

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF WRANGELL AND VICINITY, SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA

By J. DAN WEBSTER

In 1946 I returned for a period of five months to the vicinity of Wrangell, southeastern Alaska. From March 25 to August 23, on each of five days a week several hours were spent afield, hiking or rowing. Specimens of birds taken in this period are now in the California Academy of Sciences.

The Wrangell area has been visited by many ornithologists, the first being C. P. Streater in 1895. Extensive work was done by the following: George Willett, for seven months in 1920-21 (Willett, 1921*a*, 1921*b*, 1928); Fred H. Gray, who lived in Wrangell from 1899 to 1937 (Willett, 1921*b*); H. S. Swarth, on Wrangell and Mitkof islands for nineteen days in the summer of 1909 with Allan Hasselborg (Swarth, 1911), and on Sergeif Island for 21 days in August and September, 1919, with Joseph Dixon (Swarth, 1922). Work on the Stikine River below Telegraph Creek has been reported by Swarth (1922). The erection of a huge pulp mill at Point Agassiz, only 45 miles north of Wrangell, is expected in the near future. It may be anticipated that the largely virgin forests of the region will soon give way to logged-off "deserts" like those which now line the once-green waterways of the southern and central British Columbia coast.

Point Highfield is the northernmost tip of Wrangell Island and is only 2½ miles across Eastern Passage from the mainland at the southern edge of the mouth of the Stikine River. The town of Wrangell is a mile south of Point Highfield, on the west coast of the island; Polk Point is a mile southeast of Point Highfield, on the east coast. LeConte Bay is an ice-choked fiord 20 miles north of Wrangell; it is the site of the southernmost tidewater glacier on the Pacific coast. Sergeif Island, in the mouth of the Stikine (see Swarth, 1922:140) has a high grass-grown sand bar strewn with giant driftwood snags, which extends for a mile westward from the west end of the timbered part of the island. North and east of the bar are miles of grassland and marshes which are extensively flooded only by extreme tides. The only tules (*Scirpus*) I have ever seen in Alaska grow in a small marsh at the northeast corner of Sergeif Island. Two miles east of Sergeif Island is Point Rothsay, the promontory on the south bank which marks the official entrance to the Stikine River Channel; average flood tides ascend no farther. Proceeding upstream, successive landmarks along the Stikine are: Farm Island, Kakwan Point, Popof Creek, Warm Spring Slough, Clearwater Creek, the British Columbian boundary, and the Customs House. Aaron Creek is a small mainland river 20 miles southeast of Wrangell; the Berg Mine high camp is four miles north of the mouth of Aaron Creek, on a small tributary creek, at 700 feet elevation.

Most of the area worked is in the Canadian Zone; it consists of mountains forested with Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) and narrow valleys in which there are usually small muskegs dotted with lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*). Above about 2000 feet the spruce-hemlock gives way to Hudsonian Zone characterized by yellow cedar (*Chamaecyparis nutkatensis*) and alpine hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*); above about 3000 feet or a little higher there are only bare rock and alpine meadows (Arctic Zone). Intertidal grasslands are extensive at the mouth of Aaron Creek and are vast at the mouth of the Stikine.

Along the lower Stikine River there is an association of cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), willow (*Salix* sp.), alder (*Alnus rubra*), and devil's club (*Echinopanax horridum*) which covers many square miles; it is almost continuous along the banks and covers practically all the islands for the 30 miles from the British Columbia-Alaska

boundary to Point Rothsay. Elsewhere in southeastern Alaska this plant association, with its attendant bird species, is found only in very small strips along the other large mainland rivers. Swarth and Dixon in 1919 touched the upper part of this association, at Great Glacier, British Columbia, 15 miles above the boundary (Swarth, 1922:143). In the most advanced subclimax communities, there are dense stands of large cottonwoods, with dense underbrush of willow, devil's club, and alder, and here and there a spruce sapling. The common breeding land birds are: Ruffed Grouse, Western Wood Pewee, Hermit Thrush, Russet-backed (Swainson) Thrush, Robin, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Warbling Vireo, and Song Sparrow.

