

There is rather a complete review of the situation on the part of the printer this week. 306 Fifty-first, Des Moines, Iowa, November 23, 1933.

Mr. James L. Peters,
Museum of Comparative Zoology,
Cambridge, Massachusetts,

Dear Mr. Peters:

Dr. Grinnell has just written me that you and Mr. Griscom are at work on a revisionary study of Passerculus sandwichensis, or perhaps the entire group.

I am taking the liberty, therefore, of forwarding to you, by parcel post, a series of twenty-six specimens taken in various parts of Iowa, and in Nebr., North Dakota, Utah, California, Manitoba, Alberta, and Herschel Island. Several of these were taken by me recently and the others are from the Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, and the Iowa State College, Ames.

The identification, where entered complete on the label, was determined by Dr. Oberholser last February. I am of the opinion that some of these are not correct. I hope the material from Herschel Island and elsewhere will prove of sufficient interest in your study to compensate for the identification of the Iowa specimens.

Oberholser identified the Iowa City as the "Nevada Savannah Sparrow" but wanted it called alaudinus. However, I listed it in the Revised List of the Birds of Iowa as nevadensis. Rudolf Bennett wrote me that you identified some Missouri Birds as alaudinus. I could not learn from him whether you were following Oberholser in his proposed rearrangement. Oberholser considered the Iowa City bird identical with the Utah and North Dakota specimens.

I am also enclosing ten specimens of Grasshopper Sparrow. I am a bit disgusted with Oberholser's treatment of this situation. Without bothering to look at the specimens he dismisses the possibility of australis being here during the breeding season by saying it is out of the question.

Will you note especially Nos. 15, 2402, and 22961,? Van Tyne identified the first and last as australis, and I saw a series in their Museum from northern Iowa which he considered the same. I have compared No. 15 with breeding birds from Connecticut and can find no difference.

There is rather a complete review of the situation on the Grasshopper Sparrow in the new Iowa list. This should reach you this week or the first part of next. Supposedly it was to be delivered from the printer this week,

I have just finished a paper on the breeding birds of Iowa which Barnes has agreed to publish in his Oologist. Besides the list of 144 breeders about forty more are included hypothetically as a guide for future study. It should encourage a little new activity along that line.

When you have finished with the specimens will you return them to me at the above address?

Very truly yours,

Philip A. DuMont,
University of Iowa, and the Iowa State College,
Ames,

The identification, where entered complete on the label, was determined by Dr. Oberholser last February. In an of the opinion that some of these are not correct, I hope the material from Henshaw Island and elsewhere will prove of sufficient interest in your study to compensate for the identification of the Iowa specimens.

Oberholser identified the Iowa City as the "Nevada Sparrow" but wanted it called alaudinus. However, I listed it in the Revised List of the Birds of Iowa as nevadensis. Rudolf Bennett wrote me that you identified some Missouri birds as alaudinus. I could not learn from him whether you were following Oberholser in his proposed rearrangement. One other considered the Iowa City bird identical with the Utah and North Dakota specimens.

I am also enclosing ten specimens of Grasshopper Sparrow. I am a bit dissatisfied with Oberholser's treatment of this situation. Without bothering to look at the specimens he dismisses the possibility of nevadensis being here during the breeding season by saying it is out of the question.

Will you note especially Nos. 15, 24, 25, and 26? Van Tyne identified the first and last as nevadensis and I saw a series in their museum from northern Iowa which he considered the same. I have compared No. 15 with breeding birds from Connecticut and can find no difference.