

the runways that the little feet had made in and out among the clumps of grasses, had buried many eggs in sand, and had (presumably) killed the dozen or more young whose bodies we discovered. (Two were of my July 9th banding; two bore Nos. 216741 and 216745). There were, however, plenty of birds still brooding; the eggs examined were all well incubated. We noted some chicks just working their way out, having broken a squarish hole near the larger end, by means of their reinforced beaks; and we noted one pushing apart a cap of shell on its head and a complementary cup of shell on its hinder parts. Along the wet edge of the beach in the inlet were numbers of birds-of-the-year, now on the wing. The community defence passed from ludicrous to irritating, when two of us had blood drawn from our scalps by the vicious beaks.

This day we saw also two to four Roseate Terns and the following shore-birds: Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling, Spotted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Curlew, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, and Ruddy Turnstone.

Concord, New Hampshire

TREE SPARROW HISTORY AT WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

BY SADIE B. KNOX

FROM the abundance of Tree Sparrows (*Spizella m. monticola*) banded in and about this city it seems fairly clear that the lowlands along the Connecticut River Valley are favorite wintering resorts for this species, the river-valley probably constituting also a migration highway. In fact, in the late fall when the highlands lying east and west of the river are snow-covered, it is but natural that birds should follow a belt readily capable of furnishing them with food.

My banding station is located about fifty rods westerly from the Boston and Albany Railroad Station at Westfield, Mass., on the northerly side of and one hundred feet above the Westfield River and some two hundred feet away. Westfield lies about eight miles west of the Connecticut River and some one hundred feet above it. There are in Westfield six banding stations besides my own. That of Mrs. Henry H. Wilder lies approximately a third of a mile from mine southwesterly

on the right bank of the Westfield River and fifteen to twenty feet lower. Tree Sparrows banded by me are frequently taken by her, as the birds winter on both sides of the river and one station is as convenient as the other.

Banding operations at my station began in the fall of 1924, only nine Tree Sparrows being banded between November 30 and March 3, 1925. Between October 29, 1925, and November 18th of that year I banded thirteen Tree Sparrows, six of them on November 18th. During the rest of the 1925-26 season I banded 144 more Tree Sparrows, making a total of 157 for that season.

The following records show the additional information I possess of the major portion of the thirteen birds banded from October 29 to November 18, 1925, which for ready reference appear in tabular form.

TREE SPARROW RETURNS

NO.	BANDING DATE	RETURN DATE	REMARKS
163536	Nov. 1 1925	1 1926	Nov. 18 Taken by Mrs. Henry H. Wilder and by me on Dec. 5 and 6.
*A23574	Nov. 2	1	Dec. 3
75†	Nov. 3	1	Dec. 2 By Mrs. Wilder.
A49971	Nov. 7	1	Nov. 21 Taken by Mrs. Wilder Dec. 9.
72	Nov. 17	1	Nov. 14
73	Nov. 17	1	Nov. 14 By Mrs. Wilder Dec. 15.
74	Nov. 18	1	Dec. 7 By Mrs. Wilder Dec. 21.
76	Nov. 18	1	Nov. 19
77	Nov. 18	1	Nov. 18 By Mrs. Wilder Dec. 18.
78‡	Nov. 18	1	Nov. 14 By Mrs. Wilder Dec. 4.
79	Nov. 18	1	Nov. 7 By Mrs. Wilder Dec. 23.

Total 11

By consulting the table it will be noticed that in all ten of the thirteen Tree Sparrows banded during eighteen days in 1925 returned in 1926 and were taken as returns between November 7 and December 3 at the station where they were banded, and one, No. 49978, was recovered at the station of Mrs. Wilder, some thirteen hundred feet from its place of

* Dead. Death apparently due to fright caused by the attack of a Shrike while in my trap. This was on December 6, 1926.

† When banded the two inner tail-feathers were white and when it returned this year these feathers were again white, so that the case seems to be true albinism.

‡ Recovered by Mrs. Wilder but not taken by me up to Jan. 1, 1927, though probably a member of the returning group containing my other ten returns.

banding. That is, of the original thirteen birds banded in 1925, eleven, or 84.61 per cent, have returned to the same area the succeeding year after banding, and ten of these to the very station where they were banded. In addition to the thirteen returns, nine new Tree Sparrows were banded during this period.

The high percentage of returns, the close agreement of the time they were banded, and the appearance at the station of eleven out of the thirteen birds the following year are the outstanding matters of interest in these records.

Westfield, Mass., January, 1927.

TRAPPING AND BANDING OWLS DURING THEIR MIGRATION

BY ALLAN KENISTON

ON still evenings in October, — yes, even before dusk, — numbers of small Owls flit about batlike on silent wings, now above the tree-tops, now near the ground, alighting from time to time on trees or fence-tops to stand silently watching for a mouse to venture forth in quest of food. A quick dive and a headlong rush to earth as silent as a shadow, a faint squeak, and then as before entire silence.

These Owls — the Short-eared (*Asio flammeus*), Long-eared (*Asio wilsonianus*), and Screech Owl (*Otus a. asio*) — do great good in the meadows and farm lands of Martha's Vineyard, as well as in all localities where migration takes them, in that moles and mice comprise most of their diet. I have taken many walks over the fields of the Heath Hen Reservation in the early evening, my dog scouting ahead, when suddenly a Short-eared or a Long-eared Owl would appear quickly darting down at the dog, at the same time making queer, short, hollow notes and snapping its beak. In a moment several more would appear and all follow the dog, snapping and calling. They soon tired, new ones taking their place or possibly the same ones returned. The dog seemed to pay no attention to them whatever. October of each year migratory Long-eared and Short-eared Owls appear on the island in abundance. I have seen at least ten in the air at once.

In the fall of 1926 I decided to try banding some of these birds. I set up two posts about ten feet high and placed