

Another Hybrid *Zonotrichia albicollis* × *Junco hyemalis*.—On October 8, 1953, an anomalous sparrow was captured at the banding station of Mr. Marshall Field at St. Thomas, Ontario. Through the kindness of Mrs. Lucie McDougall the bird was brought to the Museum, both of these bird-banders having recognized the desirability of preserving it as a specimen.

It is unnecessary to describe the specimen in complete detail since it corresponds closely to the specimen described by Townsend (Bull. Nuttall. Ornith. Club, 8: 78–80), commented on by J. A. Allen therein, and further elaborated on by Stone (Auk 10: 213–214) including a colored illustration by Ernest Thompson (Plate VI). The present specimen is a female, approximately three to four months old (age based on the thin, transparent skull and the breeding period of the species concerned in the northeastern portion of their ranges). The specimen recorded by Townsend (*loc. cit.*) was a male with no estimated age given.

The specimen here recorded corresponds closely in size to specimens of *Junco hyemalis* of corresponding age. Its measurements are as follows: total length, 152 mm.; wing spread, 217 mm.; chord of wing, 72 mm.; tail, 65 mm.; chord from nostril anterior to tip of bill, 7.5 mm.; tarsus, 30 mm.; weight, 16 gms. The culmen is faintly ridged. The seventh primary is longest and the ninth is approximately equal to the fourth. The tail termination is double rounded. Through direct comparison it is obvious that the portion of the skeleton of the St. Thomas specimen which was preserved is less robust than the skeleton of an immature female *Zonotrichia albicollis*, more like the skeleton of an immature female *Junco hyemalis*.

The color of the bill in life was YRY 7/2 (Munsell Book of Color) with the base and tip of the upper mandible somewhat darker. The tarsi were YRY 7/4, the toes darker. The irides were dark brown. The outer tail feathers are off-white on the outer web, and nearly the terminal half of the inner web is the same. The second pair inward has an elongated terminal whitish spot on the inner web, and the third pair inward has a much reduced terminal spot. All tail feathers have pale outer borders when viewed dorsally, the central pair being so marked with rusty brown.

Making direct comparisons with Thompson's plate (Stone, *loc. cit.*) and recalling that it represents a male and the present specimen a female, it can be seen that the median stripe on the head is more vague and washed with brown. The superciliary line is similar, but the anterior termination above the lore is dull yellow. The back and wing are practically identical with the plate, the noteworthy feature of both being a complete absence of contrasting pale streaks on the feathers of the back. The breast band is paler in value than the gray shown on Thompson's plate. There is a vague tendency toward streaking on the flanks. L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology and Palaeontology, Toronto, Ontario.*

A Case of Bird-eating by the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*).—On October 17, 1952, many passerine birds sought rest aboard the research vessel CARYN of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. This was a day of strong northerly winds. During the late afternoon an unidentified wren was observed on the deck of the CARYN and, several feet away, a pair of Cowbirds. At this time the CARYN was about 40 miles south of No Man's Land, Massachusetts (40° 40' N., 71° 10' W.). All birds were in good condition although the wren appeared to be fatigued. No further notice of these birds was taken until some time later when the Cowbirds were observed to be disputing possession of the wren, which they had apparently killed and now was a partially-eaten mass of feathers and entrails. RICHARD H. BACKUS, *Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.*