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GENERAL NOTES

Notes on Eastern Song Sparrow Repeats.—While carrying on a survey of the incidence of blood-parasites in the birds of the Syracuse region we obtained some interesting results with banded Eastern Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia melodia*). With one exception (34-140209 was released on April 22, 1935, at station D) all the birds were released at the laboratory. When first captured about two hundred fifty milligrams of blood were removed from each bird (for sub-inoculation into canaries for further study of malaria parasites), and they were in captivity for several hours. At each subsequent capture a blood-smear was made, and the bird was usually released within an hour after capture. The fact that the birds were repeatedly recaptured shows that they suffered no ill effects or fright from the removal of a sample of their blood.

During the course of this work three trapping stations were in operation; both drop traps and the simple Government funnel-type sparrow-trap were used. Station A and C were located in back yards of a densely populated residential section, A one block north of the laboratory, C one block east of the laboratory. A vacant lot with much undergrowth adjoins Station A, while Station C is entirely surrounded by residences. Station B was located about a mile and a half east of the laboratory at the edge of a residential section adjoining fields and open woods. Although the direct line of flight to Station B is over Station C, no Song Sparrows were trapped at the latter location.

Of the eight Song Sparrows banded from Station A, one repeated once while another returned four times after the original capture. Of the twenty-four Song Sparrows banded from Station B, six repeated once, while three others returned at least three times, 34-140209 returning seven times during six weeks.

Although Stations A and C were so close to each other and to the laboratory and Station C on the direct line of flight to Station B, no birds were captured at any except the trapping station of original capture. This, added to the fact that the birds were able to find their way back to the traps a mile and a half from the laboratory, tends to show that the individual birds are very specifically localized in habits. That the birds were able to find their way back to their original localities when released at a distance away is not an entirely new phenomenon to bird-banders. Several workers have reported such experiments, and in a recent number of *Bird-Banding* (Vol. VI, No. 1, Jan., 1935) Heydweiller reported that Tree Sparrows (*Spizella a. arborea*) returned to the original trapping stations when released as much as ten miles away. The homing instinct of these birds is a problem interesting to ponder over, and bird-banders might well investigate it further with other species to find if it is universal among birds and so shed more light on this question. A table giving a summary of the repeats follows.

SUMMARY OF SONG SPARROW REPEATS

Bird	Date Banded	Place	Repeats: 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34-136516	April 10	A	April 24	A					
34-136517	April 26	A	May 8	A	May 10	A	May 13	A	A ¹
34-140201	April 2	B	April 9	B					
34-140204	April 4	B	April 11	B					
34-140207	April 5	B	April 13	B					
34-140209	April 6	B	April 9	B	April 16	B	April 22	B ²	April 23
34-140214	April 9	B	May 15	B	May 16	B	May 18	B	
34-140217	April 13	B	April 28	B	May 3	B	May 11	B	May 15
34-140219	April 22	B	April 25	B			May 15	B	May 18
34-136522	May 7	B	May 11	B					
34-140224	May 14	B	May 18	B					

¹ 1 hour, 15 minutes after released.² Released at station D about two miles southeast of station B, where a funnel trap was operated.³ Released at laboratory.

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Some Age-Records of Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Red-eyed Towhees, White-throated Sparrows, and Song Sparrows.—At my banding station in Waynesville, North Carolina, I have secured data in the ages of several species of birds by means of returns, the details of which follow:

AGE-RECORDS

CATBIRD

(Dumetella carolinensis)

Adult ♀ 242056, banded July 7, 1924.	Age
Return 1—April 25, 1925.	
Return 2—June 12, 1936.	
Return 3—May 29, 1927.	
Return 4—April 29, 1928.	
Return 5—June 4, 1929.	
Return 6—May 25, 1930.	Seven years.
Adult ♂ 425268, banded July 2, 1926.	
Return 1—May 3, 1927.	
Return 2—April 24, 1928.	
Return 3—April 26, 1929.	
Return 4—April 26, 1930.	
Return 5—May 12, 1931.	
Return 6—April 22, 1932.	Seven years.

BROWN THRASHER

(Toxostoma rufum)

Adult ♂ 342132, banded June 23, 1925.	
Return 1—May 3, 1926.	
Return 2—April 22, 1927.	
Return 3—March 31, 1928.	
Return 4—April 6, 1929.	
Return 5—April 11, 1930.	
Return 6—April 12, 1931.	
Return 7—June 6, 1932.	
Return 8—June 15, 1933.	Nine years.
Adult ♀ 461076, banded August 19, 1926.	
Return 1—June 21, 1929.	
Return 2—April 25, 1930.	
Return 3—June 9, 1931.	
Return 4—June 8, 1932.	
Return 5—April 26, 1934.	
Return 6—May 22, 1935.	Ten years.

RED-EYED TOWHEE

(Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus)

Adult ♂ 239505, banded May 1, 1924.	
Return 1—April 20, 1925.	
Return 2—May 1, 1926.	
Return 3—June 21, 1927.	Four years.
Adult ♂ 238831, banded April 12, 1925.	
Return 1—March 30, 1928.	
Return 2—April 28, 1930.	Six years.