I made trips up the Stikine as follows: May 28, upstream along the south shore three miles from Point Rothsay and return, afoot; June 8 to 10, upstream by river boat to the boundary, then downstream in a rowboat to Wrangell; July 5 to 7, as in June; August 5 and 6, upstream by rowboat to a tributary creek four miles above Point Rothsay, and up the creek a mile, then return the same way.

The following list of species includes: (1) records believed to represent contributions to the knowledge of the avifauna of southeastern Alaska as a whole, and (2) records which are additions to the knowledge of the avifauna of the Stikine River above Point Rothsay, as reported by Swarth (1922). "Southeastern Alaska" refers to that portion of the territory south of Yakutat Bay.

Gavia immer. Common Loon. On the Stikine, one was seen in the mouth of Clearwater Creek on June 9.

Phalacrocorax auritus. Double-crested Cormorant. Evidently a migrant near Wrangell. Single birds were seen on four occasions on Eastern Passage: March 28, April 26, May 13, and May 16.

Branta canadensis. Canada Goose. There are few published references to the small form *B. c. minima* in southeastern Alaska, although it seems to be a regular migrant. Large flocks flew north along Eastern Passage on April 27 and May 2. A flock of ten was grazing on Sergeif Island on May 13; a female was taken from a grazing flock of 90 there on May 16. That *B. c. occidentalis* breeds on the lower Stikine was indicated by the actions of several geese seen between the boundary and Point Rothsay on June 8, 9, and 10. On July 6 a flock in Clearwater Creek consisted of five adults herding about 20 two-thirds grown young. Specimens of *occidentalis* were recorded by Swarth (1922:200) from Sergeif Island in August.

Chen hyperborea hyperborea. Snow Goose. A flock of 25 was flushed from Sergeif Island on April 30, a flock of 30 from there on May 2. On the latter day a young male, almost finished with its molt into white plumage, was taken. Near Polk Point one was flushed from the beach on May 9; a flock of fifteen flew upstream over the Customs House at the boundary on the Stikine on June 9. The specimen taken is the first to be recorded from southeastern Alaska, although the species has been taken regularly by hunters and there have been sight records by Swarth (1911:45), Bailey (1927:189), and Webster (1941:120).

Spatula clypeata. Shoveller. A flock of four, including one female, was seen on Sergeif Island on May 13. There were four females in a flock of twelve there on May 16.

Mergus serrator. Red-breasted Merganser. From one to four were seen each day on Eastern Passage from March 26 to 30 and from April 10 to 12. On April 7 one was seen in Shoemaker Bay four miles south of Wrangell. On my first visit to Sergeif Island on April 15, about 500 Red-breasted Mergansers were fishing in the almost clear water of the river mouth. Large numbers were seen in that vicinity on April 20 and 30 and on May 2. The ice came out of the Stikine the first week in May and thereafter its color was like that of the Missouri River. Only a few mergansers were seen from then on, usually in the clear water at mouths of tributary creeks.

Accipiter gentilis atricapillus. Goshawk. A male shot in Wrangell on March 28 is in the streaked first-winter plumage and is indistinguishable from numerous specimens from northern Alaska and the western United States.

Buteo jamaicensis. Red-tailed Hawk. On the Stikine, one moderately light-colored bird circled over the lower end of Warm Spring Slough on July 6.

Falco columbarius. Pigeon Hawk. Single birds were seen on the Sergeif Island bar on August 14 and 19. On the last date the bird was taken and proved to be an adult female of the race *suckleyi*, the first specimen ever reported from southeastern Alaska. It is as dark as the darkest individual of the 25 specimens of *suckleyi* in the collections of the California Academy of Sciences and the Museum

of Vertebrate Zoology. Previous records of *suckleyi* in southeastern Alaska are sight records, but Nelson (1887:148) reported a specimen from Sitka which approached *suckleyi* in darkness of plumage.

