

of the house used by B5202 and B5201, with B99354 ♀, which was banded on June 23, 1929. In the summer of 1930 these birds (B5202 and B99354) were not retaken, but in the summer of 1931 I trapped B5202 on June 22d, and B99354 was recaptured on June 20th—a mated pair. It may well be that these birds, B5202 ♂ and B99354 ♀, were mated in 1930 also, as they were in 1929 and 1931. B5202 is at least four years old.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, R. F. D. No. 1, McMillan, Luce County, Michigan.

The Occurrence of Botulism in a Herring Gull.—The observations and researches of competent bacteriologists during the last three years warrant the conclusion that botulism, popularly known as ptomaine poisoning, takes heavy toll from wild bird life. The specific bacilli which alone cause the disease, as well as the toxins produced by these organisms, infect the soil and are ingested with the food taken by birds. The disease was observed first in ducks. A report of an outbreak of the malady occurring in Turnstones and Sanderlings in 1930 on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, was published in *The Auk*. The following incident is narrated for the sake of listing all species found to have been victims of the disease.

On July 1st an adult Herring Gull was found on the ocean beach near the Austin Ornithological Research Station on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, unable to move. No other gulls were seen in the vicinity, but the shore was littered with dead fish. The bird exhibited an almost complete paralysis as well as other symptoms of botulism. Aided by suitable treatment the gull made a slow, typically progressive, and complete recovery, flying away July 11th. This diagnosis was not confirmed by bacteriological findings but by symptoms pathognomonic of this disease alone.—OLIVER L. AUSTIN, M. D., Tuskahoe, New York.

Some White-throated Sparrow and Field Sparrow Returns.—At my banding station in Fairhope, Alabama, I have had the following White-throated and Field Sparrow returns of interest, returns-1 and returns-2.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS

Band No.	Banding Date	Returns-1	Returns-2
167904	Jan. 1, 1930	Mar. 30, 1931	Jan. 11, 1932
167906	Jan. 4, 1930	Dec. 6, 1930	Nov. 27, 1931

FIELD SPARROWS

C47659	Feb. 3, 1930	Dec. 24, 1930	Feb. 5, 1932
C47676	Feb. 10, 1930	Dec. 24, 1930	Feb. 25, 1932
C47654	Mar. 1, 1930	Nov. 28, 1930	Jan. 13, 1932
C47655	Mar. 1, 1930	Jan. 5, 1931	Jan. 29, 1932
C47663	Mar. 3, 1930	Jan. 6, 1931	Feb. 5, 1932
C47671	Mar. 8, 1930	Dec. 12, 1930	Feb. 7, 1932
C47673	Mar. 9, 1930	Feb. 13, 1931	Feb. 4, 1932

—HELEN M. EDWARDS, Fairhope, Alabama.

A Cowbird Attempts to Parasitize Barn Swallows.—In 1931 several pairs of Barn Swallows nested successfully under the eaves of the porch of the Austin Ornithological Research Station at North Eastham,

Cape Cod, Massachusetts. This spring one of these banded birds with an unbanded mate again nested in the same place. On June 6th, a female Cowbird attempted to lay an egg in this nest. Both of the Swallows attacked the Cowbird. After several minutes of fighting, the Cowbird and the banded Swallow fell to the steps beneath the eaves, both much exhausted; the other swallow flew away. After a short rest the banded swallow again attacked the Cowbird, finally driving it away. Friedmann lists only one authenticated and one questionable record of the parasitizing of Barn Swallows by Cowbirds. This comparative immunity may be due to the Swallows' habit of attending their nests closely.—OLIVER L. AUSTIN, M. D., Tuckahoe, New York.

Queer Albinism in a Purple Grackle.—On August 17, 1932, my father trapped a female Purple Grackle which had a white spot on the proximal ends of the first six primaries and on each tail feather at one third the distance from their distal ends. The bird had brown irides and was banded A361323. This is the first case of albinism we have found among our seventy-three banded Purple Grackles.—MERRILL WOOD, Harrisburg, Pa.

Juvenile Eastern Song Sparrow Returns to Birthplace.—In the April, 1932, *Bird-Banding*, pages 106-108, I have recorded the return of four juvenile Song Sparrows out of eighteen birds-of-the-year banded the previous season. On account of the fact that the belief is prevalent that young birds do not return, it seems advisable to place on record a more complete record than appeared in the above article.

To the four juvenile returns recorded, I am now able to add another one, B69379, banded July 20, 1931, taken July 11, 1932. This makes five returns out of eighteen juvenile birds born close to my station in 1931, or 27.77 per cent, a rather surprising number of inexperienced birds to survive their first year, which of course included two migrations. That B69379 should be taken at my station for the first time at so late a date as July 11th may be explained by the fact that it probably nested too far from the traps to visit them during incubation and the feeding of the young. The fact that between broods even my near-by nesting Song Sparrows remain away during the period that the young are fed on animal food, probably accounts for the late coming of B69379 for canary-seed. It should be stated that the bird came only once during this period, again behaving much like my near-by Song Sparrows in this respect.

It is also possible to add other facts of interest regarding three of the juvenile birds which returned in April, 1932. As already published, two of the three, B69411 and B69417, nested in the two territories which included my traps. These two birds, in profound molt when again trapped in late August after the nesting season was over, escaped the small army of cats that nightly attempted to ravage their nesting territories. On August 27th another of the returns of April was retaken, B69413, which nested too far away to visit the station until the nesting period was over. The records therefore gratifyingly show that four of the five returning young birds (80 per cent) survived their first nesting season, perhaps to return again in 1933.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, Peterborough, N. H.