

TWO NEW RACES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

BY W. E. CLYDE TODD

FOR a number of years I have been aware that the Black-capped Chickadee of the 'North Country' is not the same as the bird with which I am familiar in western Pennsylvania. The impression gained in the field has been confirmed by study of the specimens collected—thirty skins in all. The differences, although slight, are obvious and constant, but whether they deserve nomenclatural recognition is another question. In reaching an affirmative decision I have admittedly been influenced by the opinions of certain other ornithologists who have inspected our series of specimens. At the risk, therefore, of being accused of proposing another 'millimeter race,' I call it

***Penthestes atricapillus anamesus* subsp. nov.**

Type.—No. 100,002, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; Mattice, northern Ontario, May 21, 1926; W. E. Clyde Todd.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus* (Linnaeus) in size, but lighter colored, the sides and flanks with less buffy wash, and the gray of the back paler. Similar also to *Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis* (Harris), but smaller, and with the white wing- and tail-edgings averaging narrower.

Range.—From the Gulf of St. Lawrence (north coast) west to James Bay (and Manitoba ?), south probably to the limit of the spruce and fir forest.

Remarks.—Ten males in fresh autumn plumage average: wing, 66.5 mm.; tail, 63—agreeing substantially with the measurements of true *atricapillus*. In color characters, however, they conform much better to *septentrionalis*, and could be referred thereto were it not for their smaller size and less 'hoary' wings and tail. Thus these northern birds constitute a slightly differentiated race, intermediate between *atricapillus* and *septentrionalis*. The exact limits of its range to the westward remain to be worked out.

In this connection I propose to fix the type locality of *Parus atricapillus* Linnaeus *ex* Brisson, described from "Canada," as the City of Quebec, on the same general grounds as in analogous cases. Through the courtesy of Dr. G. A. Langelier I have been able to examine a series of specimens from this locality. They prove to be precisely the same as our birds from northern and western Pennsylvania.

Three races of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacuta* (Gmelin), are currently recognized and find a place in the latest edition of the A. O. U.

'Check-list.' These are: (1) typical *caudacuta*, breeding along the Atlantic coast from New England to Virginia; (2) *subvirgata*, in the Maritime Provinces of Canada; and (3) *nelsoni*, in the upper Mississippi Valley and thence north to Great Slave Lake (the validity of a supposed fourth race, *diversa*, described from the coast of North Carolina, need not concern us here). All three forms mingle during the winter in Florida. The characters of these several races have been so well and ably discussed by Dwight (Auk, **13**: 271-278, 1896) and by Ridgway (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 50, **1**: 220-224, 1901) that it is unnecessary to reiterate them at length. Both authors call attention to the existence of specimens that suggest intergradation between *nelsoni* and *subvirgata*, although their respective breeding ranges are more than a thousand miles apart.

During my first visit to Moose Factory, northern Ontario, in June, 1908, I heard repeatedly the song of a bird which I suspected was a Nelson's Sparrow—a surmise that was eventually proved to be correct by the capture of the individual in question. Later expeditions have increased the series from James Bay to twenty-four specimens, three of which are breeding birds. Compared with a series of twenty-two breeding birds from Saskatchewan, these three specimens obviously represent a different race, intermediate in its general characters between *nelsoni* (as represented by the Saskatchewan series) and *subvirgata*. It may be called

***Ammospiza caudacuta altera* subsp. nov.**

Type.—No. 100,232, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; East Main, James Bay, Quebec, June 29, 1926; George M. Sutton.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni* (Allen), but general coloration lighter. The blackish-brown lateral stripes on the pileum are narrower and the grayish median stripe is correspondingly wider; the superciliaries are paler buff, and the auriculars more grayish and more strongly contrasted with the surrounding parts; the wing coverts and secondaries have paler rusty buff edgings; there is less brownish shading on the back, and the white streaks are less prominent.

Range.—Breeds in the marshes of southern James Bay, migrating to the Atlantic coast and wintering southward to Florida (at least occasionally).

Remarks.—Autumn specimens of the new race differ from a series in comparable plumage from Presque Isle, Erie County, Pennsylvania, precisely as do breeding birds. The pertinence of the name *nelsoni*, which was based on autumn specimens from the Calumet Marshes, northern Illinois, was settled by direct comparison with specimens from the type locality, courteously placed at my disposal by the U. S. National Museum. These agree precisely with the brownish-backed, deeply colored form which breeds in North Dakota and the Canadian Provinces to the northward, and winters in Florida. The new race evidently moves eastward to the Atlantic coast

in beginning its southward migration, instead of southward to the Great Lakes; this accounts for the number of presumed intergrades between *nelsoni* and *subvirgata* recorded from the former region. We have two specimens from the coast (Amelia Island, Florida, and St. Helena Island, South Carolina) which I refer to this form (the latter with a query).

I am greatly indebted to the authorities of the U. S. National Museum and the Biological Survey for the loan of specimens for the present study.

Carnegie Museum

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania