

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.

On May 25, 1936 a Black-capped Chickadee's nest, containing four Chickadee eggs and two Cowbird's eggs, was found in a nesting box at the Austin Ornithological Research Station at North Eastham, Massachusetts. Chickadee 35-10224, banded here January 14, 1936, was trapped on the nest June 6th. On that date the Cowbird eggs hatched, and one of the Chickadee eggs was missing. Two Chickadees eggs hatched on June 8th, at which time one of the young Chickadees was found dead and the second was missing from the nest on June 10th. The remaining Chickadee eggs did not hatch. The young Cowbirds were banded June 13th, and removed to the laboratory for parasitological study on June 16th.

The opening in this box was one and one-half inches in diameter, much larger than the usual entrance to Chickadee nests, and ample to permit the intrusion of Cowbirds. The presence of the Cowbird eggs may account for the reduced clutch laid by the Chickadee.—FRED M. PACKARD, North Eastham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

RECENT LITERATURE

(Reviews by Margaret Morse Nice)

The articles have been selected and arranged under subjects of importance to students of the living bird, and also for the purpose of suggesting problems, or aspects of problems, to those banders who wish to make the most of their unique opportunities.

Headings in quotation marks are the exact titles of articles or literal translations of such titles. Except in the case of books, which are always reviewed under their titles, headings not in quotation marks refer to general subjects, or are abbreviated from titles in foreign languages. References to periodicals are given in italics.

BIRD-BANDING

"The 'British Birds'—Marking Scheme. Progress for 1935."—H. F. Witherby. 1936. *British Birds*, 29:339-344. During 1935, 46,430 birds were ringed in Great Britain, of which 16,066 were trapped, the rest being nestlings. The species that have been ringed in largest numbers since 1909 are: Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) 53,108; Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) 42,469; Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) 37,592; Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 34,243; Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*); 27,928; Chaffinch (*Fringilla crlebs*) 19,684; Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) 19,643; Redbreast (*Erithacus rubecula*) 17,008. Fourteen coöperators ringed from 1,007 to 5,205 birds in 1935, H. J. Moon's list being the largest. Dr. Moon's "total this year is the second largest he has ever done and is very remarkable in being made up of nestlings not to be found in colonies. His largest totals are Song-Thrush (1,262), Lapwing (970), Blackbird (877), Starling (379)."

Banding at Rossitten.¹ A summary of the varied phases of work of the Vogelwarte, both educational and scientific. During the past year 114,300 birds were ringed and 3000 recoveries and returns reported. An illustration is given of rings carried by five of the oldest banded birds, Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) of 21, 22, 23, almost 25, and 26 years old. The activity of this station and its coöperators is attested by the bibliography of fifty titles of articles published in 1935.

"Bird Banding."—1936. Bureau Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. Wildlife Research Leaflet BS-53. 5p. A brief account of banding in North America, telling of its history and methods, describing bands and traps, and concluding with a few words as to the value of the work. Nearly 2,250,000 birds have been banded on this continent.

"How a Small Banding Station Functions."²—M. Mountfort describes the pleasure and interest derived from trapping in his garden. In two years he has trapped nearly five hundred birds of thirty-eight species. He is gathering data on weights of birds and also on homing. Some individual Titmice are captured