such pallor is not evident in winter and can safely be attributed to intense sunlight or to an alkaline environment, or both. The range of *chryseola* is more extensive in southern Arizona than was previously known; it includes the Altar and Santa Cruz River valleys and also the upper Bavispe River valley in northeastern Sonora, from which specimens have been examined from the San Bernardino Ranch on the Mexican boundary (U. S. Nat. Mus.) and Pilares (Univ. Mich.). These slight range extensions were predictable, however, from previously known distribution.

In discussing yellowthroats from the extreme southwestern Tropical Zone (*op. cit.*, p. 298), of Sonora, little basis was found for positive conclusions. Most of the specimens were not distinguishable from *Geothlypis trichas modesta* from San Blas, Nayarit, and everything was included under that name, although with the observation that they were a variable lot. With recently collected specimens at hand this supposed variability is seen to be due to the fact that two distinct races were involved, one, *modesta*, which is confined to tidal marches, and one that differs materially in size, color, and proportions, which occurs on fresh water streams inland. The characters of this latter race, together with further comment, are given below.

Geothlypis trichas riparia new subspecies

Mayo Yellowthroat

Type.—Breeding adult male, no. 31945 Dickey Collection; Tesia, Mayo River, Sonora, Mexico, altitude 200 feet; collected June 22, 1937, by A. J. van Rossem and Robert Hannum.

Subspecific characters.—Ventral coloration of both sexes similar to that of *Geothlypis beldingi beldingi* of southern Lower California; dorsal coloration like that of *Geothlypis trichas scirpicola* of southern California, but pileum slightly grayer and frontal band and superciliary stripes in adult males slightly tinged with pale yellow; bill notably larger in size than in any of the previously described western races of *trichas* and about equal to that of *Geothlypis trichas melanops* of southcentral Mexico. Differs further from other western races of *trichas* in that the tail is equal to the wing instead of shorter; in this respect the proportions are as in *G. t. melanops*, *G. b. beldingi* and *G. b. goldmani*.

Range.—Riparian growth in the Mayo River valley and, in winter at least, the Yaqui River valley in southern Sonora.

Remarks.—The relationships of several yellowthroats are obscure, but short of a generic revision they cannot be further clarified. There seem to be various group combinations of size, color, and proportions but each one of these overlaps into others, so that no fixed limits can be set in any direction. The ranges of all members of the *trichas* complex are complementary and it is a perfectly simple matter to "prove" intergradation throughout the series by playing leap-frog without regard for intervening forms. For instance, it is not in the least a difficult task to prove *beldingi* a race of *trichas* by picking out almost any character and following it through *goldmani, melanops, riparia, chryseola, scirpicola,* etc. It is, indeed, rather surprising that such a course has not been advocated. The unfortunate Ipswich Sparrow is a comparable case in point. These remarks are not intended to be sharp-pointed; they are made to emphasize the need of a revision of the genus *Geothlypis* based on something other than undiluted systematics, and I suggest as a foundation for such a revision the study of Miller's recent treatment of the genus *Junco*.

To return to the local scene, it seems to be fairly well established that *modesta*, in Sonora at least, is strictly an inhabitant of coastal marshes. It is found in scrubby mangrove and other salt water associations from the Sinaloa boundary north to Kino and Tepopa bays, which latter localities mark the northern limit of mangroves and the narrow strip of Arid Tropical Zone along the coast. Incidentally, I have re-examined the two specimens of *modesta* formerly recorded (*op. cit.*, 298-299) from Lower California and reaffirm their identification. As has been mentioned previously, *sinuosa* of the San Francisco Bay region and *modesta* are much alike in color and are distinguishable chiefly by the slightly longer tail and larger bill of the latter. One is moved to speculate whether *modesta* and *sinuosa* are remnant colonies of a former, more general, salt marsh distribution, or whether similar environments have produced similar color characters.

