

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA
November 17, 1933

Mr. Philip DuMont,
306 Fifty-first,
Des Moines, Iowa;

Dear DuMont:

You certainly "soaked" me aplenty. What should I know about Savannah Sparrows! It is true that, I think when you were here, I was trying to get names onto the labels of the Passerculus in our collection, but that was as far as I planned to get -- and I didn't get that job completed.

Even so and however, I have looked rather closely at the job-lot you sent me (now returned by parcel post). Referring to your list, carbon copy of which I assume you kept: Nos. 1-13, nos. 13773, 6032, 9486 and 11193-97 I would put under the name savanna; nos. 22799, 4835 and 22800 (the latter with a question mark), I would call nevadensis; nos. 28005 and 1149 without question are alaudinus.

Number 9486 from Lake Athabasca is ^{a bit} doubtful as between savanna and alaudinus.

You will note what Swarth has to say about Savannah Sparrows in November Condor. Also I understand Peters and Griscom are revising ^{the} whole group, and that van Rossem recently took occasion to look at the type of alaudinus in Paris. Maybe you had better defer putting any name on your birds, for the time being.

In scrutinizing your specimens, I am led to complain on one or two scores. I note that you have "Juv." on certain birds of your own collecting that are certainly not juvenal in any current sense of the word. Also I note that the bill has been tied so tightly as to make it in certain specimens abnormally slender. There is also evidence that the jaws have been cut asunder at their hinges, in that the tip of the lower mandible has slid far back of the tip of the upper mandible. All such little matters have, of course, to do with appraisal of the minute characters in the subspecies of this group.

I am glad to know that your Iowa book is about to appear. It bespeaks an amazing amount of industry on your part, to get so big a job completed so soon.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell