

dividuals (from the offshore islands as well as the mainland), but according to my views these have no more significance than do the black-browed examples from the west coast of the Bay. Taverner and Sutton record a white-browed bird from the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Moreover, fall- and winter-taken adult birds show the same characters. These considerations will account for the sporadic occurrences of white-browed birds which have been reported from the East, and also (so I believe) for the records in migration of such birds in Michigan (Van Tyne, *Wilson Bull.*, 42: 95, 1930).—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*

The Application of the Name *Emberiza leucophrys* Forster.—*Emberiza leucophrys*, proposed in 1772 by Forster (*Phil. Trans.*, vol. 62, 1772, p. 426), has been accepted as the subspecific name for the eastern race of the White-crowned Sparrow without question until recently, when W. E. Clyde Todd (*Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, vol. 61, March 4, 1948, pp. 19–20) considered that it must be applied to Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow, currently known as *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* (Nuttall). On this basis he proposed the name *Zonotrichia leucophrys nigrilora* for the eastern white-crown. Mr. Todd reviewed this matter before the meeting of the A. O. U. in Montreal in 1951, and later submitted the series of fine specimens on which he based his conclusions to the writer, as Chairman of the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union. The present note is a summary of a detailed study of this interesting problem.

Forster on pages 403–404 of the reference cited above lists his new name in connection with two specimens from Severn River and Albany Fort and gives some account in English of habits and occurrence. The technical description in Latin that follows on page 426 is that of the species of the White-crowned Sparrow, but does not indicate clearly that it applies conclusively to either the eastern race or to Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow.

The 14 specimens at hand from Mr. Todd are all from Fort Severn, none being seen from Fort Albany. In this series 9 are *gambelii*, 2 *leucophrys*, and 3 appear intermediate (the names being taken in the currently accepted sense). Both forms under discussion therefore are represented at Fort Severn. The two original birds listed by Forster have disappeared so far as known so that no specimen that may be taken as Forster's type is available.

It appears to the writer that Forster's name *Emberiza leucophrys* as set up in 1772 is to be considered a composite, covering both races of the bird that are under consideration, since it is not clearly explicit in the characters that distinguish these two, and that its formal application to one of these forms must rest with some later writer who stands in the light of a first reviser. Gmelin in 1789 and Latham in 1783 in the use of *leucophrys* clearly follow Forster, though Latham evidently had seen the work of the next author, Pennant, as he cites also "White-crowned Bunting, *Arct. Zool.*," but gives no page or plate reference.

Pennant (*Arct. Zool.*, vol. 2, *Birds*, 1785, p. 355, pl. 16) uses *Emberiza leucophrys* Forster, and translates Forster's Latin as well as following his English. Pennant, however, may have had some further information as he gives the additional statement, not found in Forster, that "its flight short and silent; but when it perches, sings very melodiously." He also gives a plate of the "White-crowned Bunting" which depicts an adult bird with black clearly shown in front of the eye, so that it illustrates the eastern race. It thus appears that Pennant fixed the name on the eastern bird. The source of Pennant's figure is not indicated; it may have been a specimen secured by him, or possibly may have been one of the two listed by Forster.

Emberiza leucophrys next appears in Wilson (Amer. Orn., vol. 4, 1811, p. 49, pl. 31, fig. 4) where it is clearly the eastern subspecies, the plate being taken from a bird "shot in the Great Pine swamp, in the month of May." Usage in subsequent writings was fixed clearly on the eastern race of the bird, and has there remained. The check-list committee after a full discussion has accepted Forster's name *leucophrys* as applying to the eastern subspecies.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Fishing by the Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).—Thousands of Common Crows were present on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge during the winter of 1950–51. This refuge is located in the Tennessee valley of northern Alabama, and includes a part of the backwaters of Wheeler reservoir, one of the multiple purpose impoundments of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The winter was severe, with backwaters alternately freezing and thawing. Food in upland fields became scarce about January 1.

Crows were noted fishing on and near the refuge in company with Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*). On January 1, the senior author watched these birds taking live fish. The fish were usually small shad or toothed herrings, two to three inches long, and were present in large schools near the surface. Excessive cold may have made them comparatively inactive. Crows would fish by hovering a few feet above these schools, dropping to the surface, and submerging their feet deep enough to seize the fish. Wings or bodies were not allowed to touch the water. The crows appeared to average a catch for each three attempts of this type. Reluctance to come in contact with the water made fishing by the Crows far less successful than by the gulls.

This fishing was common throughout the remainder of January, and the month of February. Observation at close range, with binoculars, left no doubt that crows were actually taking live fish, since these could be observed wriggling in the birds' claws as they flew to the shore to feet on these catches.—DAVID C. HULSE AND THOMAS Z. ATKESON, *P. O. Box 1643, Decatur, Alabama.*

Wing Claws in the White-necked Crow (*Corvus leucognaphalus*).—While preparing the skeletons of five White-necked Crows, kindly collected for me by Mr. W. H. Bussey near Mirebelais, Haiti, I noted the presence of a well developed ungual phalanx on each pollex of an adult female specimen. Mr. Bussey had "roughed-out" and dried the specimen in the field. The horny sheaths of the claws were lacking; only the osseous cores remained. That of the right side measured 6.2 mm. in length, the left one, 3.2 mm. Each showed definite curvature, being concave in palmar aspect.

The occurrence of vestigial claws on the wings of birds has been summarized by Fisher (Amer. Midl. Nat., 23: 234–243, 1940). As far as I am aware, the occurrence of wing claws in the family Corvidae has not been previously reported. In fact, records for the entire order Passeriformes are rare. Mention should be made of Friedmann's paper (Auk, 69: 200, 1952), in which he reported claws on the wings of the Kiskadee Flycatcher (*Pitangus sulphuratus caucensis*).—JULIAN J. BAUMEL, *Biology Dept., University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*