interior valleys.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California.*

Clay-colored Sparrow in New Jersey.—On May 8, 1932, J. L. Edwards of Montclair, N. J., sitting with the writer in a parked car at the end of the road south of Beach Haven, N. J., happened to see an unfamiliar-looking sparrow feeding on the bare sand very near the car. Close to it was a Field Sparrow which permitted size comparison. The stranger was a small-bodied bird with the shape and general proportions of a Chipping Sparrow. We studied it carefully for a long time at close range and identified it as a Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). We had no gun and a later "armed" visit on May 12 was unsuccessful, and although we believe that we saw the bird again, it escaped due to the high wind and rain.

Prompt checking of our mental picture and written notes against museum specimens removed any shadow of doubt from our minds as to the bird's identity. It agreed in every detail. The bird was unstreaked below, underparts white with a definite dark wash on the sides of the breast. There was a rather thin light medial line through the darker crown and a white line over the eye. The upper parts showed very little if any rufus and the general effect was of a rather light colored bird. The back was finely streaked with alternate lines of dark and a color we described first as cream, then as creamy buff. The rump color, as closely as we could judge, conformed to the specimens examined.

The credibility of the identification is increased somewhat by the rather recent collection of specimens on Cape Cod, Mass., by Oliver Austin, Jr. The species may not be as rare in the East as has been supposed.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

Migration Dates for the Snow Bunting in Montana.—The scarcity of published data from Montana concerning the migrations of the Eastern

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) prompts me to place on record the migration dates for this species that I have obtained at Fortine, in the extreme northwestern corner of the state. The dates here given record the earliest occurrence of this species in fall and the latest occurrence in spring. Fall arrival: last week of August, 1920; October 15, 1921; October 14, 1922; September 18, 1927; October 26, 1928; September 11, 1929; September 1 (common by September 19), 1930; September 8, 1931. Spring departure: March 16, 1921; March 26, 1922; March 25, 1923; March 20, 1928; April 15, 1929 (flock of about 150); March 26, 1930; April 22, 1931; April 2, 1932.

The earliest fall and latest spring migration dates for this species in Montana contained in previously published records seem to be October 26, 1895, and April 2, 1890 (Cooke, Bird-Lore, xv, p. 17).—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana*.

Notes from the Massachusetts Coast.—*Casmerodius albus egretta*. AMERICAN EGRET.—Driving down Plum Island to the Night Heron rookery toward sunset, May 15, 1932, we saw an Egret flying diagonally toward our destination.

Nyctanassa v. violacea. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—As we arrived at the heronry a Yellow-crowned Night Heron took flight among the Black-crowns circling over the nests.

Somateria mollissima dresseri. AMERICAN EIDER.—On the late date of May 29, 1932, we were astonished to find close to the shore at North Truro nine female Eider Ducks and fifty-five males four or five of the latter in black-headed brown-patched plumage but the rest apparently adults which should have been breeding at this date.

Uria l. lomvia. BRUNNICH'S MURRE.—On May 15, 1932 we found on the sandy road an exhausted Brunnich's Murre which we banded and liberated on the beach but next day found its remains there partly devoured by some animal.—SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., *Northampton* and AARON C. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.*

Notes from the Connecticut Valley in 1932.—*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—This bird is certainly growing more common with us. This year three pairs were observed in May, inspecting likely nesting-places in Northampton. Only one pair, however, nested: Mr. Eliot found the nest, in a burrow apparently dug out by the birds themselves, on June 7.

Thryothorus l. ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN.—A lone individual was seen in Sunderland April 2 by Prof. and Mrs. W. S. Welles.

Telmatodytes palustris dissaepus. PRAIRIE MARSH WREN.—This bird, hitherto regarded as a mere casual migrant or stray north of Longmeadow where a very few breed, was this year found colonizing a narrow slough in Hadley which runs east and west under the protecting lee of a high north bank, and grows reeds rather than cat-tails. Five or six males were occupying sections of this slough, singing about sixty feet apart.