

February, I flushed a Wakago from a small bush on the savanna at Zanderij near the edge of the forest. The bird disappeared in a surprisingly noiseless flight and uttered only a few cackling alarm notes. The nest was in a fork of a rather small shrub at a height of about two meters at the very edge of the bush. Near it was a small wasp's nest. The nest was amazingly small for such a large bird and it was made of small roots and flattened leaves of the surrounding shrubs. The nest cup was lined with dead as well as fresh green leaves, suggesting that building and up-keeping had continued during the laying period. The nest contained three rather rough-shelled, white eggs which filled the cup. Two of the eggs were nest stained to a considerable extent, from which it may be supposed that the eggs had been laid with an interval of more than one day. The eggs were fresh, one of them being distinctly smaller than the two others. The measurements and weight of the unblown eggs were: 56.9×38.1 mm., 44 gms.; 55.0×38.9 mm., 38.2 gms.; 52.2×36.2 mm., 44 gms. The measurements of these eggs fall within the limits of those mentioned in the literature.

The weight of four adult Wakago's collected by me in Surinam was: 3 ♂ 493, 495 and 500 gms., 1 ♀ 385 gms. The weight of a fresh egg is therefore about one-tenth of the body weight of the birds.—
F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Paramaribo, Surinam, January 7, 1956.*

A White-throated Golden-crowned Sparrow.—On April 29, 1951, an adult female *Zonotrichia* was collected one and three-fourths miles northwest of Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, California. The bird had an ovary measuring 5 millimeters in length and heavy deposits of subcutaneous fat. Although appearing to be a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), this bird had a pure white throat. As might be expected my first reaction was that the specimen was a hybrid between the Golden-crowned Sparrow and the White-throated Sparrow (*Z. albicollis*). Comparisons with specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and the Stanford Natural History Museum were therefore made.

The pileum is like that of *atricapilla*, having a median patch of yellow bordered laterally by broad black stripes and posteriorly by an area of light gray or whitish. There is no indication of the white superciliary stripe of *albicollis* although some normal *atricapilla* show a considerable amount of gray in the black postocular region. The supraloral region, which is yellow in *albicollis*, is black in the specimen as it is in *atricapilla*. Careful examination of this region will reveal a few yellow-tipped feathers in normal *atricapilla*. These are also present in the specimen. The tones of brown in the scapular region of *albicollis* are more rufescent than in *atricapilla*. The specimen is like normal *atricapilla* in this respect. The specimen lacks the yellow area at the carpal joint found in *albicollis* but absent in *atricapilla*, and the anterior underparts are olivaceous gray as in *atricapilla*, rather than medium gray as in *albicollis*. In all other areas of the plumage the specimen is similar to normal individuals of *atricapilla*.

Thus it is only in the possession of an extensive pure white throat that the specimen suggests that one of its parents may have been a White-throated Sparrow. The entire throat area is immaculate white, even more so than in a female *albicollis* taken at the same locality on April 19, 1951, just 10 days before the white-throated Golden-crown was collected. In *albicollis* the white throat is sharply demarcated from the gray breast and blackish malar stripes are often present. The throat of the present specimen blends gradually into the breast and lacks any trace of black edges. Thus, although pure white, it actually is quite different in its detailed appearance from the throat pattern of *albicollis*.

Some specimens of *atricapilla* have a number of white feathers at the base of the bill, and the throat in all normal individuals tends to be lighter than the breast. In the Stanford Natural History Museum there are two specimens of *Z. atricapilla* with some white in the throat. A male (no. 1578) taken at Redwood City, San Mateo County, California, on April 14, 1917, has the throat paler than normal specimens and it is streaked with dusky. A female (no. 859) taken on April 18, 1893, has the chin and lower throat white with a dusky area in between. In the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology there is a specimen (no. 31349) of an immature female collected in the Moraga Valley, Contra Costa County, California, on November 9, 1919, which has the center of the throat white bordered by dusky malar stripes. These facts suggest that there is a normal genetic basis for white in the throat plumage of *atricapilla*. It seems probable that the white throat in this otherwise normal specimen of *atricapilla* is due, not to hybridization, but either to the chance coalition of a larger than usual number of mul-

multiple factors affecting white throat plumage or to a mutation which affected the deposition of pigment in the feathers of this area.

