

**SNOW BUNTING.** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

B80275, banded at McMillan, Luce County, Mich., on February 28, 1929, by Oscar M. Bryens, was retrapped at the same place January 21, 1931, February 19, 1933, and January 20, 1934.  
L73527, banded at McMillan, Mich., on February 22, 1934, by Oscar M. Bryens, was retrapped at same place February 3, 1936, January 27, 1933, and February 15, 1941.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

**GENERAL NOTES**

**Sex Ratio in Oklahoma Tree Sparrows** (*Spizella arborea*).—Several years ago I submitted partial evidence (Heydweiller, 1935 and 1936) for the theory that Tree Sparrows segregate in winter, with the female range somewhat farther south than the male. This postulation was based on large series of birds collected at Ithaca, New York, Indianapolis, Indiana, and some two hundred Kansas specimens loaned by the Museum of Zoology at Lawrence, Kansas. Thus I had material from the northern and central parts of their range.

Three years ago we moved to Oklahoma, reasonably near the southern extension of Tree Sparrow range. Between affairs purely domestic I have tried to check the truth of this theory, with results both puzzling and highly satisfactory.

Specimens collected during the winter 1940-1941, when Tree Sparrows were the most abundant winter bird in the Stillwater area, were in precisely the reverse of the sex ratio at Ithaca, New York, and consequently in complete accord with my theory. The original table can now be completed as follows:

Part of Range of Species	Locality	No. of Winter	
		Males	Females
North	New York State (Chiefly from Ithaca, personal collection, 1933-1935) . . . . .	102	31
Central	Indiana (Indianapolis, col. Jan. 1935, dissected by A. M. H.) . . . . .	16	22
South Central	Kansas (U. S. Biol. Surv. and University of Kansas collections) . . . . .	185	158
South	Oklahoma (Stillwater, personal collection, 1940-1941) . . . . .	31	78

The 1939-1940 collection, however, was highly puzzling, and I submit the following unanswered problems for what they are worth. During this winter Tree Sparrows were relatively infrequent in the Stillwater area. In spite of a vigorous campaign to collect them in quantity, only 39 were bagged the entire season, yielding the disconcerting ratio of 28 males (72%) and 11 females (28%). While these figures were too meager to consider representative, the proportions throughout the season remained too consistently in favor of the males to ignore.

One explanation that sounded plausible was that the bulk of the Tree Sparrows might have travelled farther south that year, an excessively severe winter in Oklahoma, giving this state the sex proportions usually found in the northern states. To test this postulation a table was made of Tree Sparrow records in the Bird Lore Christmas Censuses from 1936 through 1941, covering the two tiers of states immediately west of the Mississippi. However subject to variables in man hours, weather, and possible inaccuracies, these records still indicated unquestionably that the center of Tree Sparrow abundance in 1939-1940 occurred at the Iowa and Kansas level, with unprecedented numbers at every station and sub-normal figures to the extreme north and south. During the following winter (1940-1941) they seem to have distributed themselves more evenly, with sharp

declines in the central states and reasonable abundance both north and south. Thus the figures completely upset explanation one.

Another possibility is that males may be more conspicuous, perching higher and in more vulnerable positions, so that in a lean year the numbers collected would be out of all proportion to the actual sex ratio.

Other suggestions are also welcome. Whatever the explanation for that first winter, the figures during the second (1940-1941) adequately substantiate my original theory: that Tree Sparrows segregate in winter, with the bulk of the female population farther south than the male.

## LITERATURE CITED

- HEYDWEILLER, A. MARGUERITE. 1935. A comparison of winter and summer territories and seasonal variations of the tree sparrow. *Bird-Banding* 6(1): 8-9.  
1936. Sex, age and individual variation of winter tree sparrows. *Bird-Banding*. 7(2): 66-67.  
—A. Marguerite Baumgartner, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

**A Case of Reversed Migration.**—Eastern Song Sparrow (*Melospiza m. melodia*) No. 39-168058, banded at Wells River, Vermont on April 16, 1939 was killed by a cat at East Jaffrey, N. H. on June 19, 1939 as reported by T. I. Urquhart. East Jaffrey is approximately 90 miles south of Wells River.

Observers have frequently noted reversed movement in correlation with unseasonable weather. In this case there were no snow storms following the date of banding nor periods of unusually low temperatures but the average temperature for April, 1939 was below that of a ten-year period by 4.98 degrees while the May average for the same year was 3.01 degrees lower than that of the longer period.—WENDELL P. SMITH, Wells River, Vermont.

**A White-crowned Sparrow Recovery.**—White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia l. leucophrys*) No. 39-168082 banded at Wells River, Vermont on May 20, 1939 was retaken on January 7, 1942 at Marmaduke, Arkansas, by M. Öbbards.—WENDELL P. SMITH, Wells River, Vermont.

**Return of a Banded Cripple.**—In trapping sparrows on the roof of McGilvrey Hall on the campus of Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, the writer captured a male English sparrow, *Passer domesticus domesticus* L., which had the left leg broken off at the end of the tibia. The bird was trapped on June 15, 1941, in an ordinary sparrow trap with five other English Sparrows and was banded with Biol. Surv. band 136169. In the trap the crippled bird seemed to get around and feed without difficulty and to compete successfully with the other birds. The following spring this crippled bird returned, and was found dead in the trap on May 14, 1942, eleven months after being released.—RALPH W. DEXTER, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

**Returns from Banded Birds.**—The following returns have been selected as of special interest from among 92 returns covering seventeen species which I reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the fiscal year 1941-1942.

38-215844. Brown Thrasher. Adult. Banded August 31, 1938. Return (1) June 18, 1940; (2) June 15, 1941; (3) April 29, 1942. At least 5 years old.

39-167142. Wood Thrush. Adult. Banded May 20, 1939. Return (1) May 6, 1942. At least 4 years old.

38-213134. Starling. Adult male. Banded May 14, 1938. Return (1) May 15, 1942. At least 5 years old.

37-324740. Purple Grackle. Adult. Banded May 20, 1938. Return (1) May 14, 1938; (2) May 17, 1942. At least 5 years old.