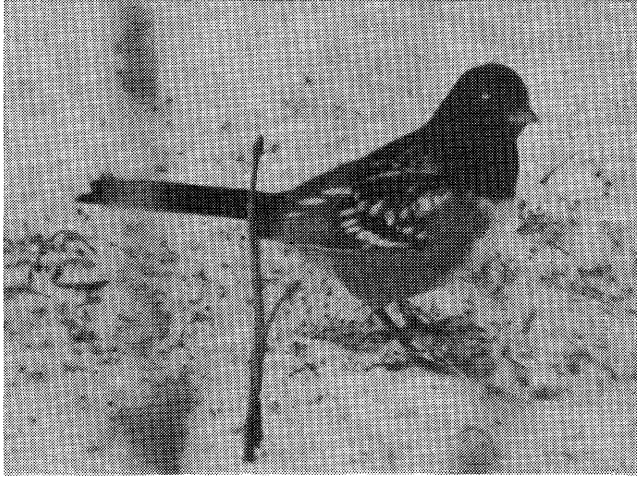


PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

3. "Spotted" Towhee



Photograph by Dennis Puleston

Formerly considered a separate species, *P. maculatus*, the several western races of the Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), in contrast to the eastern races, are characterized by rows of white spots on the back and scapulars.

The male bird in the above photograph was identified and photographed by Dennis Puleston who writes:

"It was first reported to me on 3 December 1964 by Mrs. Harvey Wegner of Bellport, Suffolk Co., who had been observing it at her feeder for about three weeks previously. She was certain it was not a Rufous-sided Towhee, as she had several of the latter also coming to her feeder. I went to her house on the afternoon of 5 December, and soon after my arrival observed it feeding on seeds scattered to the ground by other birds. Since the day was overcast my photographs were poor, but on 7 January the light was good and I obtained a number of color photographs.

The bird appeared to be in excellent condition. Although a little smaller than the other towhees it was quite aggressive and generally chased them away when they approached too close. It was last seen on 24 January 1965."

There are two other "Spotted" Towhee reports from the state, both substantiated by specimens, and both identified as *P. e. arcticus*: (1) a female discovered by Robert H. Grant at Jones Beach, Nassau Co., on 28 December 1956. Seen by numerous observers, it was collected on 16 February 1957 by Paul A. Buckley, and is now No. 19019 in the New York State Museum (Buckley, *Auk*, 76: 517-520, 1959); (2) a female discovered by Ted Peszell on 30 November 1958 in Bronx Park, Bronx Co., collected by Buckley on 23 December 1958, and now No. 707778 in the collection of the Museum of Natural History (Buckley, *op. cit.*).

In addition, two other "Spotted" Towhees have been taken in the east, also referable to *arcticus*: (1) a female taken at Metuchen, New Jersey, 24 December 1952 (Baird, *Condor*, 59: 401-402, 1957; Buckley, *op. cit.*), and a male taken at Fayetteville, North Carolina, 14 February 1957 (Hauser, *Chat*, 21: 46-47, 1957).

According to the A.O.U. Check-list (5th ed., 1957), the subspecies *arcticus* breeds in the northwestern Great Plains and northeastern Rockies, in winter extending south to northern Mexico and southern Texas, and east to Kansas; casually east to Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois. Thus far, *P. e. arcticus* is the only member of *maculatus* group which has been collected in the east.

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ADVANCE NOTICE OF 1966 ANNUAL MEETING

As a Long Island resident for some 31 years, I have always hoped that some day our annual meeting could be held somewhere in that famous and most productive birdwatching area. Two meetings have been held in New York City with Long Island field trips, but none has ever been held on the Island. More than two years ago, I began negotiations with several member clubs on Long Island. Those negotiations have finally borne fruit, for in 1966 we will hold our meeting in a truly maritime setting. Our hosts will be the Baldwin Bird Club, Queens County Bird Club, Lyman Langdon Audubon Society, and Huntington Audubon Society.

From advance information, we believe this meeting promises to be one of the most memorable and pleasurable of all our meetings. The site is unexcelled—the handsome and beautifully appointed Lido Beach Hotel, directly on the ocean at Long Beach, Long Island. Members will be able to watch birds over the ocean from their rooms, or step outside and be on the beach itself. The hotel provides us with every convenience: meeting