

It is not known which form is the local breeder, as unfortunately no specimens of breeding birds are at hand to determine this point. Very likely some future reviser of the Long-billed Marsh Wrens may work out more accurately the breeding ranges of the several subspecies, and may possibly separate our Nebraska "*palustris*" from the *palustris* defined by Ridgway.

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THE SUBSPECIES OF NEBRASKA SAVANNAH SPARROWS

Nebraska ornithologists have recognized since 1896 that two subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow migrated through the state, but there has been much confusion as to the distribution of the two subspecies, due largely to faulty identifications.

In 1904 the data at hand was interpreted to indicate that *P. s. savanna* was an abundant migrant over eastern Nebraska, west to about the 99th meridian, arriving in late March or early April, mostly passing northward to breed, but occasionally to be seen in the state during the summer and possibly breeding, and again migrating through eastern Nebraska in October; while *P. s. alaudinus* was regarded as migrating over the entire state and possibly breeding westwardly, its dates being about the same as those of *P. s. savanna* (*Prelim. Rev. Birds Nebraska*, pp. 85-86).

In 1910, however, Dr. Joseph Grinnell divided the former subspecies *alaudinus*, restricting that name to the birds breeding in "the vast interior of northwestern North America, from Bering Sea and Kotzebue Sound to the Mackenzie region," while the birds breeding in the Great Basin he named *P. s. nevadensis* (*Univ. Cal. Pubs. Zoölogy*, v. pp. 311-318). This subspecies was accepted by the A. O. U. Committee in 1912. In 1915 Dr. L. B. Bishop showed that the birds breeding in North Dakota and wintering in Texas were also *nevadensis* (*Condor*, xvii, pp. 186-187). This led to the suspicion, which was confirmed by a study of specimens, that probably the birds we had been calling *alaudinus* were really *nevadensis*.

To make the point certain, a series of skins was sent to Dr. H. C. Oberholser for naming. In this series were sixteen skins from southeastern Nebraska, mostly from the vicinity of Lincoln, and of these Dr. Oberholser returned two marked *savanna* and fourteen marked *nevadensis*. In our entire series of twenty-nine specimens from eastern Nebraska, five are *savanna* and twenty-four *nevadensis*. This proportion may be regarded as representing fairly accurately the relative abundance of these two subspecies during migrations along the 97th meridian in Nebraska. The dates on the specimens of *nevadensis* are March 22, April 5, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 28, May 1, September 10 and 14, October 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 19 and November 2, there being two with dates October 10, 16 and 19 and three with the date October 14. The five specimens of

savanna were collected March 19, April 9 and 20 and October 5 and 19. Savannah Sparrows neither breed nor winter at Lincoln, but they summer occasionally at Omaha and may breed there. I. S. Trostler has stated that they breed at Omaha uncommonly, June 1 to 12. Our field data shows them as appearing in the spring at Lincoln March 17 to 30 becoming abundant April 1 to May 12, and then scatteringly present until May 27. In the fall they reappear September 5 to 30, are abundant October 1 to 20, and then in declining numbers to November 7. With little doubt these dates apply chiefly to *nevadensis*.

Our specimens indicate *P. s. savanna* as a migrant in eastern Nebraska west to Lincoln, appearing about as early as *nevadensis* (Dunbar, Nebr., March 19). No specimens of *savanna* from west of Lincoln have been examined. In the irrigated North Platte valley of western Nebraska *P. s. nevadensis* summers (Mitchell, July 7), and probably breeds in the grassy margins of the seepage ponds there, but no nests have been found.

We must, therefore, revise our previous idea of the distribution of Nebraska Savannah Sparrows somewhat. *P. s. savanna* is evidently a rather uncommon migrant and possible breeder in eastern Nebraska, occurring west only to about the 97th meridian, while *P. s. nevadensis* is an abundant migrant over the state, summing and probably breeding westwardly.

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NOTES—HERE AND THERE

Conducted by the Secretary

The Secretary would appreciate receiving the names of all those having a complete, or nearly complete file of Wilson Club publications. Due to the limited circulation of early volumes it is likely that there are fewer complete sets in existence than of the A. O. U. or Cooper Club publications. Our Editor has a small stock of back numbers on hand which may be ordered from him for completing files.

The Indiana Audubon Society has put itself into more tangible form by issuing the first of what is planned to be a series of bulletins. We understand that credit for this first number, issued in March, is chiefly due to Mr. Frank C. Evans, the Secretary. Its 24 pages contain a number of articles of merit, appropriately illustrated and typographically attractive as well.

Dr. Albert H. Wright of the Cornell Zoölogical Laboratory, and co-author, with Mr. Francis Harper, of a paper on the "Birds of the Offekinoke Swamp," in Georgia, is spending the spring again in the swamp. He is supplementing his previous studies as a ba-