

CHIPPING SPARROW RETURNS

By George W. Collins

I have been banding since 1962 and have banded nearly 10,000 birds of 100 species, of which most were banded within 100 feet of my house. Of this total, 385 up to the end of 1967 (or 452 up to the time of writing, August 4, 1968) were Chipping Sparrows. This species has shown what seems to me to be an unusually high rate of returns - I have had 93 returns to date, or 20.6% of the total banded. There were 39 returns in 1967 alone, or 10.1% of the total banded to the end of that year.

To provide a little background, there are lots of large boulders and rocks on the edge of my lawn, and some woods about 25 feet from the house. I have about 25 traps of various types which are placed on the boulders and rocks, including several Mason traps; and I also operate three nets.

It may be of interest to analyze the Chipping Sparrow returns from two different points of view: the spread in terms of years, and the frequency with which individual birds returned, using the 1967 returns as an example. The following table shows the year of banding, year of return (the last year, in the case of repeated returns) and the number of returns in each category.

Banded in:	Last Returned in:	No. of Returns
1962	1963	4
"	1964	1
"	1967	1
1963	1964	3
"	1965	2
"	1966	2
"	1967	4
"	1968	3
1964	1964 (i.e. spring to	2
"	1965 fall)	3
"	1966	6
"	1967	2
"	1968	2
1965	1966	5
"	1967	9
"	1968	2
1966	1966 (spring/fall)	3
"	1967	23
"	1968	7
1967	1968	9

As 1967 has been the best year so far for returns, these 39 returns are recapitulated below with notes as to how often individual birds returned in intervening years after banding.

- Banded in 1962: 1 (this bird returned each year after banding)
- Banded in 1963: 4 (one returned each year; two others each year except one; and the last only in 1966)
- Banded in 1964: 3 (two returned in 1965 and 1966)
- Banded in 1965: 9 (eight also returned in 1966)
- Banded in 1966: 22 returns.

Returns for 1968 are not tabulated since the year is still in progress but it is worth mentioning that they include, so far, three returns of birds banded in 1963, one of which returned each year after banding and the others on two and three intervening years, respectively. Of seven returns banded in 1966, six had also returned in 1967.

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BARN SWALLOWS: DAY OR NIGHT MIGRANTS?

By David E. Samuel

For the past two summers I have spent many hundreds of hours in the field observing Barn and Cliff Swallows in West Virginia. However, on July 27, 1968 my wife and I were witness to an amazing sight.

We were on a golf driving range which borders the Ohio River at Tiltonsville, Ohio (above Wheeling, West Virginia). At 10:00 pm, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours after sunset, a flock of about 200 Barn Swallows was observed feeding over the well-lit driving range. The weather was clear and hot, and many insects were drawn to the powerful lights. By 10:30 we estimated the feeding birds to number around 500 Barn Swallows, and by 11:00 there were well over 700 birds feeding by the lights. Upon questioning the owner I discovered that these creatures were "bats". The next night it was cloudy and raining, and only a few birds were seen as the insects were not present.

Swallows are believed to be day migrants. The above birds were obviously migrating, but they may not have been migrating after dark. The possibility exists that these were birds which had stopped for the night, but were drawn to the lights and insects.

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