



## THE SPARROWS IN THE VICINITY OF TULSA, OKLAHOMA: SPECIES AND GENERAL OCCURRENCE

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The purpose of the work reported here was to ascertain the occurrence of Sparrows in the vicinity of Tulsa. The work was carried on from September 1935, omitting June through August 1936, and was reported into November 1936. Procedure was based on field trips which averaged 1.2 per week for the 12 months. Trips were made each season in the localities of prairie, water courses, oak hills, and human disturbance. Observation records were kept and specimens collected. All skins except those of adult Harris, White-crowned, White-throated, and Fox Sparrows were checked by Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the United States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

The literature recording sparrows from the vicinity of Tulsa was gathered and records of authoritatively identified specimens were copied. Specimens in the Museums of Zoology at the Universities of Oklahoma and Tulsa and the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, Tulsa, were checked. These dates were placed after the species on a chart with space for 360 days. Filler dates were taken from observation records extending over a period of 4 years made by Professor H. D. Chase of Tulsa, and from 6 years of the author's records.

Two results were obtained from the chart: (1) the season of occurrence of each species; and (2) the number of species occurring at successive 5 day intervals throughout the year.

#### CONCLUSIONS

1. In this locality it is hard to separate winter residents from fall migrants.
2. It is easier to separate summer residents from migrants.
3. The less the migration tendency in a winter resident the nearer we may be to its southern limit.
4. As far as I am able at present to determine, it is impossible to identify sub-species of sparrows by field observation, and only with the aid of a large museum collection can an expert identify sub-species of collected specimens. I therefore believe that sub-species of sparrows should be considered only by professional taxonomists. The common mania to record things has reached its absurd limit in the popular consideration of sub-species. It is my belief that from the standpoint of almost every bird student in Oklahoma, the description and consideration of sub-species in the literature is purposeless, unscientific, and harmful.

#### SUMMARY

Number of species observed.....	14
Number of species collected.....	14
Number of species and sub-species collected.....	21
Number of species or sub-species reported in the literature as collected .....	19
Number of species or sub-species reported in the literature and this paper as collected .....	24
Species and sub-species collected and checked with numbers of individuals:	
1. <i>Passerculus sandwichensis savanna</i> (8)	
2. <i>P. s. nevadensis</i> (2)	
3. <i>Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus</i> (or) <i>perpallidus</i> (6)	
4. <i>Poocetes gramineus gramineus</i> (4)	
5. <i>Chondestes grammacus grammacus</i> (1)	
6. <i>C. g. strigatus</i> (1)	
7. <i>Spizella arborea arborea</i> (3)	
8. <i>S. a. ochracea</i> (1)	
9. <i>S. passerina passerina</i> (2)	
10. <i>S. p. arizonae</i> (1) 1 also collected in Woods Co. Okla.	
11. <i>S. pusilla pusilla</i> (11)	
12. <i>S. p. arenacea</i> (11)	
13. <i>Zonotrichia querula</i> (3)	
14. <i>Z. leucophreys leucophreys</i> (3)	
15. <i>Z. albicollis</i> (1)	
16. <i>Passerella iliaca iliaca</i> (1)	
17. <i>Melospiza lincolni lincolni</i> (5)	
18. <i>Melospiza lincolni alticola</i> (1)	
19. <i>M. georgiana</i> (4)	
20. <i>M. melodia beata</i> (10)	
21. <i>M. m. juddi</i> (5)	

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