

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Sex Ratios in Wintering Gambel White-crowned Sparrows.—Incidental to certain studies of castration of migratory birds at Davis, California, it was noticed that males outnumbered females in the local wintering population of the Gambel White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) by more than five to one. In a series of 101 of these birds trapped in 1940 and 1941 there were 87 males and only 14 females. Dr. Barbara Blanchard, trapping in the same locality during the winter of 1942-43, recorded 224 males and 38 females (forty smallish birds liberated without being sexed might have slightly modified the ratio indicated by this collection; her figures, therefore, have not been included in the tabulation shown on the map). Museum specimens, presumably taken by shooting, showed the same picture of male predominance in the Davis region with 13 males and only 2 females.

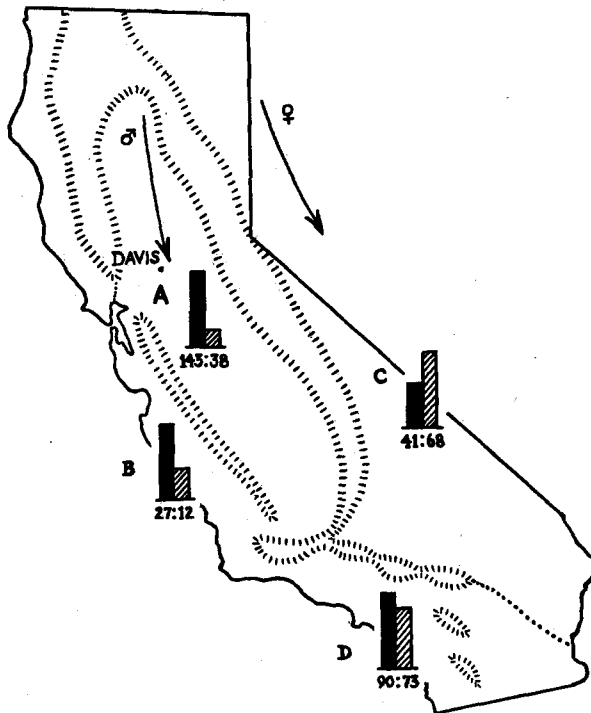


Fig. 51. Sex ratios in wintering populations of Gambel Sparrows as indicated by specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and by trapping records at Davis. A, Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley; B, central coast area of California; C, Great Basin, including Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, parts of Arizona and the Mojave Desert of California; D, southern California and adjacent areas in southern Arizona and Lower California. Black columns indicate males, shaded columns, females.

Data in the catalogue of specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley indicate that there is a partial segregation of the sexes of wintering Gambel Sparrows on opposite sides of the Sierra Nevada. Specimens collected to the west of these mountains showed a ratio of more than three males to every female, while on the east side females outnumbered males almost two to one (fig. 51). The sex ratio south of the Tehachapi Mountains was roughly one to one.—JOHN T. EMLÉN, JR., *University of California, Davis, California, June 28, 1943.*