

stocky Swamp Sparrows I see regularly. Throughout the winter and early spring I had watched both Field Sparrows and Chipping Sparrows at close range at my feeder. This bird obviously was larger, with a well-defined chestnut eye line and a longer tail. I concluded the bird was indeed an American Tree Sparrow.

At 1506, as the vessel entered Charleston Harbor, the bird flew strongly toward Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island.

Sprunt and Chamberlain (1970) list only seven records of the American Tree Sparrow in South Carolina. No specimen has been collected in the state. Since 1970 there are two reports of the tree sparrow in South Carolina: three on 18 December 1976 at Columbia (Chat 41:40), and one on 28 February 1973 at Charleston (Chat 37:54).

[EDITOR'S NOTE: With the acceptance of this photographic record by the South Carolina Avian Records Committee, the American Tree Sparrow has been added to the S.C. state list. Prior to this report the species was on the hypothetical list, as no specimen had been collected or photographed, and fewer than four independent, fully documented reports had been published in a journal.—WP]

Status of the Lincoln's Sparrow in South Carolina

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In eastern North America the Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) breeds from northern Quebec and central Labrador and Newfoundland south to northern New York, northwestern Massachusetts, and southern Vermont (A.O.U. Check-list 1983). Nonetheless, the first South Carolina sight record was not made until 1949 (Chat 26:77). The species remained on the state's hypothetical list until 1961, when the first specimen was collected (Chat 26:45). The absence of confirmed records until 1961 is related to the paucity of field workers in the state, as well as to the species' secretive behavior. A similar situation exists for Georgia, where between 1900 and 1953, only 25 birds were reported (Georgia Birds, T.D. Burleigh, 1958).

Changes in the methods and intensity of field ornithology, rather than changes in the species' distribution, lead us to re-evaluate the status of the Lincoln's Sparrow in South Carolina. Many more workers are now afield and are using bird feeders, mist nets, and better optical equipment to observe birds close at hand. During the nonbreeding period Lincoln's Sparrows seem to prefer damp thickets and brush piles (Georgia Birds, T.D. Burleigh, 1958), where their stealthy movements attract little attention. In some cases this species may be misidentified as a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), a congener to which it bears a superficial resemblance.

The occurrence of the Lincoln's Sparrow throughout South Carolina is now validated by nine specimens (Table 1). We have analyzed these 9 specimen records, 5 bandings, and 47 sight records for seasonal and regional distribution (Fig. 1).

Lincoln's Sparrows are most numerous during fall migration (October-November). During fall migration it is possible that more individuals occur along the immediate coast

TABLE 1. South Carolina Specimens of the Lincoln's Sparrow.

Number	Age	Sex	Date	Locality	Collector	Comments
CM 62.31	Imm.	F?	7 Nov. 1961	Columbia	Mrs. E.D. Smith	First state specimen (Chat 26:45); collided with TV tower
CU 1290	Ad.	F	4 Oct. 1980	Clemson	P. Hamel	First upper piedmont specimen; netted
CU 1304	Imm.	M	25 Oct. 1980	Clemson	P. Hamel	Netted
CU 1307	Imm.	M	6 Nov. 1980	Clemson	S. Miller	Netted
CM 84.19	Imm.	F	4 Nov. 1983	Sullivan's Island	W. Post	First Coastal specimen; netted
WP 84.201	Imm.	M	3 Oct. 1984	Sullivan's Island	P.S. Coleman, W. Post	Netted
WP 84.202	Imm.	M	4 Oct. 1984	Mt. Pleasant	W. Post	Netted
WP 84.220	Imm.	F	30 Oct. 1984	Mt. Pleasant	W. Post	Netted
WP 84.225	Imm.	M	6 Nov. 1984	Mt. Pleasant	W. Post	Netted

and near the Appalachians than in the central portion of the state. This is probably true of many migrants, which are often funneled along natural barriers. The species winters in the upper piedmont and on the coastal plain in small numbers (Fig. 1). Usually only one individual is seen at a time. We can find no winter records for midstate (lower piedmont, upper coastal plain). This could be an artifact of insufficient observer activity. A few Lincoln's Sparrows are expected to winter in the central part of the state, because of the presence of winter records both upstate (upper piedmont) and downstate (coastal). The meager data may indicate a slight increase of numbers during spring migration (April-May) in the upper piedmont, but indicate no parallel increase in other areas.

The earliest Lincoln's Sparrow fall arrival dates are 3 October, for both the coast (Sullivan's Island) and the interior (Clemson). The latest spring record on the coast is 30 April (Charleston), and in the interior, 11 May (Clemson).

One bird, probably the same individual, was seen repeatedly by P. Nugent and others at Nugent's feeder in Charleston (photograph on file at the Charleston Museum). This Lincoln's Sparrow first appeared at the feeder on 7 December 1972 (Amer. Birds 27:603). The same or another individual was seen from 13 January 1974 through 5 April 1974 (Amer. Birds 27:628; pers. comm., P. Nugent; photos taken). A Lincoln's Sparrow again appeared from 9 December 1974 to 30 April 1975 (Chat 39:63). The last sighting at this feeder was a bird during "winter" 1975-1976 (Chat 40:73).

