

GENERAL NOTES

Another Banded European Widgeon.—The Biological Survey has received a communication from A. J. Tipler, of St. Petersburg, Florida, reporting that while hunting ducks on Currituck Sound, North Carolina, in December, 1930, he killed a female widgeon that carried a band inscribed P. Skovgaard, Viborg, Danmark, V6202. The case was reported to Mr. Skovgaard, who has advised that this bird was banded at Litla Arsskogssandi, Iceland, on July 12, 1930.

In his communication supplying the banding data, Mr. Skovgaard stated that his cooperator reported that this bird was an "Urt" (teal), but since other ducks banded in Iceland and recovered in North America have been European Widgeons, and since Mr. Tipler called it a widgeon, he is convinced that it was erroneously identified at the time of banding.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, Biological Survey.

New Fairfield, Connecticut, Tree Sparrow Returns-W.—As the number of returning birds banded in any given year affords data on the persistence with which a species comes back to its nesting or wintering place, and, to a degree are a measure of its longevity, it seems desirable to place on record the known history of sixteen Tree Sparrows (*Spizella m. monticola*) banded at New Fairfield, Connecticut, by Mrs. Albert G. Mather during the winter season of 1929-30, as supplementary to similar data for this species already published. In the *Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association*, Vol. II, 1926, pp. 28-31, Don V. Messer published the known history of fifteen Tree Sparrows banded between February 3 and 25, 1925, at Huntington, Massachusetts. Of these fifteen birds none was taken as a return in the season of 1925-26, probably owing to the fact that natural food was abundant on account of a nearly open winter. During the season of 1926-27, however, eight of the birds returned to his station and one to a station some fifteen hundred feet distant, showing a returning ratio of 53.33 per cent and a survival ratio of 60 per cent, the birds being then at least two and a half years old.

In the *Bulletin*, Vol. III, pp. 37-39, 1927, Mrs. Sadie B. Knox reported banding at her station in Westfield, Massachusetts, thirteen Tree Sparrows during November, 1925. Of these eleven returned to the immediate area in 1926 (ten to the same station where banded, the eleventh bird being trapped some half-mile distant), a returning and survival ratio of 84.61 per cent when the birds were at least one and a half years old. This is the highest returning ratio for this species yet reported. It is important to note that the eleven returns were banded between November 1st and November 18th, 1925, and that eight of the returns of the following winter were recaptured during November, suggesting that the original flock of thirteen birds constituted a migratory unit.

Mrs. Mather's data on this species are of a similar order. Of eight birds banded during the winter season of 1928-29, five returned the second winter season, or 43.50 per cent. A second season's banding (1929-30) of sixteen Tree Sparrows yielded eight returns in the season of 1930-31, or 50 per cent. The available data on this species show a very strong tendency to winter in the same place year after year, and also a high survival ratio. It is regrettable that we have no knowledge of the ages or sexes of the birds under consideration.—C. L. WHITTLE.