

## Subspecific Identification of Song Sparrows Collected at Raleigh, N.C., in Summer of 1967

PAUL W. SYKES JR.  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 2077, Delray Beach, Florida 33444

ROXIE C. LAYBOURNE  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bird and Mammal Laboratories, Washington, D.C. 20560

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On 19 July 1967, three Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) were collected along the edge of a small creek on the west side of the North Carolina State University campus in Raleigh. Gilbert S. Grant kindly prepared the skins which were then sent to the U.S. National Museum where they now bear U.S.N.M. numbers 531131, 531132, and 531133. We examined the specimens and identified them as *M. m. euphonia*. This is the race which, according to Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley (*Birds of North Carolina*, Wray and Davis 1959 Revision) and the *A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds* (1957, fifth edition), is the breeding form in the mountains of the State. Sykes reported the Song Sparrow breeding in the Raleigh area in 1965 (*Chat*, 30:39-42) and postulated at that time that the subspecies most likely was *euphonia*.

The three identified specimens were males in worn plumage. Their testes measured 7 x 5, 7 x 6, and 8 x 6 mm. Because of the late date in the nesting season when the birds were collected and the size of the testes, evidence is not conclusive enough to determine if these individuals actually bred in the Raleigh area or were postbreeding wanderers. Additional field work is needed to clarify the breeding range expansion of the Song Sparrow into the piedmont of North Carolina.

## Bird Observations After Heavy Snowfall at Wrightsville Beach, N.C.

J.H. CARTER III  
Zoology Department, North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, N.C. 27607

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On 9 and 10 February 1973 an intense winter storm struck the southeastern coast of the United States. Record and near-record snowfalls were recorded over much of southeastern North Carolina, eastern South Carolina, and northeastern Georgia. The temperature dropped steadily throughout 9 February at Wilmington, N.C. Snow began about 14:30, and the ground was quickly covered. The snowfall was very heavy and was being blown by strong, gusty winds. At nearby Wrightsville Beach visibility over water during the late afternoon was less than 50 yards. The snow continued through much of the night. On 10 February sleet and snow showers occurred throughout the day and into the night. The highest temperature was around freezing. The wind was blowing at a sustained velocity of 20 to 30 mph and gusting to about 50 mph from the north to northwest. Offshore, gusts of approximately 80 mph were recorded at Frying Pan Light Tower. By mid-afternoon on 10 February, the snow depth reached 11.7 inches in Wilmington. Considerable drifting had occurred. The snow was covered by at least an inch of sleet, forming a very hard crust. Temperatures remained very cold through 13 February. On the night of 12-13 February, the temperature dropped to 15 F.

Considerable debris was deposited on the beach by high tides associated with the storm. Finding their normal food sources covered by sleet and snow, many birds began to search the beach debris for food. On 10 February I observed several small passerines (mostly single individuals) flying over the ocean. They would turn and struggle against the wind, trying to reach shore. I saw none of these birds reach shore. Once a medium-sized gull chased a small bird over the ocean, but it escaped. Shortly afterwards, I saw a