

1917. Notes on the Fringilline Genus *Passerherbulus* and its Nearest Allies. Ohio Journ. Sci., 17 (8): 332-336.

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**Scott's Sparrow, *Aimophila ruficeps scottii*, a New Bird for Kansas.**—While examining a series of miscellaneous unidentified and uncatalogued skins of birds in the collection in the Museum of Natural History of the University of Kansas, I found a male specimen of a Rufous-crowned Sparrow, *Aimophila ruficeps*, which was taken in Schwarz Canyon, Comanche County, Kansas, on June 7, 1936, by C. W. Hibbard. Comparative study showed that it belongs to the subspecies *A. r. scottii* which, according to the A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds (1931: 342), ranges northeastward only as far as southeastern Colorado. This is the first record of this bird in Kansas. Our knowledge of the birds of southwestern Kansas is incomplete, and this species may be resident there in summer since the bird was taken in the nesting season. The specimen is now number 29222 in the collection of the Division of Birds.—R. W. FREDRICKSON, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.*

**Development of White in Tails of Juncos, *Junco hyemalis*.**—Variations in the white areas in the tail feathers of Slate-colored Juncos, *Junco h. hyemalis* (L.), have received some attention. A few juncos trapped for banding offered an opportunity for observation, although no nestlings or fledglings were seen for a definite determination of age.

Between November, 1929, and March, 1948, we banded 170 juncos of which 32 (18.8 per cent) repeated the same winter, and 13 (7.6 per cent) returned during subsequent seasons. During four winters, 113 drawings were made of the configurations of the white areas in the three outer tail feathers of 74 juncos. All these juncos had the first pair of rectrices completely white, except one which had light gray tips to the first and second feathers. The second rectrices were entirely white in 53 per cent of the birds. Because the returning juncos seemed to show an increase in the amount of white it was decided to collect feathers as better evidence of actual conditions.

From November, 1938, to April, 1948, the involved rectrices were plucked from 56 individual juncos, from some over periods of three or four years. Eleven of these juncos repeated in the traps the same season when banded and eight returned during subsequent winters. All 56 juncos had the first outer pair of rectrices completely white, except one or two; and in 19 the second outer pair was wholly white.

These collected feathers revealed certain characteristics of feather growth in Slate-colored Juncos. The feather vane is normally uniformly white or slate-colored, but two instances of mottling were seen. The mottled appearance was apparently caused by some of the dark diurnal growth bars retaining the slate-color longer than the intervening bars which are developed during the night. In the changing juvenal feathers, the rachis becomes white faster than do the vanes.

Junco No. 42-169079, banded November 4, 1945, and judged by streaks on the breast to be a young bird, showed in its plucked third rectrix 18 per cent white, measured by a cellophane counter of one and two square millimeters. The bird was trapped the following winter, and the succeeding feather from the same papilla measured 40 per cent white. This amount remained constant in the following feathers present 12 and 15 months later. These later uniform feathers were adult, without doubt, while showing nearly half the area white.