

any of the food, for, a moment later, both birds darted to their nest where both participated in feeding their young.

Lack, in his review of avian courtship feeding (Auk, 57: 169-178, 1940) cited no instance of any bird feeding its mate in the post-incubation period. It is possible, however, that the males of a good many species, which habitually feed the females on the nest during incubation, also feed them occasionally both on the nest and off the nest after incubation is completed. Post-incubation feeding, when accompanied by begging on the part of the female, may indicate that the birds are preparing to nest a second time. Putnam has reported such behavior by Cedar Waxwings, *Bombycilla cedrorum*, between consecutive nestings (Wilson Bull., 61: 172, 1949). On the other hand, Brackbill's account of a pair of Black-capped Chickadees, *Parus atricapillus*, which engaged in off-the-nest, post-incubation feeding makes no mention of a second nesting (Auk, 66: 290-292, 1949).

There is no other record, so far as my knowledge goes, of unquestioned courtship feeding by the Pine Grosbeak. The European subspecies, *P. e. enucleator*, is included in Lack's list of courtship feeders on the basis of a brief entry in "The Handbook of British Birds" (Witherby et al, 1938: 91): "Incubation.—By hen alone, fed by cock." Obviously, on-the-nest feeding during incubation is to be classified doubtfully as true courtship feeding.—FRANK C. CROSS, 9413 Second Ave., Silver Spring, Maryland.

A Sick Tree Sparrow, *Spizella a. arborea*.—On January 4, 1948, began the greatest influx of Eastern Tree Sparrows we have ever experienced. These birds came in around our banding station in ever increasing flocks as the ground for weeks was continuously covered with snow. Temperatures remained low and at no time rose above freezing until February 25 when the first thaw came. In less than two months, 182 individuals of this species were banded; due to deep snow they were very hungry, easily trapped and many repeats (2057 in all) were made.

On January 22, Tree Sparrow No. 47-173326 was banded. This bird started repeating often in the traps from the day of banding; during the first four weeks nothing unusual was noted but its constant visits gave us the opportunity of close daily observation. On February 16 we noted its tail was missing; three days later new feathers were showing and in three weeks the complete tail was grown. When tail growth was less than half completed we found this bird in the traps and it appeared nearly double its normal size.

It was suffering with an air puff or subcutaneous emphysema, the skin being separated from the flesh by an air space over most of the body, the neck, and the top of the head. I punctured the skin with a needle and the pressure was partly relieved. The next day the bird was again under high pressure; two punctures were made and most of the air pressed out with the fingers.

For the next three days some air was noted under the skin but, as the space was not filled out too severely and the bird seemed in no immediate distress, no punctures were made. We now noted that tail growth was completed during the first stages of the disease. The following day the air space was blown up higher than at any previous time and it seemed that drastic measures were necessary. I sterilized the small blade of a knife and an incision a quarter of an inch in length was made in the skin of neck. This released all the air and the bird was of normal size again.

During the seven days of illness, this bird was in the traps four or five times daily and apparently had a normal appetite. The last few days of February brought milder temperatures and with the snow melting most of our wintering Tree Sparrows quickly departed. None but our injured bird remained after March 4; on the first

capture this morning we found the patient entirely cured and no further pressure was noted. For the next nine days this bird alone remained, feeding in the traps nearly all the time. On March 13 after five visits to the traps, our bird departed; it had been taken 175 times in 52 days.—RAYMOND J. MIDDLETON, *Norristown, Pa.*

Apparent Song Imitation by Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*.—According to Saunders, "in late summer" the Field Sparrow often varies the normal pattern of its song by repeating the usual phrase several times without pause, and by beginning and ending with a trill ('A Guide to Bird Songs,' 1935: 266). Sixty or 70 years ago, however, a Field Sparrow song in reverse sounded so unfamiliar to Bradford Torrey that he was unable to identify the singer until he had seen it ('Birds in the Bush,' 1891: 40).

On June 22, 1949, two of the most experienced bird observers in the Washington, D. C., area were similarly perplexed by a Field Sparrow which they came to hear at my invitation, in a suburban park near my home in Silver Spring, Maryland. This bird had first attracted my attention in mid-May by its remarkable singing which frequently featured the usual Field Sparrow song in reverse, together with the longer variations noted by Saunders. My friends, like Torrey, were so puzzled by the strange vocal performance that they were unwilling to identify the bird by its song alone.

During my early observations two or three other Field Sparrows in the same vicinity continued to sing the usual Field Sparrow songs, beginning with a series of long notes and ending with a trill. Several times toward the end of June, however, the song in reverse seemed to me to be coming from two birds. This was confirmed on June 29. These birds were not late summer singers. Saunders' statement does not contradict that such singing is unusual for May and June, and the inability of my friends to recognize the song corroborates its rarity in the Washington area. It seems to me that the circumstances justify considering the phenomenon an example of unusual song imitation. Saunders has reported that he has frequently found two Field Sparrows in the same area singing exactly or approximately the same song within the normal song pattern (Auk, 39: 398-99, 1922).—FRANK C. CROSS, 9413 Second Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Western Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza g. ericrypta*, in New Mexico.—On December 9, 1948, the writer collected a Western Swamp Sparrow from a flock of six individuals which were feeding in a flooded weed patch on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, approximately five miles south of San Antonio, New Mexico. The specimen proved to be a female and the skin has been deposited, with accession number 396220, in the Fish and Wildlife Service Unit in the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. The writer wishes to thank Dr. Allan J. Duvall who kindly identified the specimen and checked the files for records of this species in the southwestern States.

The first record for the species was obtained on the Refuge December 3, followed by observations on December 8, 9, 24, 1948, January 1, 7, 12, 28, and February 4 and 18, 1949. The January 1 record was made at McAlister Lake approximately six miles northeast of Socorro, and the January 12 record was obtained from the cat-tail marshes on the north side of San Marcial Lake approximately 20 miles south of San Antonio.

So far as known to the writer, there is no previous published record of this species in New Mexico, although considerable winter field work has been done in the state, especially along the Rio Grande. There is a possibility of the species having been