

GENERAL NOTES

Spring Arrivals of Song Sparrows in 1930—During a period of cold weather from January 19 to 29, 1930, I banded six Song Sparrows by our house in Columbus, Ohio; one was never seen again, another stayed in the vicinity till February 18th, while the other four are nesting here, 70, 100, 230, and 240 yards respectively from the trapping station. Definite dates of arrivals of nesting males in 1930 (not of trapping, but when they actually came) were February 23 (bird banded in 1928, arriving March 9, 1929), February 25 (banded February 19, 1929), February 26, March 4, March 15.

The majority of territories this year were taken up in February, eleven birds appearing between the 5th and 26th. One three-year-old male wintered, extending his range over about three times the area he does in the nesting-season; from February 13th he confined himself to his own and his next neighbor's territories, on the same date beginning to sing in earnest. Censuses of the fifty or so acres of low land between West Lane Ave. and Doddridge St., east of the Olentangy River, from March 1st to 6th revealed 64 males, mostly unmated. When *Melospiza melodia melodia* first takes up his territory he sings more than at any other time of year, often two hundred to three hundred times an hour, but after he has been joined by a mate his singing ceases almost entirely and, it is not revived until nesting begins. It reaches its second maximum while his mate is incubating and declines again after the young are hatched. Censuses from April 2d to 6th showed that all but four of these males were mated; by April 16th the last pair was complete. Dates of arrivals of individual females were March 11, 14, 15, 21 in 1929, and February 21, 22, March 1, 10, 15, April 8, 16 in 1930.

As to banded birds, the three adult males (counting the resident bird) and one of the two adult females returned, also one of eleven young. This bird is nesting two hundred and twenty yards west of her birthplace. Her mother arrived on March 15th both years; this season her place had been preëmpted by an earlier comer, and she settled seventy-five yards to the west. All three banded males have different mates from last year, one of them having had a different one each of the three years of his residence next us.

In 1929 nesting started about ten days earlier than this year, for the first set—but for an accident—should have been complete April 13th, while in 1930 the earliest of eight sets was not complete until April 23d. Last year February was 4.5 degrees colder than normal, March was 8.3 degrees warmer than normal and April was 3.2 degrees warmer. This year February was 9.5 degrees warmer than normal, March was 0.5 colder, and April 3.0 degrees warmer. Perhaps the warm weather in February, 1930, hastened the taking up of territories, while that of March, 1929, may have been responsible for the early nesting.

I am now attempting to band as many nesting Song Sparrows as I can, and this necessitates taking the trap to each territory. The colored celluloid bands invented by Dr. W.K. Butts of Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, have been invaluable to me in marking these birds so that they can be distinguished in the field.—MARGARET M. NICE, Columbus, Ohio.

Complete Record of a Wintering Lincoln's Sparrow¹—A Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*), No. A115294, which was banded November 24, 1928, in Norristown, Pennsylvania, remained during the entire winter, as shown by the following complete record of its captures:

¹A partial record was reported in *Bulletin of Northeastern Bird-Banding Association*, Vol. V, No. 2, page 63.