Lagopus mutus dixoni. Rock Ptarmigan. At least fifteen miles of alpine ridges were traversed afoot in the mainland mountains between the Stikine and Aaron Creek on three days in June and July, but only one ptarmigan was seen. It was an adult male of this race, taken on June 25 at 3300 feet on Wrangell Peak.

Bonasa umbellus. Ruffed Grouse. Drumming was heard in the cottonwoods along the Stikine River on June 9 at Popof Creek and on an island nine miles above Point Rothsay. The following morning, drumming was heard on an island eight miles above Point Rothsay. My hunting was unsuccessful, although several acquaintances told of bagging many Ruffed Grouse along the river in fall and early spring. No specimen has been recorded from southeastern Alaska.

Grus canadensis. Sandhill Crane. The spring migration is very early; a friend reported a flock of five seen over Point Highfield on April 5. Single birds, probably representing a small breeding population, were seen on May 13 at Sergeif Island and on August 22 at Polk Point.

Pluvialis dominica fulva. Golden Plover. The only Golden Plover seen was taken—an adult female, April 30 on the Sergeif Island bar. The wing length, 164 mm., places it definitely in this race, as does the color (Conover, 1945:571).

Charadrius vociferus. Killdeer. Evidently a regular migrant. A single bird was seen near Polk Point on April 16, 17, and 18. On the Sergeif Island bar, two were seen on May 2 and one on August 15. Another circled low over our house in Wrangell, calling vigorously, the afternoon of August 13.

Tringa solitaria cinnamomea. Solitary Sandpiper. An immature female was taken on August 15 on the Sergeif Island bar and another was seen there that same day.

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. Several seen along the Stikine on June 9 and 10 and July 6 and 7 acted as though nesting; so did four pairs in LeConte Bay on June 18, 19, and 20. Two males in breeding condition were taken in LeConte Bay on June 18 and 20; the bird of June 18 was guarding a set of half-incubated eggs.

Erolia melanotos. Pectoral Sandpiper. Seen only on Sergeif Island, as follows: one on May 13, 40 on May 16, one on June 13 (no appearance of nesting), 50 on August 15, five on August 19. Specimens were taken in May and August.

Lobipes lobatus. Northern Phalarope. Flocks on Eastern Passage on April 20 totaled about 400 birds; two females were taken. A small flock was seen in Eastern Passage on April 22 and one there on April 30. Thereafter the species was not seen.

Larus canus. Mew Gull. A Stikine record was provided by two adults which flew near my skiff in the middle of the Stikine River off Shakes Creek on July 6.

Larus argentatus. Herring Gull. A pair of adults flew downstream past my rowboat off Shakes Creek on June 9. On July 6 four, all adults, were seen along the river between the boundary and Shakes Creek. The present species, as well as the preceding, was not reported by Swarth (1922), but probably breeds somewhere along the Stikine.

Larus glaucescens. Glaucous-winged Gull. The single Stikine record of this salt-water gull consists of an adult seen near Kakwan Point on June 8.

Sterna paradisaea. Arctic Tern. Several were seen along the lower Stikine on each of the following days: June 8, 9, and 10; July 5, 6, and 7. Two pairs acted as though nesting on a large sand bar a mile below Clearwater Creek, but extensive search for eggs on July 5 and 6 was unsuccessful. A female taken there on the latter day had recently laid a set and had a well developed brood patch.

Brachyrhamphus brevirostris. Kittlitz Murrelet. Several were seen among the icebergs in LeConte Bay on June 18, 19, and 20. Two females and a male taken were evidently incubating eggs. This record is the southernmost and easternmost for the species, the previous extreme records being in Sitka Sound by Willett (1914:74) and Palmén (1887:393) and in northern Chatham Strait by Bailey (1927:15). I was able to distinguish between this species and the common Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyrhamphus marmoratus*) by a difference in their voices. The call of the Kittlitz Murrelet was a hoarse, long-drawn-out squawk which contrasted with the high-pitched, mournful wail of its congener.

