

food in its bill when recaptured on November 11th, and again held onto it while being handled.

Number 586297, banded November 11, 1927, ate a small piece of bread while in the hand and took away a large piece when it was released. This bird perhaps explains where my Jays were during their long absence from camp (November 24th to December 21st), as it was reported to the Biological Survey as having been caught in a weasel-trap on December 7, 1927, seven miles north of McMillan, Michigan, by Julius VanHorne. The distance from the place of banding to the place it was recovered is approximately ten miles, showing considerable ranging about.

Number 586298, banded November 18, 1927, dropped its piece of bread in its effort to get away. It was in my open hand about five seconds, then flying to a dead fir tree about twenty feet north of the station before leaving.

Number 586304, banded January 7, 1928, gave some rather musical notes as it was released.

Although none of these birds entered my trap after January 7, 1928, the birds that were there (excepting one) were wearing bands, a fact which seemingly indicates that they were my birds returned after their long absence as stated above.

On my last day at camp, March 12, 1928, I saw one Jay gathering moss from the trees, which was very likely for nest-building.—O. M. BRYENS, McMillan, Luce County, Michigan, May 4, 1928.

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**Horned Tree Sparrows.**—At my banding station in Cohasset, Massachusetts, there is a large window feeding-shelf much frequented by several species of wintering birds. While here, they may be observed at very short range—two to four feet away if desirable.

The snowstorm of January 29, 1928, caused some half-dozen Tree Sparrows (*Spizella m. monticola*) to visit the shelf, and among them were three sight-returns, birds banded during February, 1926, and all three now at least two and a half years old, and possibly much older. One of these birds, a sight return-2, possessed symmetrically placed gray horns, a character occasionally observed and first pointed out to me by Mrs. Whittle. Many Tree Sparrows have a similar character, but less well-developed, which is quite apparent when the birds face the observer. When well-developed, the horns are easily seen from any position as they project above the crown about one eighth of an inch, lying directly over the eyes, and usually pointing vertically, as upper parts of an eyebrow-like growth of stiffish feathers.

The horns are due to the greater development of the somewhat stiff gray feathers forming the central portion of the superciliary stripe, which is usually rather raggedly fringed along its upper edge, or such feathers may take the form of somewhat projecting eyebrows, symmetrically placed over the eyes, or unsymmetrically placed extending from a point a little over the eye and rising gradually posteriorly for a length of about one fourth of an inch. Such eyebrows viewed from directly in front often are seen to project somewhat above the crown-feathers.

While not proved, it appears probable that these horns occur only on old birds. Their development may be confined to male birds only. That they are not accidental is shown by the fact that one or more birds having them are seen at my station every winter season. The feathers of that portion of the superciliary stripe lying above the eye in all specimens of the

Tree Sparrow examined in life tend towards an erect position, often forming a sort of fringe along the upper edge of the band.—C. L. Whittle, Peterborough, N. H.

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**Purple Finch's Nest-Building Ceremony.**—Upon waking at 5 A. M. I became aware of an ecstatic bird-song with which I was completely unfamiliar. Crossing the room very quietly, I saw a pair of Purple Finches facing each other on the floor of the piazza. The bills of both birds contained nesting-materials, and the male was executing a dance with half-open wings, moving forward and back in front of the female, which stood watching him from a distance of about fifteen inches. The feathers on his head were partially erect, which gave him a crested appearance. As he moved to and fro, he sang an ecstatic song which seemed distinctly different from his ordinary one, with which I am familiar. When the ceremony was completed, both birds flew into the woods carrying the nesting materials in their beaks. They both seemed entirely unaware of my presence.—KATHARINE C. HARDING, Holderness, New Hampshire, May 30, 1928.

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**A Return-4 Chipping Sparrow.**—L. B. Fletcher reports a Chipping Sparrow, No. 125271, banded at Cohasset, Massachusetts, August 21, 1924, which has returned to his station four consecutive seasons, the returning yearly dates given in their proper order being May 8th, 9th, 11th, and 15th. This bird is approaching at least its fourth year.

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**Another Tree Sparrow Recovery of Importance.**—The Rev. George E. Allen sends word that a Tree Sparrow banded by him at Whitinsville, Massachusetts, on February 1, 1928, was caught by a cat belonging to Mrs. G. A. Beals, at Green, Maine, April 24, 1928. This record supplements a previous one of similar import reported in the *Bulletin*, Vol. I. No. 2, 1925, page 33, of a Tree Sparrow, No. 67250, banded by Mrs. F. D. Hubbard at New Haven, Connecticut, January 31, 1923, and recovered by Prof. Frederick A. Saunders at Kittery Point, Maine, March 30, 1925. Both these recoveries are unmistakable instances of birds taken in their spring migration to their breeding-grounds, and, as far as they go, they show a northeasterly migration-route along the Atlantic seaboard. The records also emphasize the fact that it is only the lack of a sufficient number of banding stations in the country that makes it so difficult to trace a species' migration-routes to and from its nesting-grounds. It is right here that the amateur bird-bander has an opportunity to help work out the important matter of migration-routes, rate of migration, etc.—THE EDITORS.

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**An unusual Sight-Recovery Record of a Purple Finch.**—One of my photographs of a banded Chickadee, made in Cohasset, Massachusetts, showed two whole figures of its band-number and a portion of a third figure sufficient to enable me to determine positively the whole number, thus making it a photographic repeat. It has remained, however, for Dr. Francis Harper, of Natick, to record the first recovery made by actually reading the band-number on a visiting bird without handling it. Dr. Harper writes as follows regarding the matter: "On May 5 and 6, 1928, a