

Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, New York, and Massachusetts. Three birds were found wintering within fifty miles of their place of birth. The bird reported from Hingham, Massachusetts, February 12, was picked up dead, but in perfect condition, two days after a very severe snowstorm.

The two recoveries of birds of the second summer are of little value, but we will hope for more data in the future. One record, Marshfield, Massachusetts, July 8, 1925, is probably within a day's flying range of Sandy Neck, and may mean that the second-year birds return to the natal colony, though themselves not breeding until more mature. The other second-summer record, Haverhill, Massachusetts, September 8, 1923, may indicate that these second-year birds also join the northward dispersal with the first-year young.

In conclusion I may mention briefly some recoveries of Night Herons banded in other sections of Massachusetts, which merely reinforce the Barnstable data. Of twenty-five records, all but two were made within eight months of the date of banding. One of these two I have already mentioned, Dr. Phillips' six-year-old bird recovered in May within a few miles of its birthplace. The second was a bird recovered on the island of Haiti, sixteen months after banding. As these birds will probably be reported in detail by their banders, I do not give more exact data. The only other recovery of interest that has come to my attention was a bird which alighted on a north-bound steamer about two hundred and fifty miles east of the Delaware Capes, in October.

Cohasset, Massachusetts, March, 1926.

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## A PARTIAL HISTORY OF FIFTEEN TREE SPARROWS

BY DON V. MESSER

THE winter season of 1924 at my banding station in the Berkshire Hills at Huntington, Massachusetts, was unusual in that only one group of Tree Sparrows (*Spizella m. monticola*), fifteen in number, came to my banding station. The birds appeared on February 3d and most of them were banded on February 12th and 22d, and all by February 25th. These Tree Sparrows were all there were about the house up to April 4th, barring a single bird which appeared on March 12th,

two weeks after the last of the original flock was banded. My repeats included only three out of the fifteen, although the group was observed day after day at the station up to April 4th.

The entire fifteen were never seen feeding at the traps at one time, twelve being the largest number seen. There are second-growth woods—maple, elm, etc.,—growing close up to the traps, with a pine grove in the immediate background, and it seems to be customary with these Tree Sparrows (as well as most other species) for a few birds always to be up in the trees near by while others are feeding, some coming and some going most of the time. New birds appeared on April 2d and 4th which were the advance guard of spring migrants.

During the winter of 1925 we saw but few Tree Sparrows and took no returns, banding only two birds in early March. A few small flocks, however, were seen in different parts of the town. The winter was one of little snow and much bare ground.

The record regarding this species for 1926 is strongly contrasted with that of 1925. With the advent of many snowstorms, birds became unusually plentiful about the traps, particularly Tree Sparrows.

The following record of snowfalls for this area will show that there have been not only an unusual number of snowstorms, but also a considerable amount of snow.

Dec. 12, 1925	7.0 inches	Jan. 9, 1926	4.5 inches	Feb. 1, 1926	2.5 in.
Dec. 16 "	0.5 "	Jan. 22 "	1.0 "	Feb. 4 "	15.0 "
Dec. 24 "	0.5 "	Jan. 27 "	1.5 "	Feb. 6 "	1.0 "
Dec. 25 "	0.5 "	Jan. 28 "	1.5 "	Feb. 10 "	6.0 "
				Feb. 14 "	6.0 "
				Feb. 25 "	1.5 "
		Mar. 2, 1926	1.5 inches		
		Mar. 7 "	3.00 "		

Between January 17th and March 8th, 1926, I banded fifty Tree Sparrows and took eight returns from the group of fifteen birds banded in 1924, plus a return from 1925. The following table gives banding dates of the original 1924 group, the few repeats for 1924, and the returns and also repeats for 1926 up to March 8th.