Nyctia scandiaca. Snowy Owl. One of these owls was shot just east of Wrangell by some boys on January 12, 1946. They brought it to Mr. George Lemke, who saved some feathers for me to check the identification.

Chaetura vauxi. Vaux Swift. A few were seen overhead in the alder-grown valley about the Berg Mine high camp on July 16, 18, and 21. Presumably they were nesting on the steep cliffs above.

Nephoëetes niger. Black Swift. At Sergeif Island flocks were seen overhead, four birds on June 13 and eight on August 14.

Megaceryle alcyon. Belted Kingfisher. Several were noted along the Stikine between the boundary and Kakwan Point on June 9 and July 6.

Colaptes cafer cafer. Red-shafted Flicker. Flickers have not previously been reported in winter from southeastern Alaska. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson L. Webster and Mr. and Mrs. George Lemke reported one or two birds seen frequently in Wrangell in the winter of 1945-1946. Mr. Webster salvaged some secondaries from a bird taken on January 16, which are readily identifiable with this subspecies.

Sphyrapicus varius ruber. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. On the Stikine, two were seen at the boundary and one at Clearwater Creek on June 9 and three were seen at the boundary on July 6. A male taken on the latter date is in the juvenal plumage of the coastal race.

Empidonax traillii traillii. Traill Flycatcher. Two were seen and one taken in a grassy marsh partly grown to alders and willows on an island in the Stikine seven miles above Point Rothsay on June 10.

Contopus richardsonii richardsonii. Western Wood Pewee. The familiar call of this species was heard in the willow-cottonwood thickets beside Clearwater Creek on June 9. The next day, a pair was seen and the male taken on a cottonwood-covered island eight miles above Point Rothsay.

Nuttallornis borealis. Olive-sided Flycatcher. One that was seen and heard in the tall spruces along Clearwater Creek on June 9 succeeded in keeping beyond shotgun range. There are no previous summer records from southeastern Alaska, nor any Stikine records from west of Telegraph Creek (Swarth, 1922:225).

Tachycineta thalassina. Violet-green Swallow. The only one seen was a single bird in a mixed flock of swallows over the Sergeif Island bar on August 15.

Iridoprocne bicolor. Tree Swallow. On July 7, single birds were seen as far up the Stikine as seven miles above Point Rothsay.

Corvus caurinus. Northwestern Crow. Small groups of these beach-combers were seen as far upstream on the Stikine as seven miles above Point Rothsay on June 10 and up to the southeast corner of Farm Island on July 7.

Parus rufescens. Chestnut-backed Chickadee. None was seen along the lower Stikine more than three miles upstream from Point Rothsay.

Cinclus mexicanus. Dipper. Not previously reported from the Stikine region. There were two sight records upstream from Point Rothsay: one was seen on May 28 along a small tributary creek and on July 7 two were carrying food along a cascade at the upper end of Farm Island.

Anthus spinoletta pacificus. Pipit. Pipits were common at sea level in April and in early May, the last spring record being a flock of 30 seen on May 7 on the beach near Polk Point. Later the species was seen only in the Arctic Zone, above 3000 feet on mainland mountains. On June 25, July 17, and July 23, on mountains between the Stikine and Aaron Creek, several were seen and five adults were taken. On July 17 a juvenile, able to fly but a few yards, was taken, and proved to be in complete juvenal plumage. Robert T. Orr checked the racial identity of the specimens.

Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps. Bohemian Waxwing. Jackson L. Webster and George Lemke reported this species as abundant in Wrangell from November 27, 1945, to February 21, 1946. A dead bird was brought to Lemke on March 1; he saved the wing for me to identify.

Vireo gilvus swainsoni. Warbling Vireo. Along the Stikine on June 9, two were seen and one taken in a willow thicket beside Warm Spring Slough. That same day, the song of the species was heard in alder-willow thickets a mile downstream from the boundary and at the lower end of Warm Spring Slough. On July 6, one was seen in alders at the Customs House and the songs of two or more were heard at the lower end of Warm Spring Slough. The only previous record for the Territory of Alaska was from the Chilcat River by Jewett (1942:74).

