

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.*