

their labors. Most of their hunting was done in the cooler parts of the day—in the morning and evening. About sundown they would come trooping back, in long straggling lines. During the hotter part of the day the gulls were far aloft, sometimes getting so high up in the sky that they became merely faint specks which one could see only as they turned in the soaring and their white plumage glinted in the sunlight. In other years when they have been in abundance later in the season I have seen the air for miles fairly alive with these soaring specks. The beneficial character of the gulls is well understood hereabouts and everyone is their friend.—WALTER E. LEWIS, *Gate, Okla.*

Bird Groups During Migration.—Do birds preserve the family colony and the neighborhood group when migrating? In the late summer and early fall it is usual to see the birds mobilizing for the journey south. The Yellow-breasted Chat, the Catbird, the Brown Thrasher, the orioles, the flycatchers, and some others are usually found in family groups. The Robin and to some extent the Bluebird, the Meadowlark, and the Sparrows are usually found in neighborhood groups. The Vesper, Field and Chipping Sparrow population of a farm, or of several adjacent farms, form a neighborhood group and use a common feeding ground until they leave for the south. Some days, during the high tide of migration, their territory may be over-run with groups of migrant sparrows, but little coalescence is noted in the groups as they feed and rest in the stubble fields and thicket borders. The Chipping Sparrows sometimes may join with a company of migrant Kinglets. The Meadowlarks mobilize in some grassy meadow or pasture for the late summer molt. They are not much in evidence, and will only take to wing to escape some danger. But, with the completion of the molt, they are again active and roam over considerable territory.

In central Ohio the breeding Song Sparrows do not seem to migrate in any noticeable numbers, and I am persuaded that many of them have never traveled a mile from their home environment. In some favorable association on the farm they nest and rear their young, and we see them in that association every day throughout the year. During the fall, and yet more often in the spring migration, I have observed groups of migrant Song Sparrows feeding near their home. The local birds do not coalesce with these groups, but keep on the outskirts. When the migrants are disturbed they usually fly to an adjacent field or thicket, and just as quickly the local birds fly to their accustomed cover and hiding places.

The Fox, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows come to us as migrants, in companies of six to one hundred. The Fox Sparrow affords the best opportunity for a study of the migrant group. They are usually present in greater numbers, and their manner of feeding in the open woods makes the observation of them easy. A few warm days and nights in middle March brings waves of them, and if they are checked by a north wind, they stay until the next favorable weather. There may be hundreds of these birds in a wood lot, but the group outlines can be clearly drawn and the organization is held intact. These groups work in lines with the individual birds close enough, so the whole body of leaves is moved. The line is often zig-zag; one group that is more energetic or does not have so many leaves to move, may get ahead of their neighbors. The Robins work the woods the same way but use their bills to move the leaves.—CHARLES R. WALLACE, *Delaware, Ohio.*