

The bright plumage and the typical attitude of the bird left no question as to the species. The identification of the bird was checked by Mr. and Mrs. Perry E. Howe, of Worcester, and the writer. Others also visited the station and saw it.

The last record of a Dickcissel in the County that could be found at the Museum is of one taken "in Worcester County (probably near Fitchburg) on October 3, [1889] by I. C. Greene," as cited in Bagg and Eliot's 'Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts,' p. 651, 1937. There is also an undated mounted male in the collection of the Worcester Natural History Society (no. 562), marked, 'Worcester, Mass., Nathaniel Paine.'—HARRY C. PARKER, *Worcester Museum of Natural History, Worcester, Massachusetts.*

**Pine Grosbeak in the Northern West Virginia Panhandle.**—A Pine Grosbeak, probably *Pinicola enucleator leucura*, was observed in Bethany, Brooke County, West Virginia, on December 12, 1938. The bird was an immature male, its head, back, and rump being rather pinkish, marked with small areas of tawny olive. It was unusually tame, and allowed me to observe it only ten feet away. Unfortunately, I was not able to collect it to assert its identity. The bird was seen on the campus of Bethany College, feeding on the berries of Japanese barberry, eating the seeds and rejecting the pulp. During the next three days the grosbeak was seen several times.

So far as I know, there have been only two previous West Virginia records of the Pine Grosbeak. On February 28, 1934, Mr. Maurice Brooks found five grosbeaks near French Creek, Upshur County (Redstart, 1: 4, March, 1934). Mr. Brooks believed these birds to be of the eastern race, *Pinicola enucleator leucura*. There is also an old record, made by Eifrig, of the grosbeaks along the Potomac River, but it seems uncertain whether they were seen on the Maryland or on the West Virginia side.—WILLIAM MONTAGNA, *Fernow Hall, Ithaca, New York.*

**Grasshopper Sparrow caught in spider's web.**—On August 15, 1937, George Gibbs, Soils Scientist with the Soil Conservation Service, noted the following experience while picking blackberries on Peters' Hill, three miles southeast of Bath, New York, in Steuben County.

"While picking blackberries at about 3.00 p.m., I suddenly came on a small sparrow [Mr. Gibbs' detailed description tallied with immature Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow] that was caught in the vertical web of a golden garden spider, *Miranda aurantia*. The wings of the Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus saviannarum australis*, were spread horizontally and the bird seemed unable to move them. Both feet were also entangled and the bird was caught near the center of the web. The spider, a large female, had moved up to the top of the web, where it seemed waiting for the bird to cease its weak struggling. I released the bird from the web and after it had rested quietly in my hand for some moments, it flew off apparently unharmed. The vertical web had been strung between several blackberry bushes and was two feet above the ground. It seems quite possible that the bird would have died in the web from exhaustion and hunger, had I not been fortunate enough to find it in time."—J. KENNETH TERRES, *Soil Conservation Service, Bath, New York.*

**Status of the breeding Lincoln's Sparrows of Oregon.**—At the time that McCabe and the present author worked on racial differentiation in the Lincoln's Sparrows (*Melospiza lincolni*) no satisfactory sample of the breeding birds of Oregon was available. We reported (Condor, 37: 155, 1935) that five skins from the Blue Mountains of Oregon, representing both sexes, had wings that averaged slightly shorter than those of birds from the Canadian Rockies. Accordingly, the birds were

classed with *M. l. lincolni* and not with the long-winged *M. l. alticola* of the Rocky Mountains of the United States and of the Sierra Nevada of California. At that time it was known that *alticola* bred in southern Oregon in the Crater Lake district.

In 1938, six breeding Lincoln's Sparrows were collected in the Cascade Mountains of central Oregon (vicinity of Bend) and twenty-three were taken in the mountains to the eastward (Ochoco National Forest, Wheeler and Crook Counties; Blue Mountains, Baker and Grant Counties). The four males from the Cascade Mountains vary in wing length from 64.6 to 67.8 mm. and average 65.6, and the two females measure 61.8 and 61.0. These are normal dimensions for *alticola*. The seventeen males and six females from eastern Oregon average 64.9 and 60.9 mm., respectively. These averages are similar to those for several of the populations of *alticola* and are but slightly lower than the general averages for that race (op. cit., pp. 151, 156). Individual males of *alticola* usually do not have wings shorter than 64.0 mm. In the sample from eastern Oregon three males fall below this minimum. Some of the group of five birds formerly available to us also fell below this limit and it is now seen that that group was not representative. The population of eastern Oregon as a whole clearly pertains to *alticola*, but it is not an extreme development of this race and it includes more than the normal proportion of small-sized variants.

The Oregon birds display variation in back color similar to that in populations of *alticola* from the southern Rocky Mountains. The variations in width of stripes are like those in birds from the Sierra Nevada. The occurrence of variants is as follows: ruddy, two; moderately ruddy, three; brown, twenty-three; narrow stripes, twenty-two; moderately broad stripes, six (compare op. cit., figs. 26, 28).

In summary, it is found that the Montane Lincoln's Sparrow, *M. l. alticola*, ranges northward in the Cascades of Oregon at least to the Three Sisters Peaks, and throughout the mountains of eastern Oregon wherever suitable habitat for the species is present. Probably *alticola* occurs even farther north in the Cascade Range, but determination of the exact geographic relations of *M. l. lincolni*, *gracilis* and *alticola* in Washington and southwestern British Columbia awaits the assembling of breeding series from those regions.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.

**Lapland Longspurs in Bolivar County, Mississippi.**—On December 2, 1938, in company with Mr. Van B. Chaney, county game warden, I was driving along the crown of the Mississippi River levee four miles (two miles by airline) north of Rosedale, Bolivar County, Mississippi, when we observed a flock of five longspurs feeding with a large flight of American Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta rubescens*) on burned-over ground along the slopes of the levee. I collected two of the birds and forwarded the skins to Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., who identified them as Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*). I believe these are the first specimens of this form taken in Mississippi.—M. GORDON VAIDEN, *Rosedale, Mississippi*.

**Winter bird notes from the North Carolina coast.**—In connection with investigations of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina, carried on in the past winter by the writers, certain bird observations were made which appear worthy of record.

**SNOWY OWL, *Nyctea nyctea*.**—While driving on Chicamacomico Island from Oregon Inlet to Cape Hatteras, on December 13, 1937, Dr. Carl Russell and Howard noted a Snowy Owl in flight along the roadside at a point approximately twenty-two miles