NUMBER	DATE BANNED	1924 REPEATS	1926 RETURNS
43041	Feb. 12, 1924		
43042	" 12		Feb. 25
43043	" 12	Apr. 2 and Apr. 3	
43044	" 13		Jan. 31, Feb. 13 and 29
43045	" 13		Feb. 13, Feb. 18
43046	" 19	Apr. 4	Feb. 13, Feb. 21 and 25
55796	" 22		Jan. 24
55797	" 22		
55798	" 22		
55799 <sup>1</sup>	" 22		Feb. 14, Mar. 7
55800	" 22		(By A. A. Cross)
91931	" 23	Apr. 2	Feb. 7
91933	" 24		Jan. 15, Feb. 13 and 21
91934	" 24		Jan. 25, Feb. 25
91935	" 25		

The percentage of returns recorded, 53.33%, at my own traps, and 60% to this immediate area, after an interval of two years, appears to me to be the outstanding matter of importance in this history, and a high survival ratio for this species is indicated. In addition, the facts that so large a proportion of a definite group returns to its old wintering area, bears on the homogeneity of the group.

Tree Sparrows were seen in this immediate area as early as October 18th, 1925, but were not noticed about the house until December 18th, at which time food was placed for them in the regular feeding-places, to which they immediately started coming regularly. There was a noticeably larger number than was the case in 1924. No particular attention was given them aside from feeding, until on January 15th, 1926, when a banded bird was noticed among them, which was trapped on the same day and found to be a return from 1924. Shortly after, a general banding of the birds at our station was undertaken, which brought about the recapture of the 1924 group as shown by the tabulation.

The taking of these returns was incidental to my general banding work; no effort was made to take them when they first appeared either in 1924 or in 1926 and the eight members of the 1924 group are not distinguishable as such among the mass of 1926 birds. These records show a marked tendency for the birds to remain about the station after they first appear until they migrate northward, as was the case in 1924.

<sup>1</sup> A. A. Cross, another bird-bander of Huntington, Mass., whose traps are on the opposite (west) side of the village, about 1500 feet across the river valley from mine, has taken this bird twice this winter, as indicated above, making nine birds, or 60% of the original 1924 group returning to this immediate area this winter.

The hiatus in their return record appears to be paralleled by the experience of at least one other New England bander. Mr. C. L. Whittle writes me that at Wells River, Vt., Mr. Wendell P. Smith noted a similar lack of this species at his station during the winter of 1924-25. The local rarity of Tree Sparrows at two stations, well within the regular wintering range of the Tree Sparrow, is difficult to account for, since New England as a whole, judging from monthly reports published by the Division of Ornithology of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, appears to have had the usual number of wintering birds of this species during the season in question.

Huntington, Mass., March 1926.

## AN APPARENTLY MIGRATING GROUP OF JUNCOS

BY A. W. HIGGINS

At my station in Rock (Middleboro) Massachusetts, I banded during January, 1925, a group of Juncos (*Junco h. hyemalis*) numbering seventeen. Sixteen of these were taken during a period of six days, the 26th to 31st inclusive. In addition, Junco No. 39225, a return, banded February 12th, 1924, was taken at this time.

From the 11th to the 14th inclusive of the present January (1926) I trapped nine Juncos, of which six were returns of those banded in January, 1925.

The history of these birds up to February 14, 1926, as far as known, appears in tabular form below:

BANDING NO.	SEX	BANDING DATE 1925	REPEATS 1925	RETURN 1926	REPEATS 1926
39225	♂	Jan. 27	0	Jan. 11	Feb. 12, 13, 14
132940	♀	Jan. 29	Feb. 3 Feb. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 17
243867	♀	Jan. 29	Feb. 3 Feb. 4 (2)	Jan. 12	Jan. 13
132937	♂	Jan. 27	Feb. 10 Feb. 4 (2)	Jan. 13	Jan. 4 (2) Jan. 17 (2) Jan. 23, Feb. 6 (3)
243870	♂	Jan. 31	0	Jan. 13	Jan. 14
132930	♂	Jan. 26	Feb. 2	Jan. 14	0