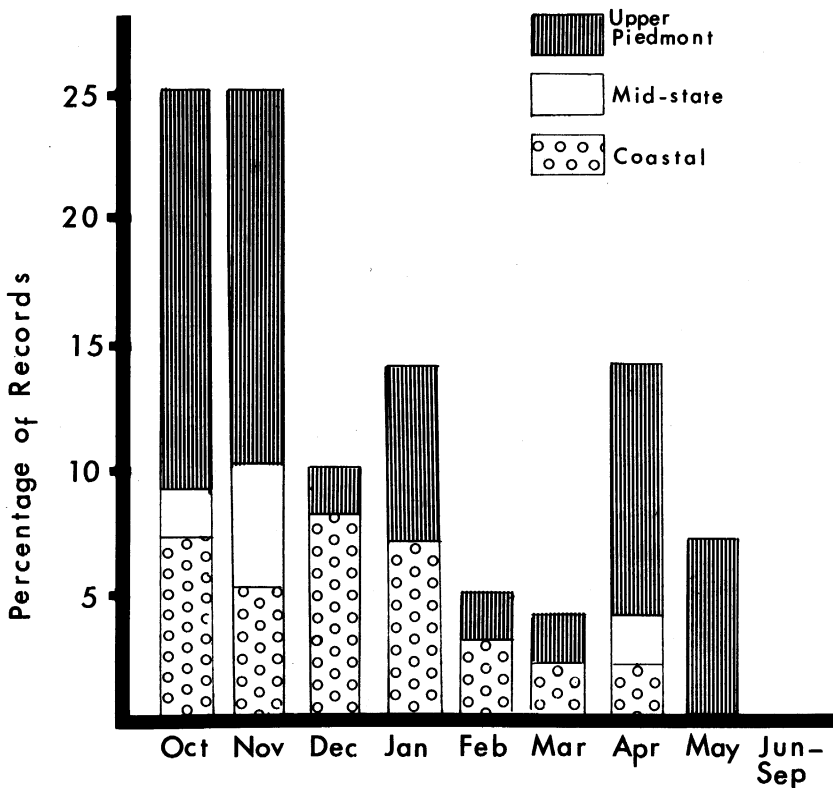


Fig. 1. Regional and seasonal distribution of the Lincoln's Sparrow in South Carolina. Based on 61 records. The record citations on which this figure is based are on file in the Charleston Museum.

Another individual visited a banding station at York, S.C., and was banded on 17 April 1983 by W. Hilton Jr. The bird had a cloacal protuberance, indicative of an enlarged reproductive tract. The bird remained until 24 April. That Lincoln's Sparrows become reproductively active before leaving the state may also be indicated by the sighting of a singing bird on 18 April 1980 at Clemson (Chat 44:118).

In summary, although the species is common to the north, it largely bypasses South Carolina during migration. Lincoln's Sparrows migrate west of the southern Appalachians and regularly winter on the East Coast only as far north as Georgia, and perhaps northwestern South Carolina. Further field work, particularly in midstate, is needed before the status of this species in South Carolina is fully understood. A few winter records should be expected in midstate, to fill the gap in the winter range. However, because the species is rare in the state, and because it is very secretive, any revelations may be slow to appear. Workers manning feeding and banding stations are in the best position to contribute to our knowledge of this species' distribution in the Carolinas.

Acknowledgments. We thank the many ornithologists who have published or made available to us their field records for the Lincoln's Sparrow, particularly S.A. Gauthreaux Jr., P. Hamel, W. Hilton Jr., and P. Nugent. We are especially grateful to S. Miller, of Clemson University, who prepared three Lincoln's Sparrow skins.

ADDENDUM

In the fall of 1985, an unusually large number of Lincoln's Sparrows were seen in northwest South Carolina. C.W. Wooten and S.A. Gauthreaux saw 23 individuals near Clemson during the period 27 September to 5 December. This includes a group of five seen in the same bush on 9 October.

On the coast, three more Lincoln's Sparrows were netted at Mt. Pleasant: On 6 October, one was banded and one was collected (Field number WP85.007), and on 27 October another one was collected (WP85.139).

First Record of Lesser Goldfinch in the Carolinas

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On 27 September 1985 at about 1700, I observed a bird unfamiliar to me. The bird was small, approximately $3\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 inches long. It was olive-green on the head, back, and rump—similar to the coloring of an immature Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*). The wings appeared black with prominent white markings in them. Some of the flight feathers were edged with white, and there was an obvious, bright white wing patch. The tail, which appeared to be somewhat forked, was uniformly black except for the green anterior portion where it joined the olive-green rump. The nape had a gray wash, and there were faint, darker, longitudinal markings on the back. The breast was clear and completely yellow. No eye stripe was evident, but there was a very faint hint of an eye ring. The bill was short and conical, very similar to that of the American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*). The legs and feet were uniformly slate-gray.

First observation was made while the bird was eating a dogwood (*Cornus florida*) berry. It made several gulping motions as if having difficulty swallowing the berry. Afterward, the bird was attracted to two different drip fountains where it drank and bathed for several minutes. For about 2 minutes it remained on the ground, near a fountain, drinking water from a cupped leaf.

My husband and son watched the bird with me, and we attempted to list all identifying marks. Total observation time was about 5 minutes as the bird moved from the dogwood tree to the drip fountains. Distances from the bird ranged from 15 to 25 feet. We had a clear, unobstructed view in excellent light and were all using 7x50 Nikon optics.

Considerable migration activity was evident on the day of sighting; a front was moving through the area.

After extensive research, the only bird I found in my guides similar to the one observed was the green-backed race of Lesser Goldfinch (*C. psaltria*). After analyzing the representative study skins at Utah State University, Tove suggested the bird in question was possibly an immature male of the green-backed race.