Dendroica coronata hooveri. Myrtle Warbler. Several were seen and several more heard singing along the Stikine from the boundary down to eight miles above Point Rothsay on June 9 and 10 and July 6. On July 1 a female was feeding a flying juvenile in the willows on Sergeif Island. Two adult males were taken.

Oporornis tolmiei tolmiei. MacGillivray Warbler. On the Stikine, one was seen in the Indian celery and salmon berry bushes beside the Customs House on June 9; later that day one was singing a mile below the boundary. On July 6, the male at the Customs House was seen again. A pair was seen in a salmon berry thicket near Point Highfield, Wrangell Island, on June 14 (they could not be re-located subsequently), and a female near Polk Point on August 17. In the alder thickets above the Berg Mine high camp, at altitudes from 800 to 1100 feet, several were seen on July 19, 20, and 21. On the last date, a female was feeding a flying juvenile. Specimens were taken on July 20 and 21.

Geothlypis trichas campicola. Yellow-throat. Along the Stikine, a male was seen and two others heard singing in a grassy marsh partly grown to alder and willow on an island seven miles above Point Rothsay on June 10. On July 6, a male was seen in a small grassy marsh near the lower

end of Warm Spring Slough; the next day a small colony was located and two males were taken beside a beaver pond on Popof Creek. The well-cared-for beaver dam and lodge were several years old. There was a muskeg on one side of the pond, but the Yellow-throats were in the narrow fringe of grass and small willows bordering the pond. On July 28 two singing males were heard in the grassy marshes at the mouth of Aaron Creek; one was located and taken. The tules on Sergeif Island were examined in June and July without finding any Yellow-throats, but about fifteen were there on August 19 and an immature was taken. The only previous records for southeastern Alaska are from the mainland at Chickamin River and Taku River (Swarth, 1911:101-102). William H. Behle identified the three adult male specimens as belonging to the interior British Columbian race.

Setophaga ruticilla tricolor. Redstart. On June 9 three were seen on cottonwood-covered islands in the lower Stikine. A female was seen on an islet nine miles above Point Rothsay; a few minutes later on another island a mile downstream a pair was seen and the male taken. This is the first definite record from Alaska.

Burroughs (1902:40) reported the "Redstart" as one of the species collected by the Harriman Expedition, June 9 to 13, 1899, on Point Gustavus, Glacier Bay, without comment. Probably this was a slip of the pen for "Redpoll," which is a fairly common bird of that region, but which was not listed. Ridgway (1907) apparently took account of all the warblers collected on the Harriman Expedition in Alaska and noted no Redstart from Alaska. It seems reasonable to assume, therefore, that Burroughs was in error.

Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus. Red-winged Blackbird. One was taken on Sergeif Island on July 1 (Webster, 1948:228).

Piranga ludoviciana. Western Tanager. A female was seen in a cottonwood tree beside Warm Spring Slough, a channel of the Stikine River, on June 9.

Pinicola enucleator alascensis. Pine Grosbeak. On January 10, 1946, Jackson L. Webster found a dead bird on a street in Wrangell and saved the bill, wing, tail, and feathers for me. The parts represent a subadult male of this race, which has not previously been reported from southeastern Alaska. It seems probable that a large proportion of the Pine Grosbeaks wintering in southeastern Alaska belong to this interior race rather than to the locally resident race *flammula*. South of Glacier Bay, the latter seems to constitute a very small total population.

Loxia curvirostra. Red Crossbill. The species has not been reported from the Stikine between Telegraph Creek and Sergeif Island (Swarth, 1922:233). On June 9 small flocks were seen flying overhead at the boundary, at Clearwater Creek, and beside Warm Spring Slough. On June 10 and July 7 small flocks were seen in a clump of spruces on an island seven miles above Point Rothsay.

