

small scale in connection with a study of the blood parasites of birds (particularly the malarias), and it was observed that Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia melodia*) were not only caught repeatedly, but that they always returned to the particular location where the original capture was made (Manwell and Herman, *Bird-Banding*, 6:133-134). This was true even when other traps were in the line of flight, and the fact that the birds were always carried in closed containers made no difference with their ability to find their way back. This fact led the author to try liberating the birds at various points some distance from the city, and it was found that although they were always carried in closed containers, and were in several instances liberated at dusk when it was nearly dark, some of them were nevertheless able to find their way back to the point of original capture. The points at which the birds were released ranged from a mile and a half from the point of capture to thirty-five miles, and in several instances the same bird was liberated several times at different points and at different distances—sometimes in one direction from the city and sometimes in another. A summary follows:

Of a total number of thirty-two Song Sparrows captured during the spring of 1936 and liberated at Lyman Hall, Syracuse University, twelve were recaptured once, one three times, one six times, and one seven times. Four had been originally captured at the same location the previous year, and the bird (34-140217) which was recaptured six times this year had been captured five times in 1935. The bird (34-140209) which was recaptured seven times during the present year had been trapped eight times the previous spring. Three birds (34-140217, 34-140253, 34-140275) were liberated at a point nine miles east of the city and were recaptured two, three and twenty-one days later respectively at the point where they were originally taken (which is about one and a half miles from the University). These same birds had been on numerous other occasions liberated at the University. Another bird was liberated about two miles south of the city and was recaptured twelve hours later at the point where it was caught to begin with. One of the three birds just referred to (34-140217) was subsequently caught and taken to Chittenango, a village about fifteen miles east of Syracuse. After liberation there, it returned and was caught again at the original point of capture thirty-six hours later. It was then taken to Cortland, a city about thirty-five miles south of Syracuse, and released. It was again recaptured six days later. These experiments, though not carried out on many birds, show very definitely that Song Sparrows possess a strong homing instinct, and that the ability to return home cannot depend on a memory of things seen. Since some birds were caught many times and frequently, others a few times and more rarely, and still others only once (one was captured once in the spring of 1935 and once this spring) it is clear that this sense of locality varies greatly in different birds, and it is probable that some tend to range more widely than others.—REGINALD D. MANWELL.

**An Eastern Chipping Sparrow at Least Eight and One-half Years Old at Summerville, South Carolina.**—Eastern Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella p. passerina*) B37036, which was banded by me on March 27, 1928, at Summerville, was taken by me as a return for the fourth time on March 3, 1936. This bird was not taken in the winters of 1929, 1930, 1934, and 1935, and so can be called only a Return-4W. Its age, however, is evidently at least eight and one-half years, which is two years older than any other Chipping Sparrow I have taken. The bird appeared to be in good condition, and had no indication of having suffered from the foot disease which so often maims this species.—WILLIAM P. WHARTON, Groton, Massachusetts.

**A Black-capped Chickadee Victimized by the Eastern Cowbird.**—Dr. Herbert Friedmann reports a single case of the victimizing of the Black-capped Chickadee (*Penthestes a. atricapillus*) by the Eastern Cowbird (*Molothrus a. ater*) in his book "The Cowbirds" (1927), and points out that the specific identity of the Chickadee of that record is open to question.