

Some Song Sparrow Returns Banded at Ardmore, Pa.—During a ten-year period, May, 1937, to May, 1947, a total of 466 Eastern Song Sparrows, *Melospiza m. melodia*, were banded. Of this number, 236 were adults when banded, and 230 were immatures. All immatures were independent when trapped and none banded from the nest. Sex determination was made by wing measurement with dividers, following the method used by Mrs. Margaret M. Nice. Birds with wing measurements of 63 mm. or under were determined to be females, and birds with wing measurements of 65 mm. or over were determined to be males. The wings of 380 Song Sparrows were measured, but only 317 were determined as to sex, and the balance of 63 birds were left undetermined, since their wing measurements ranged between 63 and 65 mm. Of the 317 birds determined as to sex, 128 were males (94 adults and 34 immatures), and 189 were females (86 adults and 103 immatures).

Of the total 466 Song Sparrows banded, 27 individuals, or 5.8 per cent, returned and were retrapped at Ardmore. Twenty-one of these 27 returning birds were adults when banded (15 males, 5 females and 1 undetermined as to sex), and represented 9 per cent of 236 adults banded. The remaining six returns were immatures when banded (3 males, 1 female and 2 undetermined), and represented 2.6 per cent of the 230 immatures banded.

Seventeen of the 21 adult returns were again trapped at Ardmore the following year. Then they were at least two years old. Six of these adult birds returned again a second year, when they were at least three years old, and one of these six adults, a male, was recaptured each year for three years, so that he was at least four years old at his last return.

Another adult male was not recaptured at Ardmore until two years after banding, at which time he was at least three years old; and still another adult male banded in April, 1943, came back the following year in April, 1944, and then he was not recaptured again until four years later in June, 1948, when he was at least six years old. Of the six immature Song Sparrows that returned to Ardmore (3 males, 1 female and 2 not determined as to sex), three of them were retrapped the following year after banding. One immature female came back two years after banding. Another immature male banded at Ardmore July, 1942, was found dead nearly three years later, April, 1945, at Haverford, Pa., about one mile from Ardmore, and therefore is a return bird three years old. An immature male banded July, 1942, returned the following year, and then he was not recaptured again until two years later in 1945; and in June, 1946, he returned again for the third time, at which time he was four years old. Still another immature male banded at Ardmore August, 1940, was not again retrapped until nearly three years later in May, 1943, and then he was captured again two years later, May, 1945, and once more, a year later in April, 1946, so this bird which was a youngster when banded, was six years old when last captured at Ardmore. The 27 individual Song Sparrows that returned to the Ardmore banding station made a total of 41 returns to the station where they were banded.—Horace Groskin, Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pa.

Mason banding trap modified to fit window shelf.—Highly satisfactory experience with the hardware cloth banding traps developed by Edwin A. Mason (now of Arcadia Sanctuary, Northampton, Mass.) led me to experiment with a version of the trap for use on rather small feeding shelves. The third experimental trap was successful, and details of its construction may be of interest since it does not represent a simple reduction in all dimensions. The essence of the Mason design is the inverted "L" type funnel, with entrances on each of the long sides of the trap, and an obstacle in the middle to prevent birds going through from one end of the funnel to the other. Normal length of the trap is 30" to 36", with the funnel openings about 2½" square (so that the funnel sides and overhang both measure 2½"). As modified, the trap is 15" long, 10" wide, and 8" high, with only one opening to the funnel. The upper arm of the inverted

"L" is shortened to $\frac{1}{2}$ " bent upwards at an angle of 40 degrees. Apart from holding fewer birds, this design seems as effective as the large Mason, having caught up to five tree sparrows at once. Compared to such small automatic traps as the single-cell Potter, it has the advantage of taking many more birds; it has the disadvantage of requiring a gathering cage, and the location and size of the shelf where it is to be used may determine whether the design will be useful at a given banding station. Dimensions might be reduced another inch in length, width and height if necessary. While the 8" height has the incidental advantage of affording more space inside a trap covering a small area, it was designed to accommodate a weatherproof hopper made of a quart Mason jar, of the type with a two-part lid. The rim of the lid is bolted to the shelf through pieces of wood, $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick and arranged in a V with the opening toward the main part of the shelf. The jar may then be screwed into the rim, upside down, and readily removed for refilling. The center insert in the lid is not used.—E. A. Bergstrom, 233 Ridgewood Road, West Hartford 7, Connecticut.

RECENT LITERATURE

Reviews by Donald S. Farner and others

BANDING

(See also Numbers 28 and 31.)

1. The Activities of the Ornithological Station at Ottenby (Sweden). (Verksamheten vid Ottenby fagelstation 1947.) Gunnar Svårdson. 1948. *Vår Fagelvärld*, 7(1):25-44. Included in this paper is a table of observations on the migratory movements (15 June to 18 November) for 126 species. During 1947, 3780 birds of 164 species were banded. Most frequently banded were the European Robin, *Erithacus rubecula* (Linnaeus) 518; the Swift, *Apus apus* (Linnaeus) 393; and the White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba* Linnaeus. Fourteen recoveries of birds banded previously are listed. A White Wagtail, banded 11 September 1947, was recovered in Turkey 13 October 1947. A Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola* (Linnaeus), was banded 24 July 1947 as a juvenal and recovered in Italy 15 August 1947. A Godwit, *Limosa lapponica* (Linnaeus), banded as a juvenal 17 September 1946, was found dead in Spain 1 November 1946.—D. S. F.

2. Recovery in the Netherlands of Birds Banded in Foreign Countries. (Terugvondsten van in het buitenland geringde vogels, 21). C. G. B. ten Kate. 1948. *Limosa*, 21(1): 23-27. Fifty-two recoveries in the Netherlands of birds banded in other countries are recorded. Among the interesting records are those of a Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos* Linnaeus, banded in Abbotsburg, Dorset, England as an adult 26 December 1938 and recovered at Biesbosch in fall of 1946; and five Teal, *Anas crecca* Linnaeus, banded in England in fall or winter and recovered in fall or winter in subsequent years in the Netherlands.—D. S. F.

3. Annual Report of the Ockenburgh (Netherlands) Banding Station for 1947. (Jaarverslag 1947 van het Ringstation "Ockenburgh.") M. J. Tekke. 1948. *Limosa*, 21(1): 19-21. During the year reports were received on 27 birds banded at this station and recovered elsewhere; four birds banded elsewhere in the Netherlands were trapped during the year. Banding activities resulted in the marking of 2100 individuals of 41 species. Those banded most abundantly were the Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris* Linnaeus, 727; the Chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs* Linnaeus, 413; the Linnet, *Carduelis cannabina* (Linnaeus) 262; and the Siskin, *Carduelis spinus* (Linnaeus), 253.—D. S. F.