Passerella iliaca. Fox Sparrow. Two Fox Sparrows taken at Polk Point on April 22 and May 4 proved to be of the race *unalaschensis*. A Fox Sparrow taken at Polk Point on May 7 was of the race *insularis*. The first Fox Sparrows of the year were seen about Polk Point on April 9; the one specimen taken that day was a female of *sinuosa*.

In the course of the breeding season, a sample of the Wrangell Island population was obtained, a nesting pair being taken on June 14 in a salmon berry patch near Point Highfield. These birds are referred to *fuliginosa*, although they are slightly indicative of intergradation with *townsendi* as shown by somewhat rustier dorsal coloration than that of mainland specimens. The only previous summer specimen from Wrangell Island, reported by Swarth (1920:198 and 1922:263), was referred to *townsendi*. Perhaps the Wrangell Island population is a variable group of intergrades.

There have been no breeding Fox Sparrows reported from the mainland of southeastern Alaska south of Glacier Bay, although Swarth (1922:261-262) reported five *fuliginosa* taken in early August at Great Glacier, British Columbia, on the Stikine River only fifteen miles north of the boundary, and one migrant *fuliginosa* from Sergeif Island taken on August 19, 1919; on this basis he assigned the entire mainland of Alaska, south of the Stikine, to the range of *fuliginosa*. On the lower Stikine I took two of three singing males from a large alder thicket on an island seven miles above Point Rothsay on June 10. On July 6 and 7 the song of the Fox Sparrow was heard three times along the Stikine: at the lower end of Warm Spring Slough, on the south shore of the river opposite Popof Creek, and in the same thicket where the June specimens had been taken. In the Aaron Creek drainage, Fox Sparrows were found breeding in the brushy valley above the Berg Mine high camp, in alder and salmon berry thickets at elevations of 800 to 1200 feet, from July 16 to 21; three adults were taken. All mainland specimens are *fuliginosa*, closely matching Swarth's seven Great Glacier specimens. As noted by Swarth (1922:262-263), *fuliginosa* of the Stikine region differs appreciably from more southerly (Vancouver Island) specimens of that race, particularly in the duller (less tawny) brown color of back and lower tail coverts. However, I have seen no breeding specimens of *fuliginosa* from points south of Vancouver Island, and only one good summer bird from there (Mus. Vert. Zool. no. 16253, pictured in Swarth, 1920, plate 4, fig. 2, facing page 218).

A migrant Fox Sparrow (Calif. Acad. Sci. no. 60584) was taken on April 25 on the beach at Polk Point which is very difficult to classify. I hesitantly identify it as *fuliginosa*, because dorsally it matches the Stikine River birds. Ventrally it matches nothing else; almost the entire breast is deep brown, tinged faintly with rusty on the feather tips. In this connection, it is recalled that Willett (1928:448) reported taking a melanistic specimen of *townsendi* at Craig, Alaska. The specimen was loaned by the Los Angeles Museum and compared by Robert T. Orr at the California Academy of Sciences. Dr. Orr writes: "The ventral spotting of the specimen (L. A. Mus. no. 21097, Craig, Prince of Wales Island, October 22, 1919) is no more extensive than in your series of *fuliginosa* (excluding 60584). The spots, however, tend to be slightly more blackish. Number 60584 is much more heavily pigmented below. Dorsally the Willett Fox Sparrow is very slightly more reddish than any of the birds in your series." We may surmise, then, that no. 60584, a migrant from Wrangell Island, and L. A. Mus. no. 21097, a migrant from Prince of Wales Island, represent different segments of the Fox Sparrow population of the mainland of southeastern Alaska, north of the Stikine River and east of Glacier Bay. Both may be best referred to the subspecies *fuliginosa*.

