

REDSTART. *Setophaga ruticilla*
Banded, 2527. Returns, 20

B86035, banded at Groton, Mass., on May 18, 1929, by William P. Wharton, was retrapped at station of banding on May 11, 1932, also May 17, 1933.

C13865, banded at Wolfville, Nova Scotia, on July 12, 1929, by Ronald W. Smith, was retrapped at station of banding on June 30, 1930, also on June 25, 1931.

In the preparation of these papers, the author desires to acknowledge his indebtedness to Miss May T. Cooke of the Biological Survey, who has personally examined thousands of cards for the purpose of selecting the cases desirable for presentation.

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GENERAL NOTES

Homing Experiments with Golden-crowned Sparrows.—I have read with interest that portion of the reviews in the January (1936) issue of *Bird-Banding* having the sub-heading, "Homing Experiments."

This article gives as the longest winter return known, that of a Gambel Sparrow released at a distance of 34 miles from where trapped. (E. L. Sumner, Jr., and J. L. Cobb, *Condor* 30:317-319.)

I have a record of a winter return from a distance of 84 miles by a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*) in November, 1933. Of course, November is not usually considered a winter month, but as these sparrows breed in Alaska and British Columbia (never, so far as is known, in California) I think we may call the following a winter return. I quote as follows from my record book:

"Twenty-eight Golden-crowned Sparrows were trapped at the University of California Botanical Gardens, Strawberry Canyon, near Berkeley, California, on November 7, 8, 9, 1933; kept in small cages in the Life Sciences Building on the university campus until the morning of November 10th. Miss Mary M. Erickson of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and I then placed the twenty-eight birds in paper cartons covered with mosquito netting, and drove in my car to a point on the North Fork of the Calaveras River, in Calaveras County, California, about two miles south of San Andreas. This is at an elevation of about 1,000 feet and is about 84 miles a little north of east from Berkeley. At this place Miss Erickson and I released the birds which immediately flew across the river to trees on the opposite bank. There are grass-covered hills on each side of the river, dotted with oaks and pines. In the river bottom are willows, and, near by, sycamores and other trees. We left Berkeley at 8.30 A.M., and released the birds the same day at 1 P.M." Here follows a list of the results of interest:

The records show that one of these Golden-crowned Sparrows, C102090, was recaptured by me on November 27th, seventeen days later, close to where it was first trapped. The same bird repeated in the same location several times during the next few months. This record is interesting because the bird presumably flew across north and south migration routes to its chosen wintering ground. I recaptured three more of these twenty-eight Golden-crowned Sparrows at the Botanical Gardens in September and October, 1934, after which time I ceased banding in Strawberry Canyon.—E. L. SUMNER, Menlo Park, California.

The Homing Instinct of Song Sparrows.¹—Although much is known of the migratory habits of many birds, and the tendency of some species to return to the same haunts year after year is familiar, yet we are still very ignorant of the mechanism of this ability, or indeed, of the degree to which given species possess it. During the past two years the author has carried on banding operations on a

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