

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Sun-bathing Linnets.**—The current studies of Dr. G. W. Salt (MS) on heat tolerance by members of the genus *Carpodacus* suggest that the following observations be placed on record. The fact that notes were so brief and that no recurrence has been observed has prevented their earlier publication.

On July 27, 1943, during an especially hot spell in Los Angeles, California, several California Linnets (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) were noticed in a peculiar behavior pattern on the rough brick ledge outside my window.

The birds would settle on the window ledge and "sun bathe" seemingly with much enjoyment. The bath would last at least half a minute, then be interrupted by flight. No more than four birds were on the ledge at one time and both sexes were represented. Once an English Sparrow joined the group for a brief time. It was impossible to tell whether or not the same individuals returned repeatedly, but the performance lasted fully thirty minutes and it probably included a number of repeats.

After landing the bird would quickly assume one or another of the following positions or modification thereof:

1. On one side, wing and tail spread, head rotated about 90° to one side, crown feathers erected.
2. On the belly, tail and wings spread, head retracted over the back, beak pointed skyward.
3. Semi-erect, head rotated to side, wings spread, crown feathers erected, eye half closed.

Other postures were not captured in my hasty notes. Respiration was very rapid so that the whole body palpitated. There were frequent interruptions for preening. The beak was either open or closed. There was frequent display of "peck dominance."

The window faces southeast and is unshaded; the ledge of rather dark klinker brick had been exposed all morning to full glare of the sun with perhaps additional heat reflected from the plate glass surface of the window. The time was 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. and air temperature within the room stood at 83°F. Humidity was not measured but these hot spells (in sight of the sea in west Los Angeles) are due to a drift of air from the interior which nullifies the customary sea breeze of summer. The relative humidity is therefore fairly low on such occasions and sun temperatures are high.

It would appear then that the California Linnet is a species that is adapted to a considerable degree of heat and aridity and that those individuals occurring in coastal southern California sometimes deliberately seek such conditions.—LOVE MILLER, *University of California, Los Angeles, June 15, 1951.*

**Sprague Pipit and Black Rosy Finch in North-central Wyoming in Summer.**—During a visit to the Big Horn Mountains, August 5 to 21, 1949, we observed two species whose occurrence there is of considerable interest.

*Anthus spragueii*. Sprague Pipit. The presence of this species was surprising. While it was less numerous than the American Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*), we saw the Sprague Pipit on several occasions from August 5 to 10, singly and in groups of three or four. All were seen about the extensive, gently rolling meadows, or parks, which lie above 9000 feet and cover most of the table-like peaks of the Big Horns in western Sheridan County and eastern Big Horn County. Cary (N. Amer. Fauna, No. 42, 1917:46 and map) treats these open areas as part of the Hudsonian Life-zone. The species was not seen on adjacent rocky outcrops above local timberline, although the American Pipit was common in both habitats. The Sprague Pipit nests on prairies to the northward in Montana, North Dakota, and the prairie provinces at moderate elevations. In Montana, according to Saunders (Pac. Coast Avif., No. 14, 1921:53), it "evidently prefers wet prairie lands, about the edges of alkaline ponds . . ." While those that we saw may have been early migrants, the remote but interesting possibility remains that *spragueii* may breed on the high meadows of the Big Horns. Other birds seen daily on these uplands were Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*), Marsh Hawks (*Circus cyaneus*), and Vesper Sparrows (*Poocetes gramineus*). On August 7 we saw a Sprague Pipit feeding along the wet, grassy border of a small stream, Beaver Creek, together with two Lincoln Sparrows (*Melospiza lincolni*). This pipit has apparently not heretofore been reported from Wyoming in summer; Otto McCreary (Wyoming Bird Life, 1939:80) and Knight (Birds of Wyoming, 1902:55) list it only as a spring migrant in the state.

*Leucosticte atrata*. Black Rosy Finch. On August 9 we saw 10 individuals of this species within