

AGE AND CROWN TYPES IN THE GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

Robert M. Stewart

Certain crown patterns are related to age in the Golden-crowned Sparrow. Point Reyes Bird Observatory modified Cogswell's scheme for crown types (1958, *News from the Bird Banders* 33:25) reprinted here with permission of the author (Table 1). P.R.B.O. simply recorded crown types as 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 (Table 2).

Sparrows were aged by "ossification" and crown types were recorded (Table 3). Apparently during the fall migration all individuals with 1 crown are young, most that have 3 crowns and all that have 4 or 5 crowns are adults. "Ossification" remains the most reliable method of aging individuals with 2 or 3 crowns.

During fall 1969 and 1970 at Bolinas and on Southeast Farallon Island, 469 Golden-crowned

I thank H. Robert, D. DeSante, and T. J. Lewis who helped take data in the field. This is contribution number 45 of Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

TABLE 2: COGSWELL VS P.R.B.O. SCHEME FOR RECORDING CROWN TYPES IN THE GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

Crown Type		
Cogswell		P.R.B.O
1, 1A	equals	1
2 min., 2 max., 2A	"	2
3 min., 3 max.	"	3
4	"	4
5, 5B, 5A, 5A-C	"	5

TABLE 3: AGE AND CROWN TYPES IN THE GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

Crown Type	Number of Young	Number of Adults
1	22	0
2	323	80
3	1	19
4	0	14
5	0	10

P.O. Box 321, Bolinas, California 94924

RETURNS

Western Flycatcher. #114-31788. Banded at Point Reyes Bird Observatory on 17 June 1967. Returned on 18 April 1970. (No previous returns)

Western Flycatcher. #114-32106. Banded at Point Reyes Bird Observatory on 16 July 1967. Returned on 9 May 1970 (No previous returns)

Clark's Nutcracker. #583-72650. Banded by Richard McP. Brown at Crater Lake N.P., Oregon, on 26 August 1964. Returned on 2 January 1970. (One previous return)

Yellow Warbler. #111-30515. Banded at Medicine Lake NWR, Montana, on 17 July 1968. Returned on 22 May 1970. (No previous returns)

RECOVERIES

Pintail. #676-23858. Banded at Malheur NWR, Oregon, on 12 September 1967. Recovered at Kamchatka Region, USSR, on 4 October 1969.

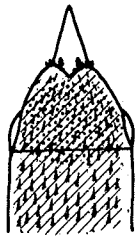
Blue-winged Teal. #505-50594. Banded by C. R. Stribling at South Hay Lake, Alberta, on 26 August 1966. Recovered in Colombia, South America, on 5 February 1969.

Gray Jay. #813-42656. Banded by Richard McP. Brown at Crater Lake N.P., Oregon, on 25 September 1967. Recovered at Crater Lake N.P. on 4 August 1970.

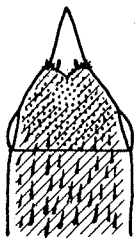
Red-winged Blackbird. #676-23858. Banded by Zella M. Schultz at Seattle, Washington, on 30 September 1966. Recovered at Lynwood, Washington, on 17 February 1970.

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11,135
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40,246
16,395
1,152
970, 197

TABLE 1: TYPES OF CROWN PLUMAGE (W.B.B.A. Golden-crowned Sparrow Project)



1

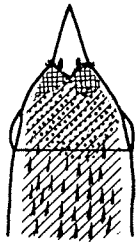


1A



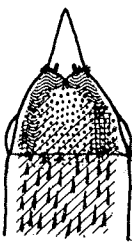
KEY TO COLORS

- BLACK (ENTIRE AND WITH BROWN FLECKS)
- DARK BROWN, OR DARK + MEDIUM BROWN
- MEDIUM BROWN OR MEDIUM + LIGHT BROWN
- LIGHT BROWN OR BROWNISH GRAY
- LIGHT BROWN + YELLOW
- YELLOW (= CLEAR GOLD, IF ALONE)
- HEAVY, DARK SHAFT-STREAKS (BROWN)
- LIGHT SILVER GRAY

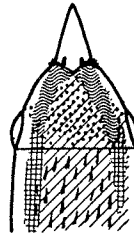


2 (MIN.)

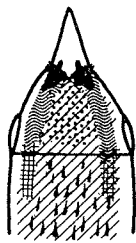
TO



2 (MAX.)

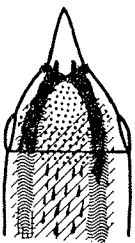


2A

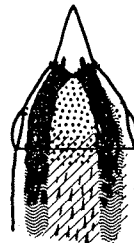


3 (MIN.)

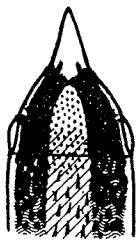
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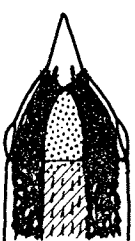
3 (MAX.)



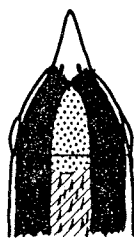
4



5



5B



5A



5A-C