

stores (evaluated after McCabe, 1943) of the tower casualties with those of Tree Sparrows shot near Lawrence on the evenings of 3 and 4 February 1969 (fat scores were noted as the birds were prepared as museum skins). Tree Sparrows were unusually scarce around Lawrence at this time. Those present had presumably been foraging over virtually continuous snow cover for a week or more, and their fat values were significantly lower ($p < .005$) than were the fat values obtained from the tower sample (samples compared via a Mann-Whitney U-test, see Siegel, 1956). Only one of the nine 3-4 February birds was termed "very fat"; three were called "moderate fat", and five were classed as "light fat". By contrast, 15 of 19 tower birds were "fat" or "very fat". The fat values from these 19 birds, converted to the numerical categories of Helms and Drury (1960), averaged 3.05. This figure closely approximates the average fat values obtained by these authors from afternoon-taken, winter-resident Tree Sparrows obtained in the last half of January in Massachusetts. Our observations suggest that, in addition to their functions in hibernal cold-acclimitization and adaptation, such winter fat deposits may, at least occasionally, be called upon to underwrite the energetic demands of migration-like movements.

To summarize, direct observation of nocturnal movement coupled with the discovery of 21 tower-killed Tree Sparrows in late January at Lawrence, Kansas, substantiates the long-suspected occurrence of occasional mass mid-winter movement in at least one "northern finch." This movement apparently was a response to extensive snowfall which covered much of the northern plains and Great Lakes region. Tree Sparrows were unusually scarce around Lawrence a week after these snows, and 9 birds taken then had significantly less fat than the sample of tower-killed birds. Fat values from the tower-killed birds appeared similar to those recorded from late January winter-resident Tree Sparrows.

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Red-bellied Woodpecker Taking Bird's Eggs.—Late in April 1969 I casually noticed a pair of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) entering an old woodpecker hole high in a dead oak near my home. On 4 May at 17:07 loud rapping disclosed a male Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*) excavating a few inches below and to one side of that hole. Shortly he leaned far inward and pulled out a mass of apparent dead grass. He dropped that, leaned in again, and withdrew holding between the tips of his mandibles an egg, with which he flew away. At 17:10 he returned, tapped lightly a few times below the sparrow's entrance, then went to his own opening and carried away a second egg. Except for

two periods totalling 25 minutes, I then watched on until the 19:02 sunset. At 17:44 and 18:22 the woodpecker (a color-banded one) appeared and looked into his excavation, but at no time did any other bird appear, and watching early the next morning also showed no activity. Presumably the eggs were an incomplete clutch of the House Sparrows. A search of considerable literature shows no record of the Red-bellied Woodpecker taking eggs, but Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 174: 254, 1939) gives two records for the Gila Woodpecker (*C. uropygialis*).—Hervey Brackbill, 2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore, Maryland, 21207.

RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING AND LONGEVITY

(See also 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 71, 82.)

1. **Report on bird-ringing for 1967.** R. Spencer. 1968. *Brit. Birds*, 61 (11): 477-523.—The usual sort of bird-banding report, with an introduction, list of publications, table of birds banded and recovered, cumulative totals for the banding scheme to date by species, and a "selected list" of recoveries reported during 1967. More birds were banded than in 1966 (some 22,000 more, to be specific), and there were some changes in which species were banded. There shows in this report the continued emphasis on single dramatic recoveries (by discussing them in the text and marking them especially in the data section). The notes by Reese (review 4) should warn us against this kind of emphasis; I should like to see stress laid upon those species for which many consistent recoveries exist. To some extent this is done in the report. For instance, map 2 shows recoveries of the Swift (*Apus apus*) and the Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) in Africa. New recoveries are plotted by solid shapes, previous ones by open ones, so that one can judge that 1967 really contributed greatly to our knowledge of these species (there were three previous swift recoveries in Africa eight more in 1967; three previous wagtails, 11 more in 1967).—Jack P. Hailman.

2. **Bird report: 1967.** Lord Medway, I. C. T. Nisbet and D. R. Wells. 1968. *Malayan Nat. J.*, 21 (4): 185-200.—This is the sixth in a series, the rest of which are conveniently referenced. With this review, the Review Editor establishes a policy of noting as many annual banding reports as possible from all over the world, so that the reader may consult these at leisure. However, because of the increasing volume of such reports and the relatively little analysis they contain, most will be cited by title only, being reviewed only in cases where the reports appear to contain information or analyses of broad interest.—Jack P. Hailman.

3. **Recoveries in Great Britain and Ireland of birds ringed abroad.** R. Hudson. *Brit. Birds*, 62 (1): 13-22.—Banding reports (see review 1) usually have the opposite orientation: they concentrate on where birds go when they leave a country. Yet both kinds of summaries help round out our knowledge of migration patterns, and equal attention should be drawn to Hudson's kind of report.—Jack P. Hailman.

4. **Some thoughts on recoveries.** J. Reese. 1969. *EBBA News*, 32 (2): 79-80.—The author writes letters for further information to persons who recover his birds. A Brazilian missionary informed him that the actual recovery site of his bird was 150 miles from the place used by the Banding Laboratory taken from the postmark! Another recovery turned out to have been reported from the landing gear of an airplane, so that the bird may have been killed far from the landing strip from which it was reported. Other kinds of errors are also reported. The reply rate for requests for further information is sadly low, but the usefulness of the information gained is surely high. This report goes to show once again that