

**The White-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) on Long Island, N. Y.—I am permitted to record the capture at Parkville, L. I., of the White-crowned Sparrow on April 10, 1897. I consider noteworthy the early date of the record. — WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

**Rank of the Sage Sparrow.**—The particular piece of country of interest in the present connection is near the head of the Little Tujunga Cañon, in the mountains of the central part of Los Angeles County, California, at an elevation of 4000 to 6000 feet. It is well on the Pacific side of the divide, but the Mojave Desert is not more than ten miles to the northeast, while the fertile plains of the Pacific slope are about the same distance southwestward. The rolling mountain ridges, especially on their southern sides, are covered with a more or less heavy growth of brush, composed of several kinds of dwarf trees and shrubs, such as manzanita, scrub-oak, greasewood, buckthorn, etc.

In the vicinity of this semi-arid tract of limited extent, I spent the month of July, 1897, collecting birds. Along with *Spizella atrigularis*, *Spizella breweri*, *Chamaea fasciata henshawi*, and others of the brush-loving birds, I was surprised to find quite numerous both *Amphispiza belli* and *A. (belli) nevadensis*. The former is a common bird in the foothills nearer the coast, but the latter I had previously supposed to be exclusively a bird of the sage-brush deserts. Indeed, here its light colors did not well harmonize with the deep shades of the brush, and it was rendered quite conspicuous, much more so than the darker-colored Bell's Sparrow. The Sage Sparrows have evidently extended their range up over the mountains, so that here the habitats of the two forms overlap.

What was most interesting was that the two forms were inhabiting the same locality and breeding, and yet I saw or obtained no specimens of an intermediate character. I secured adults and young of both forms, and none showed any evidence whatever of intergradation or even 'hybridization.' The far lighter tone of coloration of *nevadensis* and its larger size rendered both adults and young readily distinguishable from those of *belli*, even at a long distance. The call-notes of the two birds were slightly different in quality, and the Bell's Sparrow seemed the more retiring, keeping itself groundward among the brush, while the Sage Sparrow was prominent, perching at the tops of the bushes and flying from one to another frequently.

These observations have led me to conclude, as others have surmised, that these two forms are specifically distinct. I have never learned of any intermediate specimens having been taken, and Mr. Walter E. Bryant, who has seen and taken many of these birds, tells me that he has never found an intermediate, and he fully agrees with me as to their distinctness. I therefore propose that these two forms be considered hereafter as separate species. According to the A. O. U. Check-List, the group should, therefore, stand as follows:—



574. *Amphispiza belli* (Cass.).

574a. *Amphispiza belli cinerea* (Townsend).

574.1. *Amphispiza nevadensis* (Ridgw.).

The question might arise as to which species the form *cinerea* belongs as a race. I have learned nothing definite in regard to this, so until someone finds otherwise, it might stand as it is, though the probabilities point toward its relationship with *A. nevadensis*. — JOSEPH GRINNELL, Pasadena, Cal.

**The Blue-winged Warbler (*Helminthophila pinus*) in Eastern Massachusetts.** — On the afternoon of May 15, 1897, while collecting among some scattered bushes and low trees on the edge of a swampy wood in the section of Boston known as Dorchester, near the West Roxbury and Hyde Park lines, I came across a bird of this species. When first seen the bird was sitting on the outer branch of a small bush about ten yards from me. While I was watching, it suddenly flew directly toward me for about ten or twelve feet after an insect, which it caught while on the wing, poising itself for a moment in the air and then returning to the same bush, immediately passing through to the other side where it was lost to view.

Although this species has been taken in West Roxbury and also in Dedham, it is a rare bird in Massachusetts and worthy of note. — FOSTER H. BRACKETT, Boston, Mass.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler in Eastern Kansas.** — While collecting birds on Oct. 12, 1896, I shot an adult male Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) in the fall moult, near Chestnut's Ford on the north bank of the Pottawatomie River, one mile southwest of town. It was feeding among some maple bushes at the water's edge when I first noticed it, being attracted by its familiar note.

There are only two other records, to my knowledge, of the capture of this bird in Kansas, which I quote from Goss. "Taken at Leavenworth in May, 1871, by Prof. J. A. Allen, and near Topeka, May 2, 1873, by Prof. E. A. Popenoe." — WALTER S. COLVIN, Osawatomie, Kans.

**The Aërial Song of the Maryland Yellow-throat.** — The flight song of the Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*) one finds stated in many of the leading manuals as never heard until late July or August. This miss-statement, known to be such by many ornithologists, I have never seen questioned.

I have noted this flight song in Eastern Massachusetts as early as May 16, only about a week after their arrival, and heard it off and on throughout the rest of May, June, and July. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., Longwood, Mass.

**Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) at Taunton, Mass.** — Mr. A. R. Sharp of this city shot and presented to me a fine specimen of this bird



Grinnell, Joseph. 1898. "Rank of the Sage Sparrow." *The Auk* 15, 58–59.  
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