

confinement after a fruitless search for defects in its anatomy, and showed throughout a very healthy appetite. It miraculously escaped all dangers. The other case was a male Indigo Bunting, B29535, taken May 16th in the same trap, then in changing plumage with an odd mixture of blue feathers scattered about, chiefly on the back, and all-brown wings. He hid in the grass after collapsing, and was seen within twenty yards of the same spot the next day, chipping loudly and hopping under a cat-haunted porch. We thought that was the end of him, and our joy can be imagined when three weeks later his band was successfully read by means of a 25-power telescope at thirty-feet, while he sat quietly feeding on the shelf at which he was first taken. He had completely recovered, and was now in full plumage. We wonder if others have met with similar cases of temporary paralysis.

This brief sketch of our results gives an idea of the pleasure we derived from the experience, and we unhesitatingly recommend such a holiday to other city dwellers fortunate enough to be able to take it.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

#### NOTES FROM NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA THREE PERMANENT-RESIDENT SONG SPARROWS

By R. J. MIDDLETON

SONG SPARROW No. 174413, banded December 17, 1926, returned March 9, 1928, and was taken again June 7 and August 21, 1928.

Song Sparrow No. 174448, banded October 13, 1927, was taken every month during the winter of 1927-28, and again taken on June 8 and July 16, 1928.

Song Sparrow No. 578790, banded October 27, 1927, was taken continually during the winter of 1927-28, and again on May 25, 1928. It was also taken January 13 and February 2, 1929.

These three birds taken here in winter were all taken at periods in spring and summer, which prove they were breeding here.

It is interesting to note that No. 174448 remained here, while another Song Sparrow, No. 174445, banded September 19, 1927 (or twenty-four days previous), was killed at Hazel-

hurst, Georgia, on March 7, 1928, some six hundred miles from Norristown.

Song Sparrow No. 126726, banded August 2, 1924, a bird just out of the nest and barely able to fly, returned March 20, 1928, and was taken again May 12, 1928. This bird not only returned to its place of birth but remained to breed there.

There are other interesting Song Sparrow records which I hardly know how to class. I am trapping a great many now, and in the next two or three years should collect information about their movements. Of sixty Song Sparrows, adult and young, banded during the breeding-season of last summer, only one repeated after September 15th. During late September Song Sparrows are always scarce here, and then they come in more often in October with the White-throats. Then again in late November they are less numerous; then a flight comes in in early December, only to be followed by another let-up in their numbers in late December and early January. Then there is another change in their numbers in late January, with a decided increase in early February; this varies little from year to year. The last movement comes in early March, when most of those taken later during the summer are banded. My banding-records and my diary records agree on these changes in their numbers during the fall and winter, so I think it is the exception for them to remain past these changes. This last summer was the first time I have trapped a winter bird in summer, and I have been banding since 1921.

#### SLATE-COLORED JUNCO RETURNS

Slate-colored Junco No. 31015, male, banded December 6, 1922, returned on January 27, 1925, and returned again on December 22, 1927, and February 7, 1929 (band replaced with No. A122860). The plumage on this bird, which was in its sixth year in 1927, was by then darker than any Junco I have handled.

Slate-colored Junco No. 578808, male, banded November 23, 1927, repeated many times during the winter of 1927-28, and was last taken on April 26th and 30th, the last capture being the last Junco to be seen last spring. It returned November 27, 1928.

#### A WINTERING LINCOLN'S SPARROW

Lincoln's Sparrow No. A115294 banded on November 24, 1928, taken again on November 27, December 9, 10, 13, and 21, 1928, and January 2, 27, February 2, 4, 16, 21, 23 (4 times), 24 (twice), 25, and March 21, 1929. All captures were

made in a sparrow trap. This bird evidently is a winter-resident individual.

#### WINTER WRENS

Winter Wrens were more plentiful than usual this fall; thirteen were banded between October 1 and November 4, 1928. Nine were taken in a Chardonneret trap, and four in a sparrow trap. The bait in the traps which they entered was sunflower, hemp, and fine cracked grains, but it cannot be stated whether they ate any of these foods or not. Possibly they entered the traps out of curiosity.

#### HOUSE WRENS

House Wren No. 7594 was banded May 2, 1928, on the first day House Wrens appeared here last spring, and it returned September 21, 1928.

All of those breeding here were banded, and their young were banded also. During the first half of September it was almost impossible to find a single House Wren, but by the 18th we began to trap a number of them, all new birds, and many others were seen. While this flight was passing through, No. 7594 returned.

During the past summer a male House Wren, No. B13891, had two mates at one time, the two boxes being thirty feet from our home and on opposite sides. The nest with female No. B13879 had six eggs on June 7th, young on June 22d, and the young left the box on July 7th. That nest with female No. B13892 had six eggs on June 22nd, young on July 7th, which left the box on July 22d. The male would sing at one box for a few minutes and then fly around the house and sing at the second box. In comparing the above dates we find that while the first mate was brooding her eggs, the second nest was built and six eggs laid in it. By the day the young hatched in the first box, and while the male was helping to feed the young in the first box, the female in the second was brooding her eggs; and on the day the young left the first box, the young hatched in the second and he was ready to help take care of them. As far as we could see, he did his share of feeding the young in both boxes.

#### WHITE-THROATED SPARROW BANDING

White-throated Sparrows were very plentiful this fall (1928); 491 were banded between September 22d and November 21st, and of this number 263 entered the traps two or more times for a total of 710 repeats. A few individuals appeared

the last week of September and the first large flight on October 1st. The birds trapped from this flight were all adults. The next flight on October 8th were mostly immature birds. The next flight on the 14th were mostly adult birds. The next two flights on the 20th and 26th were made up of adults and immature birds about evenly divided. The next two flights on October 28th and November 5th were mostly immature birds.

Only fifty-one White-throats remained later than the date of the next new flight, eight birds remained longer than two weeks, two birds remained nineteen days, and one one day. No. A115166, which was banded on October 28th, repeated October 31st, November 1st and 2d, and then again on December 12th and 13th. In connection with the last two repeats of this bird it should be added that after the last flocks had moved on the last week of November, a few remained but did not enter the traps until December 12th and 13th, when one was banded each day. At the present time (December 17th) there are between five and ten birds still here and they are evidently going to winter. The latest record for this species in thirteen years was December 3d, and none has ever remained for the winter, although twenty-five miles south from here, at Glenolden, Pennsylvania, they are a common winter resident.

Very few of those banded on days that new flights came in repeated later in the traps, but the birds banded on the 2d, 3d, and 4th days following new flights gave us the most repeats.

Norristown, Pennsylvania.

#### NOTES BY THE EDITORS

So comparatively few Song Sparrows may be definitely stated to be permanent resident individuals that it is interesting to place them on record, and to speculate whether such occur as a minority throughout the resident range of the species or only in certain localities. As regards the plumage of an old Junco, various banders correlate the age of birds with certain subtle plumage differences among individuals all of which are, speaking in general, adult. Independent observations on this point by different banders may be gathered to advantage, for when this correlation is sufficiently established and defined, it will be important in the consideration of various problems. The Lincoln's Sparrow, a secretive bird which easily escapes observation, appears to enter the banders'