analysis is not difficult in the forms in which most bird-watchers need it, not nearly so difficult as learning to type, or to speak French, or to climb trees. It involves merely simple addition and multiplication and knowledge of what formula to use, the last, of course, being the tricky point, but there are several simple books written for those with no previous knowledge of statistics and with no special ability in mathematics. Just as you can switch on the light without any knowledge of electricity, so you can use statistical tests without knowing why they work; but you must know the right switch. . . .

BANDING SEASIDE SPARROWS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

By Oliver L. Austin, Jr.

Bay Point Island and adjoining St. Phillips Island are typical coastal salt-marsh islets some 15 square miles in extent lying due south of Beaufort and across Port Royal Sound from Hilton Head, South Carolina. Their vegetative cover of Spartina, Juncus, Paspalum, and Sporobolus supports a scattered and apparently resident population of Seaside Sparrow Ammospiza maritima macgillivraii.

The spring tides at the full of the moon sometimes completely flood these marshy islands, except for one little "hammock" off Morse Island Creek, on which my friend Beekman L. Webb, Jr. of Beaufort has a small fishing camp. The hammock contains about 3 acres of sandy upland covered thickly with groundsel and wax myrtle, among which stand 6 palmettos, 4 scrub oaks, 3 little red cedars, and 2 stunted pines. And here for the short time the surrounding marshes are inundated, all the Seaside Sparrows in the area take refuge.

Beek took me out there in his outboard whaler during the spring tides of November 21, 1964. During an exceedingly busy hour at high tide we caught with six mist nets and banded 120 Seasides, all typical macgillivrai. I was unable to return to Beaufort and the islands again until almost a year later, on the tides of November 6, 1965. The tide was not so high that morning as it had been the previous year, and it did not force so many birds in. Likewise a stiff northwest wind made netting difficult. Nevertheless during the half hour the tide was at its fullest, Beek and I managed to net 34 Seasides. To our delight 10 of these, or almost one-third, were birds we had banded there the year before. To the best of my knowledge these are the first returns on record for this population.

Seaside Sparrows are so easy to net in quantity when spring tides force them to congregate in such islet refuges, I am surprised that no bander within easier reach than I am of their coastal habitat has turned his attention to them. So little is known of the seasonal movements of the various Seaside populations that studying them through intensive banding would certainly produce rewarding results in a comparatively short time.

Dr. Sonenshine, who flew up from Norfolk, Va., to speak on the annual meeting program, was able to stay for part of the afternoon session and give more explicit directions for participation in the tick program. This is a very meaningful program, and many of you looking for a worthwhile project may find this one practical.

Scope of the project in terms of the bander's time: Dr. Sonenshine requests that examination be made of all birds captured for ticks. This will add about four or five minutes per bird to your handling time. Obviously, the more birds you band the more time the project will take.

Equipment:
A 10X lens will be needed in searching for ticks, which are minute when not swollen with blood. Since both hands are needed for the examination and removal of ticks, it is recommended that a jeweler's loupe be used.

Forceps are needed to extract the ticks. It is very important that the head remain on the tick as it must be alive on arrival at its destination, so great care must be taken. Dexterous people are able to use forceps from dissecting kits. If these are not adequate, then more expensive forceps will give better control. This appears to be up to the individual to determine.

Examination: The head and neck region of the bird should be thoroughly examined. Don't forget the ears.

Use of Vials: Put all the ticks from one bird and one bird only into a vial. Label the vial with band number, date, species, age and sex if known, your name, and location where bird was banded. Moisten the plaster-charcoal mixture at the bottom of the vial by standing the tube in some water.

Vials may be obtained from Dr. Daniel Sonenshine, Old Dominion College, Norfolk, Va. 23508.

Your cooperation in this project would be valuable to medical research as well as ornithology.

Editor's note: It seems to us that, in order to obviate the possibility of ticks transferring from one bird to another, multiple cell gathering cages should not be used. Members writing to Dr. Sonenshine for vials might ask for his decision on this.