

capture this morning we found the patient entirely cured and no further pressure was noted. For the next nine days this bird alone remained, feeding in the traps nearly all the time. On March 13 after five visits to the traps, our bird departed; it had been taken 175 times in 52 days.—RAYMOND J. MIDDLETON, *Norristown, Pa.*

Apparent Song Imitation by Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*.—According to Saunders, "in late summer" the Field Sparrow often varies the normal pattern of its song by repeating the usual phrase several times without pause, and by beginning and ending with a trill ('A Guide to Bird Songs,' 1935: 266). Sixty or 70 years ago, however, a Field Sparrow song in reverse sounded so unfamiliar to Bradford Torrey that he was unable to identify the singer until he had seen it ('Birds in the Bush,' 1891: 40).

On June 22, 1949, two of the most experienced bird observers in the Washington, D. C., area were similarly perplexed by a Field Sparrow which they came to hear at my invitation, in a suburban park near my home in Silver Spring, Maryland. This bird had first attracted my attention in mid-May by its remarkable singing which frequently featured the usual Field Sparrow song in reverse, together with the longer variations noted by Saunders. My friends, like Torrey, were so puzzled by the strange vocal performance that they were unwilling to identify the bird by its song alone.

During my early observations two or three other Field Sparrows in the same vicinity continued to sing the usual Field Sparrow songs, beginning with a series of long notes and ending with a trill. Several times toward the end of June, however, the song in reverse seemed to me to be coming from two birds. This was confirmed on June 29. These birds were not late summer singers. Saunders' statement does not contradict that such singing is unusual for May and June, and the inability of my friends to recognize the song corroborates its rarity in the Washington area. It seems to me that the circumstances justify considering the phenomenon an example of unusual song imitation. Saunders has reported that he has frequently found two Field Sparrows in the same area singing exactly or approximately the same song within the normal song pattern (Auk, 39: 398-99, 1922).—FRANK C. CROSS, 9413 Second Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Western Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza g. ericrypta*, in New Mexico.—On December 9, 1948, the writer collected a Western Swamp Sparrow from a flock of six individuals which were feeding in a flooded weed patch on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, approximately five miles south of San Antonio, New Mexico. The specimen proved to be a female and the skin has been deposited, with accession number 396220, in the Fish and Wildlife Service Unit in the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. The writer wishes to thank Dr. Allan J. Duvall who kindly identified the specimen and checked the files for records of this species in the southwestern States.

The first record for the species was obtained on the Refuge December 3, followed by observations on December 8, 9, 24, 1948, January 1, 7, 12, 28, and February 4 and 18, 1949. The January 1 record was made at McAlister Lake approximately six miles northeast of Socorro, and the January 12 record was obtained from the cat-tail marshes on the north side of San Marcial Lake approximately 20 miles south of San Antonio.

So far as known to the writer, there is no previous published record of this species in New Mexico, although considerable winter field work has been done in the state, especially along the Rio Grande. There is a possibility of the species having been