Although the evidence is slight, it is tempting to speculate upon the possible significance of the white throat in this individual. The fact that the throat is the area involved suggests that the genetic basis is similar to that which produces the normal white throat of the related *albicollis*. That there is a genetic proclivity for white in the throat in the genus *Zonotrichia* is further suggested by a specimen of the White-crowned Sparrow of the race *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli* in the Stanford Natural History Museum. This bird (no. 7982), a male from Redwood City, collected on April 15, 1922, has a very pale throat with faint dusky malar stripes. It seems likely that the white throat of *Z. albicollis* became fixed as a specific character when selection favored just such occasional white-throated individuals as these noted in its present congeners. The white throat acquired a signal function, probably in connection with species recognition, and thus may be important as an isolating mechanism. Selection against hybrids may be the source of selection pressure which has produced, and is maintaining, the species differences among the members of the genus. Hybridization among the four North American species is possible since two or more are frequently sympatric. Miller (Condor, 42, 1940: 45-48) has described a hybrid Golden-crowned x White-crowned and the White-throated has been found breeding near Hazelton, British Columbia, where the Golden-crowned is also present (Brooks and Swarth, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 17, 1925:94). The White-throated, White-crowned, and Harris' Sparrow (*Z. querula*) are in contact in varying degrees in other parts of Canada. Although the significance in the present context is difficult to assess, it may be noted that the White-throated Sparrow has hybridized with the Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) on at least two known occasions (Townsend, Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club, 8, 1883:78-80; Snyder, Auk, 71, 1954:471).

The white-throated Golden-crowned Sparrow is now no. 24800 in the Cornell University collection.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, February 27, 1956.*

Noteworthy Bird Records from Northeastern Nevada.—The field activities of the personnel of the Nevada Fish and Game Commission in the eastern part of Nevada is providing a better understanding of the avifauna of this poorly known area. Recent records of note from Elko County are here reported.

Polióptila caerulea. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Linsdale (Condor, 53, 1951:241) gives central Nye County as the northernmost record for this species. On June 7, 1953, Hoskins found a pair nesting in a riparian association along the South Fork of the Humboldt River, about 16 miles south of Elko and about 140 miles farther north than the record cited above. A second record for Elko County is that of a single bird seen by Gullion at Cherry Spring, about 11 miles southwest of Elko, on July 22, 1955.

Lanius excubitor. Boreal Shrike. Linsdale (*op. cit.*, p. 242) indicates a number of records from northwestern Nevada, but none from Elko County. In 1955 we had five records of this species in this area, as follows: one bird found dead on the highway over Adobe Summit, 6900 feet elevation, 7 miles northwest of Elko (now specimen no. 132731 in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology), and another seen near Dinner Station, 18 miles north of Elko, both on January 28, by Hoskins. On March 9, Gullion observed a third bird along the Humboldt River, 5100 feet elevation, 8 miles west of Elko. A fourth record was obtained by Gullion when an early fall arrival was seen on November 23, at 6080 feet elevation on the west side of Crawford Mountain, 19 miles southwest of Elko. The fifth record was an adult female (no. 133869) collected by Gullion at about 5800 feet elevation, 4 miles southwest of Boone Springs and 70 miles southeast of Wells, on December 3. All these birds were seen while a mantle of snow covered the entire area.

On December 3, a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) was seen below the snow-line along the west side of the Great Salt Lake Desert, 8 miles southwest of Wendover, 38 miles northeast of the collection site for the Boreal Shrike and 1500 feet lower.—GORDON W. GULLION and LEONARD W. HOSKINS, *Nevada Fish and Game Commission, Elko, Nevada, December 20, 1955.*