

necessary in considering this subject, to bear in mind the great percentage of losses of individuals every year, and the consequent need of new mates. The male's long period of waiting, in this case eight days, before acquiring a new consort, indicates that the new union was not hastily entered upon. This pair of Catbirds, 46319 and 117437, raised two broods in 1924, and built their nests, not in the syringas, but in a clump of young evergreens on another side of the house. In the spring of 1925, Catbird 46319 (♂) returned to the station on May 11th. Immediately he began to busy himself, now an experienced "family man", with the beginnings of a nest in the syringa thicket where his nest had been in 1923 (and probably in 1922). When, however, his mate appeared, on May 14th, the nest-foundation in the syringas was abandoned, and a nest was at once begun in the young evergreens chosen by them (or by her?) in 1924. The female, when taken, proved to be No. 117437, the same mate as in 1924, and this pair is continuing together down to the present writing. The female of this pair has returned to our station once, and the male has returned twice. We find it convenient, in keeping station-records and in speaking of our returned birds, to designate the number of times a bird has returned by an exponent figure: thus, Catbird 46319 is a return². Should he return another season, he will become a return³; and so on. — HELEN GRANGER WHITTLE, Peterboro, N. H., July 1st, 1925.

A Problem in Ecology. — Many birds, for reasons apart from climate, latitude, and ascertainable peculiarities of habitat, have an irregular distribution both as to time and place. This is true both as to breeding-homes and migration-resorts. Swamp Sparrows, for instance, habitually frequent certain swamps, while they stubbornly avoid others near by, apparently similar, which look just as inviting to the human eye. A county map showing the location of the various swamps furnishing breeding-homes to these birds, or resorted to by migrants, would show — what? Every bird-lover much afieled at nesting-time knows that while this species nests throughout our territory, it is only infrequently seen. Those who are unacquainted with its common, simple song will pass it by, and doubtless this is one reason that its occurrence is not more frequently reported. During migration the case is different. Then the species is apparently silent and is seldom seen. Another reason it is not more frequently reported is the difficulty of identifying it in all its different plumages. Little is known about the details of its migration-routes. Are its lines of migration due north and south by way of swamps fortuitously located, or are they determined by landmarks?

I desire information concerning the Swamp Sparrow's abundance, migration, and habits from all over New England, especially from towns east of the Connecticut River and approximately north and south of Belchertown. I am particularly desirous of obtaining information from our various members as to the number and ecological character of the frequented swamps in their vicinity, and whether visited merely in migration or for nesting-purposes. Thank you. — EDWARD GOULD ROWLAND, M. D., Belchertown Massachusetts State School.

Notes on Tree Sparrows (*Spizella m. monticola*). — From the first of January until spring Tree Sparrows came nearly every day to my traps. As little is known about where birds spend the night, I became interested in watching this particular flock in the hope that something might be