Measurements of various races of *trichas* are to be found in the previous publication cited and need not be repeated here. Those of *riparia* are as follows: 5 adult males; wing, 55-56 mm.; tail, 55-56; exposed culmen, 12.0-12.6 (12.3): 3 adult females; wing, 50-53; tail, 50-54; exposed culmen, 12.0-12.5 (12.2).—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, August 20, 1941.*

Western Grasshopper Sparrow at Grand Canyon, Arizona.—On June 28, 1941, Ranger Mark Wisner picked up a dead Western Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*) near the Kolb Studios situated at the edge of the south rim of the Grand Canyon, in Grand Canyon National Park. The nearest habitat at all suitable for a grasshopper sparrow is a small grassy

area on each side of the Santa Fe railroad tracks about 100 yards due south of the place where the bird was found. The bird was in good condition, very little decomposed, and not bloody. However, before the specimen could be skinned by the writer decomposition had set in and made the cause of death, as well as the sex, indeterminable. Possibly a car struck the bird as it crossed a paved road to reach the spot where it was found. The head showed some signs of concussion.

Swarth (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 10, 1914:53) reported the Western Grasshopper Sparrow only from western and southern Arizona. According to Mr. Allan Phillips of the Museum of Northern Arizona, recent investigation has shown this species to be a common transient and winter resident in southeastern Arizona. It is rare farther west in the state, and previous to this record, according to Phillips, no valid report of the bird had been made from, or north of, the Mogollon Plateau; the plateau is over 130 miles southeast of the Grand Canyon. The Grasshopper Sparrow is known to breed locally in a few places in southeastern Arizona.

The identification of the specimen found at Grand Canyon, which is now number B-472 in the collection of the Grand Canyon National Park, was verified by Dr. Alden H. Miller of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.—JOHN R. ARNOLD, *Stockton Junior College, Stockton, California, August 20, 1941.*

Wilson Snipe Perches on Telephone Pole.—On July 2, 1941, the authors were driving along a highway about 5½ miles south of Alturas, Modoc County, California, when an adult Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*) was noted sitting on top of a telephone pole about 15 feet from the ground. This seemed so unusual that we felt it advisable to recheck our identification of the bird; consequently, after passing a few hundred yards, we stopped and backed the car to a point even with the pole. After a few moments the bird left with characteristic explosive suddenness, uttering its familiar call, and alighted near by in a marsh.—CLARENCE COTTAM and CECIL S. WILLIAMS, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., August 28, 1941.*

A Nighthawk Migration on an Arizona Desert.—When returning by automobile to Grand Canyon, Arizona, on July 29, 1941, Mrs. Bryant and I were astonished at the large number of migrating Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) to be seen in food-getting flight over the desert. After noting twenty or more we decided to take a census. The following results were obtained between 7:30 p.m. and 7:55 p.m., sunset included, on a stretch of the Grand Canyon approach road about 35 miles south of Grand Canyon. The country is covered with sagebrush, with occasional patches of juniper and piñon pine. Mrs. Bryant watched on one side and I on the other, while driving. All birds counted were within 200 yards of the highway so that the strip used in the census was not more than 400 yards wide. We doubt whether the birds were any more abundant near the road than on the open desert and believe this count is a reliable sampling of abundance. The car traveled at 50 miles per hour. Probably many birds were missed in the course of the last few miles because of poor visibility with darkness fast approaching.

Mile	Nighthawks	Mile	Nighthawks
1st	5	10th	2
2nd	5	11th	2
3rd	8	12th	1
4th	6	13th	3
5th	3	14th	1
6th	4	15th	2
7th	3	16th	4
8th	2	17th	0
9th	0	18th	0

This made a total of fifty-one nighthawks, seen in a narrow belt over eighteen miles of desert, or an average of nearly three per mile, from a speeding car. And, of course, there were more birds than the eye could catch. The lack of birds in the last two miles may be attributed to the darkness.—H. C. BRYANT, *Grand Canyon, Arizona, September 6, 1941.*

European Starling in Nevada.—Because of the interest ornithologists have had in the movement and distribution of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and also because of the unusual economic significance of this bird, it seems appropriate to record a field observation of this species at Las Vegas, Nevada. The following is quoted from a letter from Dr. M. M. Ellis of the Fish and Wildlife Service: