

"We never know whether they will appear or not. Their only 'pattern' is that they have never appeared 3 years in a row or been absent 3 years in a row - that is the pattern since they first appeared in the Great Smokies in 1951.

"Fall is in the air now and we're hoping for this year. Maybe I'll meet more of your birds if they visit us."

Attached to her letter was a listing of all those birds which represented more than a single capture from any one bander. Her list read like an EBBA directory!

Her list impressed me from the standpoint of how numerous the banded birds were at her feeder, and how these birds were drawn from such a large geographic area. It also tickled my imagination to think about what it would be like to be snowed in in the mountains with flocks of grosbeaks at hand. There's something to be said for the remoteness of non-city living.

Literature Cited

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SONG SPARROW WITH DISAPPEARING TUMOR

By Mrs. Roger W. Foy

During a routine examination of a Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia) HY-U (band #81-60534) on August 19, 1972, I found a fatty tumor on the left breast. It measured 4 mm x 8 mm and was raised approximately 2.5 mm; it was not granulated or seedy, covered with feathers and a pale yellow in color. It seemed to be, according to feel, a soft solid mass, definitely attached not to the skin but to the surrounding tissue.

On this date the wing was 60 mm; wgt. 19.5 gr. with a fat count of 0 (scale 0-3). The repeats and returns are as follows, with the tumor still in evidence and no visible change in size;

<u>1972</u>	Sept. 17th - wgt. 20.3, fat 0
	Sept. 23rd - wgt. 20.5, fat 0
	Oct. 22nd - wgt. 20.0, fat 0
	Nov. 19th - wgt. 21.8, fat 2
	Dec. 29th - wgt. 25.6, fat 3
<u>1973</u>	April 21st - (Return as SY-U) WGT. 22.3, fat 0

From August to October 1972 there was no appreciable change in either weight or fat. From October to December 1972 the bird increased in both weight and fat count as can be seen from the above table.

On May 19, 1973 the bird Repeated - wgt. 28.2, fat 0 and the tumor had COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED!!!

1973 June 30th - wgt. 21.0, fat 0 NO tumor
 July 1st - wgt. 21.0, fat 0 NO tumor
 Aug. 4th - wgt. 18.7, fat 1 NO tumor
 Aug. 11th - wgt. 18.0, fat 0 NO tumor

1974 Jan. 1st (Returned as TY-U) wgt. 24.6, fat 2 NO tumor

From May 1973 until January 1974 each time the bird was handled it was examined extensively for reappearance of tumor, scared tissue or tumors in/on other parts of its body -- none were found. We used a magnifying glass with the hopes of finding scared tissue - but none was found!

From the original banding right through to the last time this bird was handled in January 1974 it was healthy in all respects. It (tumor) couldn't have been excess fat because it weighed more after it lost the tumor than when it had it, and the fat count was still 0.

To gain approximately 6 grams in the time between 04-21-73 and 05-19-73 with the tumor completely disappearing is astonishing to us, and then to consequently have the bird lose approximately 7.2 grams between 05-19-73 and 06-30-73 further compounds our dilemma. Any explanation our fellow banders can supply will be greatly appreciated.

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(Editor's Note: In June 1975, we received word from the author that the bird returned on May 8th (Returned as 4th Y) wgt. 20.4 gr., fat 0, NO Tumor; and, on June 9 (Repeat) wgt. 20.0; fat 2, NO Tumor)

THOUGHTS OF A BACKYARD BANDER

By Boletta J. Morris

One morning last week I thought I would band a few birds. Cracked corn was put in my traps the night before and wired over to keep the deer away. I almost choked on my last swallow of coffee because before me, as I looked out my my unset traps, were six Redpolls. One had even entered the Sparrow trap. The birds only stayed a few moments and were off. The last Redpoll was recorded at my home in 1960. A disappointment to me as perhaps I could have gotten one???

Later in the morning I was busy watching my traps and writing my article for the local paper, "Along a Country Road", when I looked out to see a Junco with a band on its right leg. I usually band on the birds