

**Ages of Two Tree Sparrows (*Spizella m. monticola*).**—Of all my returns from banded birds, Tree Sparrow No. 64700, holds our Sanctuary record for longevity and for the number of times it has been recaptured during successive years. An analysis of the records indicates that this Tree Sparrow will probably celebrate its sixth birthday next summer. Its first capture occurred on March 30th, 1923. Assuming that the bird was born at the latest in the summer of 1922, the winter of 1922-23 was its first winter in the United States. No records of this bird were secured during the winters of 1923-24 or 1924-25, as banding-operations were suspended during these two seasons. Its return during the three following seasons to the Sanctuary, however, leads us to believe with some degree of probability that it also returned, though unrecorded, during the two previous winters. Its first return in the winter of 1925-26 was on January 1, 1926. During the winter of 1926-27 it was retaken for the second time on December 6, 1926. The present winter season it was captured as a return-3 on January 20, 1928. No. 64700 is, of course, a winter resident. This winter it repeated in February and in March. Other years it repeated in December, January, February, March, and April.

Another of my Tree Sparrows, No. 64714, has a history similar to that of No. 64700. No. 64714 is my second return out of seventeen Tree Sparrows banded during the winter of 1922-23. It was first captured on March 9, 1923, and returned the first time on February 9, 1926. On December 20, 1926, it returned to spend another winter here. This year we have been looking for it in vain. When the bird returned last winter, it was probably its fifth winter at the Sanctuary, at which time it was approaching at least its fifth birthday.

One of these birds, No. 64714, was at least four and a half years old on December 26, 1926, and the other, No. 64700, was at least five and a half years old on January 20, 1928. REV. EUGENE GOELLNER, O. S. B., St. Anselm's College, Manchester, New Hampshire.

**A Lapwing Recovery in Newfoundland.**—As Newfoundland is included in the territory of this Association, it is appropriate to report the recovery last December of a Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) on the island. This bird, No. X5016, was "ringed" by Dr. H. J. Moon at Ullswater, Cumberland County, England, in May, 1926, as a nestling. Its recovery in Newfoundland was in December, 1927, the exact date not being available, one of a large number of this species numbering thousands appearing there during that month. The birds were met with on the east coast, in the central portion, and on the west coast.

The above information is taken from a reprint of an article by H. F. Witherby published in *British Birds*, Vol. XXI, No. 9, pp. 215 and 216, February 1, 1928. This article is entitled the "*British Birds Marking Scheme (Progress for 1927)*." According to recent information received by letter from F. A. Bruton of England, the Lapwings were first reported in Newfoundland last December, on the twentieth. Another article, appearing in the Manchester (England) *Guardian* of January 24, 1928, by T. A. Coward, an English ornithologist, advances the view that the Lapwings were driven across the Atlantic by gales during last December. This explanation seems rather unsatisfactory to me because a gale sufficiently powerful to force the birds out of their accustomed path would seemingly at the same time result in a widespread scattering of the birds along the Atlantic coast of North America, rather than to carry them across as a flock. The distance involved is so great that winds of gale velocity are unlikely to blow en-

tirely across from Europe to North America. The monthly Pilot Charts issued by the United States Weather Bureau show that the prevalent winds of the North Atlantic are westerly. That the general movement of cyclones is from the United States easterly across the Atlantic is well known. These facts reveal why it is that North American birds are more frequently found in Europe than are European birds in this country.

As to the cause of the movement of Lapwings to Newfoundland and the route taken, it is perhaps helpful to study the Pilot Charts of the North Atlantic above referred to. During the month of December, the 16th and 17th, a well-developed cyclone of exceptional intensity had its center well to the east of Spain, with a low pressure of 28.30 inches, and with accompanying strong southeasterly winds from western Europe. These winds might easily have been instrumental in driving Lapwings to Iceland, five to seven hundred miles distant, and to Greenland. Later, polar winds and a search for food may have played important parts in forcing a movement southwesterly to northern Labrador, and then southeasterly, following the coast to Newfoundland. Here, near the shore, snowless tundras, which probably would furnish a food-supply, may have existed, even in December, with the result that the recently scattered birds became gradually concentrated.

Regarding this confessedly speculative theory, it is interesting to note that a radio message from Donald B. MacMillan, who is wintering near Nain, Labrador, which has recently been received by E. H. Forbush, states that on December 22, 1927, two Lapwings were captured at Anatalok Bay in northern Labrador, some six hundred miles from St. John's, Newfoundland, and others were seen at various places. MacMillan also stated that a bad northeasterly storm prevailed from December 18th to the 23rd. He believes that the Lapwings came from Greenland.

A letter to Mr. Forbush from Allen L. Moses states that a Lapwing was also shot on the island of Grand Manan, New Brunswick, on January 6, 1928. C. L. WHITTLE.

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**A Six-Year-Old Purple Martin.**—A Purple Martin was banded as a fledgling with American Bird Banding Association Band No. 55422, at Melbourne, Florida, on May 27, 1922, by Mr. William I. Lyon. It was found at Eau Gallie, Florida, on February 27, 1928, by Mr. E. Morgan, Secretary of the local Chamber of Commerce. The bird had a broken wing and died a day or two after it was found. FREDERICK C. LINCOLN.

**A Purple Finch Recovery of Interest.**—Mrs. Jean E. Carth sends word that a Purple Finch banded by her in Wellesley, Massachusetts, in March, 1923, was found dead (?) in April, 1924, at Rockingham, North Carolina. Considering the large number of this species banded, it is remarkable how few are ever recovered far from their place of banding, either north or south of New England.

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**An Ipswich, Massachusetts, Black-crowned Night Heron Recovery.**—Willard B. Porter of Salem, Massachusetts, reports that Black-crowned Night Heron No. 312353, a nestling, banded by him at Ipswich on June 22, 1924, was caught by D. Ratcliffe at Gasparville, Florida, January 29, 1928. When recovered, this bird was three and a half years old.