Melospiza lincolnii gracilis. Lincoln Sparrow. Swarth (1922:260) reported specimens of this race from Sergeif Island and from Flood Glacier, British Columbia, 85 miles upriver, but he gave no records from the intervening country. Two were seen beside a little marsh near the lower end of Warm Spring Slough on July 6, and one the next day beside the beaver pond on Popof Creek. Several specimens were taken on Wrangell Island and the nearby mainland in June and July. A migrant male of the race *lincolnii* was taken on May 4 at Polk Point. In the California Academy of Sciences is another specimen of this race from southeastern Alaska, a male taken on April 27, 1916, at Ketchikan, by J. A. Kusche. A third specimen, a male which I took at Polk Point on May 8, seems to be intermediate between the locally breeding race, *gracilis*, and the northern and eastern race, *lincolnii*. Miller and McCabe (1935) did not report any specimens of *lincolnii* from southeastern Alaska, but the above three specimens contrast in color (brownier back, with narrower stripe) with breeding series and the first two in wing length (longer, 63 and 62 mm.). It seems reasonable to conclude that the race *lincolnii* is a regular spring migrant through this coastal region.

Melospiza melodia morphna. Song Sparrow. Swarth (1922:256) reported specimens of *rufina* from Sergeif Island and from Flood Glacier, British Columbia. Later he made a revision of the northwestern Song Sparrows (1923) wherein all the mainland of southeastern Alaska south and east of Glacier Bay and the eastern islands of the Alexander Archipelago were assigned to the range of *morphna* and the breeding range of *rufina* was restricted to the western islands of the Alexander Archipelago and the Queen Charlotte Islands. Swarth recognized only one subspecies from British Columbia exclusive of the Queen Charlottes, although he noted four populations, which differed very slightly on the average. Jewett (1942:75) referred a collection of Song Sparrows taken in June and July from several of the islands of the Alexander Archipelago as well as the Chilkat River and Cleveland Peninsula on the mainland to *rufina*. Recently, Munro and Cowan (1947:234-236) divided the breeding Song Sparrows of British Columbia, exclusive of the Queen Charlottes, into four races—*inexpectata*, *merrilli*, *morphna*, and *rufina*, corresponding to the four populations of *morphna* recognized by Swarth.

Song Sparrows were rather common along the lower Stikine on June 9 and 10 and on July 6 and 7. Specimens were taken on June 9 at the boundary and on July 6 at the lower end of Warm Spring Slough. In the identification of these two specimens, the Song Sparrows in the California Academy of Sciences and the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology were studied; the specimens were identified as *morphna*, approaching *rufina*.

Essentially, my views on Song Sparrow populations in southeastern Alaska and British Columbia are those of Swarth (1923). I studied six pertinent series of breeding adults, as follows: (1) fourteen *rufina* from Chicagof, Baranof, Forrester, Prince of Wales, and Duke islands, Alaska (taken from May 21 to July 6); (2) ten intermediates between *rufina* and *morphna* from Admiralty, Warren, and Wrangell islands and the lower Stikine and the east side of Glacier Bay, Alaska (May 21 to July 31); (3) twelve *morphna* from Chickamin River and Boca de Quadra, on the extreme south of the Alaskan mainland, and the upper Stikine River, British Columbia (June 1 to July 31); (4) twenty *morphna* from Vancouver Island (May 31 to July 31); (5) twelve *morphna* from Clatsop and Columbia counties, Oregon (May 18 to June 1); (6) eleven *morphna* from Hazelton, Clearwater P. O., and Indianpoint Lake, British Columbia (May 29 to July 13). The ten intermediates of series 2 are rather uniform in coloration; dorsally they are exactly between *rufina* and series 3 of *morphna*, but ventrally they are nearer (rustier, less sooty) *morphna*. Series 3 of *morphna* is indistinguishable, to my eye, from the Vancouver Island series, although a few of the extremes may be picked out as slightly different. I agree with Swarth that the race *inexpectata* Riley is not worthy of recognition and that the range of *morphna* extends north along the mainland coast to the eastern shore of Glacier Bay. I studied very few breeding specimens from that part of British Columbia assigned to the range of *merrilli* by Munro and Cowan (1947) and therefore can make no statement concerning that race.

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Robert T. Orr identified the Pipits, compared Willett's Fox Sparrow, and helped me in many other ways. William H. Behle identified the Yellow-throats. The authorities of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology allowed me free use of the collections under their care.

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