

**How many times does a Song Sparrow sing one song?**—On my arrival at Duneside Inn, Chesterton, Indiana, June 24, 1944, I found a male *Melospiza melodia* that had not been present on my earlier visit in late May. This bird was unmated and sang persistently in the vicinity of my cottage. Some of his songs were striking and it was soon evident that he changed from one to another more frequently than had the two Song Sparrows that I had studied most in Ohio. Hoping to find in this singer a bird with a larger repertoire than I had observed before, I learned his songs by heart, discovering that he had ten (only one more than 4M, one of my Ohio birds). I got a full record of all songs for four hours (12:50–4:50 C. S. T.) on the afternoon of June 27 and for half an hour (8:52–9:22) on the morning of June 29; records of the series given were obtained from 4:45–5:45 a. m. on June 27 and 8–9 a. m. on June 28.

The four afternoon hours compare well with the "uninhibited singing" of the Ohio birds as shown in Table XIII (Nice, M. M., Trans. Linnaean Soc. N. Y., 6: 121, 1943); there were 122 songs in 19 series, an average of 4.8 series per hour, 6.7 songs per series, and 30 songs an hour. The three morning records, however, showed that his "highly stimulated" singing differed from that of 1M, 4M and 10M, that averaged 11.5 series per hour; for on June 27 there were 21 series in the hour and the next day 20 series, with 10 series in the half hour on the third morning. This pattern resembles that of 187M that averaged 20.5 series in four hours in March, 1934. (I did not get a chance to check this bird later as he disappeared in early April; I thought the shortness of his series might be due to his youth for he was less than a year old.)

As to length of series, on June 27, ten series of the Indiana male averaged 9.2 songs, and ten on the 29th, 11.2 songs, in contrast to the three Ohio birds of Table XIII that averaged 20.5 songs per series in the highly stimulated state. On June 29, the whole repertoire of ten songs was gone through in the half hour, but the day before four songs were repeated before the repertoire was completed. The longest series on June 27 reached 18 songs; on June 29, 23 songs. The longest series I ever recorded from 1M was 58 songs; from 4M, 72. When singing steadily the Indiana bird averaged four songs a minute; the Ohio birds averaged about five. Two of the Indiana songs had two versions; one varied in the middle portion, one in the last. It is clear that with this bird each song held the field for a shorter period than had been true with three of four birds in Ohio—some three minutes in the highly stimulated state with the former, five with the latter. This is an easy matter to check when a Song Sparrow is singing steadily; an hour's observation will give the total number of songs and the number of series, since the change from one song to another is striking.

May I call attention to two errors in the above-mentioned Table XIII? In lines 3 and 4, the four instances of "songs per hour" should be omitted; in the last two columns, "6 231" (directly under "34 20.5") should be omitted. Another error which calls for correction occurs in Table V on p. 70; "Group V" should be inserted above "Alaudidae."—MARGARET M. NICE, *Chicago, Ill.*

**Cowbirds anting.**—At 6:30 a. m. C. S. T., June 28, 1944, I was watching two *Molothrus ater* feeding on the lawn at Duneside Inn, Chesterton, Indiana, when I noticed the female holding her wings out from her body and apparently preening them. Suddenly I realized that for the first time I was witnessing anting by a wild bird. Quickly and unobtrusively she ran her bill along the outer primary of first one wing, then the other, but her tail was not drawn forward as in typical anting, as seen in Ivor's birds (*Auk* 60: 51–55, 1943) and in my Song Sparrows and Bobolink. After going through this performance some half-dozen times in different places in an