

## WHITE-THROATED SPARROW BREEDING IN BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS\*

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The A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds (1957) gives the southernmost breeding range of the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) in New England as "northwestern Connecticut (Litchfield), southern New Hampshire (Mount Monadnock), and Massachusetts". Griscom and Snyder (1955) further define the breeding range of this species in Massachusetts as, "regular and common summer resident in the higher hills inland, east to hills of Worcester County, and casually eastward at lower elevations (Wakefield and Framingham) with numerous records of summering but non-breeding birds". Earlier investigators (Samuels, 1870, and Stearns, 1881) noted that White-throated Sparrows sometimes bred in swamps in New England.

A search of *Audubon Field Notes* for the years 1948-1963 disclosed three southern extensions of the breeding range of the White-throated Sparrow in the central part of the continent as well as numerous records of singing males during the summer in areas far south of their known breeding range [i.e. southern Indiana (Mayfield, 1951), Alabama (Newman and Warter, 1959; Imhoff, 1960), Missouri (Graber, 1962), and Maryland (Scott and Potter, 1959; Scott and Cutler, 1963)].

The first breeding record for Lapeer County, Michigan, established 12 June 1955 when a nest with four young was found, was probably the southernmost breeding record for that state (Gunderson, 1955). The first breeding record for Anoka County in Minnesota was at least 100 miles south of previous records and was established 27 July 1956 when a nest was found (Gunderson, 1956). That same year White-throated Sparrows bred in the Brockville area of Ontario "farther south than is usual" (Gunderson, 1956).

The 1959 breeding record of the White-throated Sparrow in Milton, near Boston, (Forbes and O'Regan, 1960) was apparently the first published record for eastern coastal Massachusetts. The first Rhode Island nesting record for this species was recorded in 1962 when a nest containing two eggs was found in a swampy area in West Greenwich (Champlin, 1962).

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In 1963 the White-throated Sparrow was found breeding in Pine Swamp in Raynham, (Bristol County) Massachusetts, twenty miles south of Milton and approximately 40 miles northeast of West Greenwich, Rhode Island. Pine Swamp, the nesting site, contains 658 acres, is 55 feet above sea level, and is primarily a red maple-white cedar swamp (*Acer rubrum* and *Chamaecyparis thycides*) with scattered areas of blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), and clethra (*Clethra alnifolia*).

In May and June of both 1961 and 1962 a singing White-throated Sparrow was heard in Pine Swamp. On 26 July 1962 a female White-throated Sparrow with a brood patch was netted and banded in Pine Swamp and on 2 August 1962 an immature, recently fledged, was also netted and banded at the same site.

On 14 May 1963 a pair of White-throated Sparrows was netted and banded in this same swamp. On 17 June 1963 the female was retaken, a male was heard singing nearby, and the nest, containing 4 well-feathered young, was found located in a depression in a hummock of moss and leaves under a clethra shrub in a stand of red maple. Two of these young birds were banded a few days later.

These breeding records from swamps in Rhode Island and Bristol County, Massachusetts, may indicate breeding range extensions southward. More probably, they reflect more thorough field work in relatively inaccessible areas.

#### SUMMARY

The White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicolis*) was found breeding, June 1963, in Pine Swamp in Raynham, (Bristol County) Massachusetts. This is the second published record of White-throated Sparrows breeding in eastern Massachusetts. Previous observations of breeding in this area were recorded in Milton, Massachusetts, and Greenwich, Rhode Island. This breeding record probably reflects more thorough field work in relatively inaccessible areas rather than a true extension of breeding range.

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## LONGEVITY RECORDS OF SOME CENTRAL PACIFIC SEABIRDS

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During extensive field work in the Central Pacific from 1963 through 1965 personnel of the Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program of the Smithsonian Institution recaptured a number of seabirds banded by earlier workers. Some of these recoveries involve species for which there are no published longevity records (e.g., Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*), Red-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon rubricauda*), and Blue-faced Booby (*Sula dactylatra*); other recoveries corroborate or extend data obtained by other workers (e.g., Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*), Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*)).

Most of the recoveries were of birds banded either on Howland Island or at Ulupau Head, Mokapu Point, Oahu, by George C. Munro, a pioneer in Hawaiian ornithology, or by individuals cooperating with him. Several other records are recoveries of birds banded by the Denver Wildlife Research Center on Sand and Eastern Islands, Midway Atoll.

These longevity records are presented in Table 1, and their significance is discussed below.

### Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*)

Rydzewski (1963) noted that the longevity record for Laysan Albatross was 7 years 8 months, but an earlier reference (Rice, 1959) listed no less than seventeen birds between eight and twenty-one