

## 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 Sparrow**<sup>1</sup>—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:

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

November 24, 27; December 9, 10, 13, 21, 1928; January 2, 27; February 24, 16, 21, 23 (4 times), 24 (2 times), 25; March 21, 27; April 3, 19, 1929.

It was not seen after its last capture.—RAYMOND J. MIDDLETON NORRIS-town, Pennsylvania.

**A Sparrow Hawk Recovery**—On November 25, 1929, I was surprised to find in my sparrow trap a male Sparrow Hawk bearing a band numbered 10833. The Hawk had killed a Tree Sparrow, but apparently had left untouched three other birds which were in the trap with him—one Song, one Tree, and one White-throated Sparrow. Perhaps the bird was so alarmed at finding itself trapped that it lost interest in food. This Sparrow Hawk had been banded by Lester W. Smith at Babson Park, Massachusetts, on June 14, 1929. It was one of four nestlings, all of which, together with one of the parents, were banded by Mr. Smith. The Hawk was released after examination and photographing.—WILLIAM P. WHARTON, Groton, Massachusetts.

**Two White-throated Sparrow Recoveries**—R. P. Marsden of Hanover, New Hampshire, reports that White-throated Sparrow A140119 banded by him in Hanover, April 30, 1929, was killed in Tabor, Columbus County, North Carolina, December 24, 1929.

Miss Cora M. Teot writes that a bird of this species banded by her in New Haven, Connecticut, April 24, 1929, was found dead in Florence, Florence County, South Carolina, by S. C. Edens, January 30, 1930.

Tabor and Florence are both situated on the coastal plain and are approximately fifty miles apart. Tabor is thirty miles from the ocean, and Florence is about seventy miles from the Atlantic. These regions to our personal knowledge abound with wintering White-throated Sparrows. The above recovered birds probably kept fairly near the coast during their migration southwesterly.—C. L. W.

**House Wren Returns**—Of three House Wrens (*Troglodytes a. aëdon*) returning in 1929 only one was breeding on our place in 1928, No. 13914. Of the other two No. 7594 returned on May 4th and was later, on June 16th, found breeding in one of the boxes. This bird was banded May 2, 1928, on the first day that House Wrens appeared here that spring, and returned September 21, 1928.

All birds breeding in our boxes in 1928 were banded, and in early September Wrens were very scarce here, but in the third week of the month we began trapping quite a number of them, all new birds, and they were also very much in evidence around our traps. While this flight was passing through, No. 7594 was captured, a return-1. On the same day, September 21, 1928, No. B13935 was banded, and on May 10, 1929, it was found nesting in one of our boxes.

Here is a case of two birds both of which were migrants at this place in 1928, but during 1929 were breeding here.<sup>1</sup>

We had a very interesting situation when the young House Wrens of the first broods left the boxes. When the second broods were started, we found that several pairs had changed mates, and the following chart will show the changes, and from the dates given the reader may note the time elapsed from when the young left the boxes and when the set of eggs were completed for the second broods:

<sup>1</sup>These two Wrens, transients at the banding station, were very likely summer residents for the general region. It might be advantageous to recognize tentatively 'local transients' as opposed to 'through transients', the validity of these groups to be checked by further studies. J. T. N.