

## DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE AND STATUS OF THE TIMBERLINE SPARROW IN MONTANA: A THREATENED SPECIES?<sup>TWS</sup>

Brett L. Walker  
University of Montana, Missoula 59812

The “Timberline” subspecies (*Spizella [breweri] taverneri*) of the Brewer’s sparrow is a little-known songbird breeding in high elevation treeline habitats of the Canadian Rockies. Recent discovery of Timberline sparrows in Glacier National Park raises new questions about its current distribution, abundance and biological status in the United States. Field surveys of Timberline sparrows in Glacier National Park in 1998 found approximately 50 breeding pairs in fifteen separate locations within the park. I will discuss subspecific identification, vocalizations, habitat associations, effective monitoring methods and plans for future research.