

The Condor
Volume 104, No. 2
May 2002
Abstracts

FEATURE ARTICLES

LARGE-SCALE GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION IN SONGS OF GAMBEL'S WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS

GLEN CHILTON^{1,4}, MYRA O. WIEBE² AND PAUL HANDFORD³

¹*Department of Biology, St. Mary's College, 14500 Bannister Road, S.E., Calgary, AB T2X 1Z4, Canada*

²*Canadian Wildlife Service, Suite 301, 5204-50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2, Canada*

³*Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, ON N6A 5B7, Canada*

Manuscript received 5 June 2001; accepted 15 January 2002.

⁴E-mail: glen.chilton@stmc.ab.ca

Abstract. An earlier study failed to find dialects in the songs of male Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) in Alaska. We recorded songs of males at five localities over a much greater portion of the subspecies' range, spanning 2250 km east to west and 1650 km north to south. On this scale, distinct geographical variants are evident, based on the song's terminal phrase and the fine details of other phrases. In White-crowned Sparrows, the extent of dialects is apparently positively correlated with the distance migrated by the subspecies; a demographic variable such as survivorship or natal philopatry likely results in this link.

Key words: song dialects, White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*.