gold mine, and before we quit we caught Vesper, Song, Savannah, Field, and White-crowned there, in addition to the Chippies.

The migration this year appeared no greater than last year. The increased total of almost 250 over 1935 can probably be accounted for by the discovery of the gravel pit, the use of Mason traps for Chipping Sparrows and the reasonably prompt elimination of chipmunks.

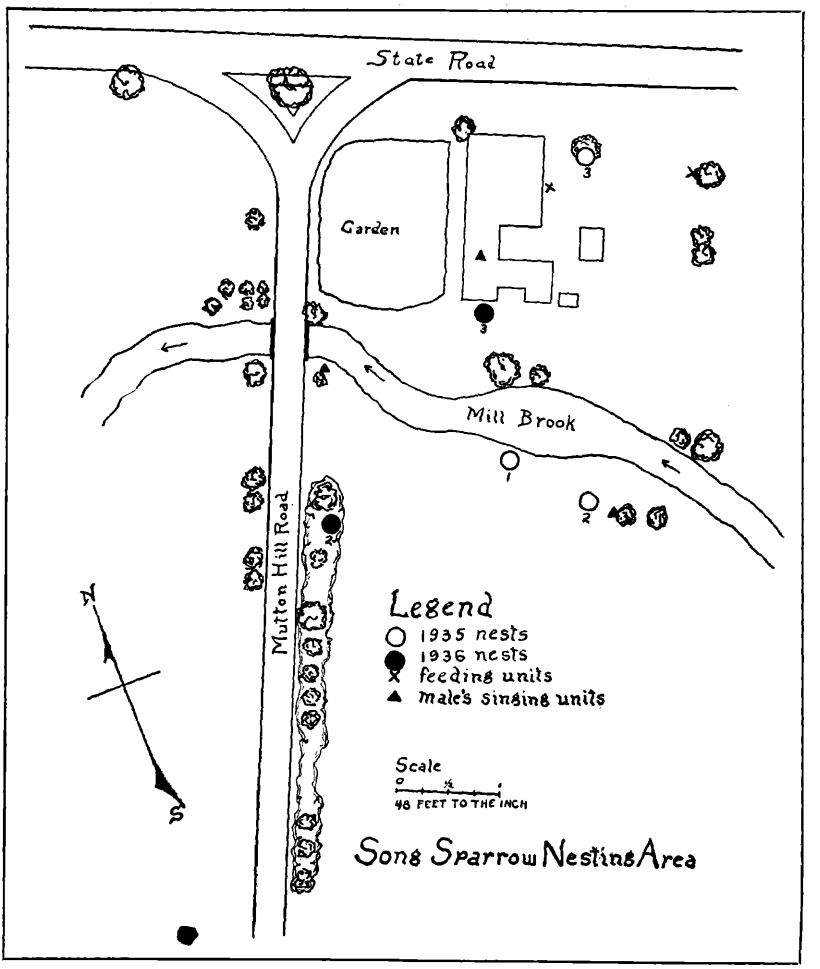
SONG SPARROWS F121239 AND 34-148621 MATES FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE NESTING SEASONS

By LEWIS O. SHELLEY

SONG SPARROWS (*Melospiza m. melodia*) were returning during the latter part of March, 1936. Among those trapped was the pair mated throughout the 1935 breeding season, and recorded in *Bird-Banding*, October, 1935, pp. 137–138. The male was caught in a flat trap on March 27th at 6.50 A.M., a return-3. The female, a return-1, was trapped on March 31st in an automatic trip-door trap at 6.30 A.M. She happened to be taken near the location later selected for her first season's nesting site. From nearly the first of their coming the two birds were distinguished from others of the species present by their actions, and therefore no particular attempt to trap them as repeats was made. They commenced coming to the yard on daily feeding trips, seeking doughnut at the piazza, and the elm feeding unit in the yard, continuing to do so throughout April and well into May.

The accompanying map shows the nest distribution during two nesting seasons. Open circles denote 1935 nests, with solid circles showing the 1936 nesting sites. The nesting territory is directly back of the house, with one (1935) exception. The male's two singing trees and a third singing perch, on the peak of the shed roof, are designated as singing units because of their noticeable commonest use, and are shown on the map as triangular marks. When the urge to sing overtook the male, it was noted repeatedly that he would mount to the nearest place he happened to be at the time. But when within seventy-five to one hundred feet of the occupied nesting site, he would fly to the nearest regular singing perch, which was most often one of the two sapling elm trees on the southern side of the brook. The shed roof was used as a singing perch, it seemed, chiefly because it happened to be the nearest one.

The first 1936 nest, as is commonly the case, was placed on the ground, this time in a tussock of coarse pasture grass, facing the side road and surrounded on the other three sides by a growth of black alder. On May 29th the young were heard calling and, from the parents' actions it was assumed that one or two young had



already left the nest. Three were in the nest, but left at my approach; they were caught and banded 35-127922-3-4. Having been replaced in the nest, two hours later they were again out of it, calling amid the alders. As in the former year, the second seasonal brood was not banded. The second nesting was in the hedgerow by the side road, a veritable tangle of shrub growth. The third brood also left the nest unbanded, on August 2d. The nest was not located until much later, due to its unique situation, which was eighteen inches from the ground atop a roll of chicken wire five

feet from a building back of the house; the walls of the nest were strongly supported by being constructed inside a growing ring of goldenrod stalks growing up through what became the walls of the nest. The situation was sheltered by coarse grasses and various plants, particularly wild asters, and close to the sheltering, overhanging branches of an elderberry bush.

East Westmoreland, New Hampshire.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE 1937 HERRING GULL STUDY

By JOSEPH J. HICKEY

As *Bird-Banding* goes to press, arrangements have been completed for the marking of over ten thousand fledgling Herring Gulls with colored celluloid bands. One very interesting and important modification of the original color scheme has been made at the suggestion of Harold S. Peters, newly appointed Atlantic Flyway Biologist of the Survey. By the simple addition of one more color among the celluloid bands, it will no longer be necessary for observers to determine whether bands are on a bird's right leg or left leg.

It is worth emphasizing that aluminum bands still constitute part of each color combination, and that the exact order of the bands on a bird's leg is still necessary in order to make a sight recovery. Thus a report that a bird carried "blue and red bands in addition to a Survey band" will be meaningless. "Aluminum over blue over red" will, however, indicate one colony, "Aluminum over red over blue" will indicate a different one. The three colors to be used on fledglings this year are blue, red and yellow. The few adult birds captured will receive an additional black band.

Banding operations will be carried on in the Great Lakes by W. I. Lyon; at the Razades Islands, Quebec, by Dr. D. A. Déry; at St. Mary Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence by Dr. H. F. Lewis; along the Labrador coast by Dr. A. O. Gross and H. S. Peters; at Bonaventure Island by W. M. Duval; at Kent's Island, New Brunswick, by W. A. O. Gross; on the Heron Islands, Maine, by S. Hyde; in Muscongus Bay, Maine, by A. D. Cruickshank; on the Isles of Shoals, New Hampshire, by L. O. Shelley; at Penikese Island, Massachusetts, by C. B. Floyd and L. B. Fletcher; and at Wicopesset Island, New York—the Herring Gull's southernmost breeding point on the Atlantic coast—by W. C. O'Brien.

All reports of recoveries should be sent to "Gull Survey," American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.