

Another Song Sparrow Recovery in the South.—Mr. E. C. Weeks sends word that a Song Sparrow, No. 73812, banded by him on October 10, 1926, at Sanbornville, N. H. was killed December 24, 1927, by K. Tyler at Gallivant's Ferry, South Carolina. Commenting on this fact, Mr. Weeks writes: "I put on my first band February 16, 1923, and since that time have banded 1,007 birds up to the first of this month (February, 1928). This bird from the South has been the first and only one of my birds heard from outside of my own neighborhood more than one half-mile from house. Neither have I ever caught any banded birds except my own."

A Recovery-5 Purple Finch. On January 26, 1924, Mrs. Alice B. Pratt banded at Middleborough, Massachusetts, an adult Purple Finch, No. 40160. This bird was recovered by me on April 15, 1924, and since that date it has been recovered each season at this station, Cohasset, Massachusetts, the dates being January 4, 1925; February 8, 1926; March 12, 1927; and March 12, 1928. This bird is not less than five years and nine months old. The bird came to the station with two other rosy males, both much less brilliantly colored, another example of the increasing intensity of color, appearing to involve all the rosy feathers, accompanying advancing years. It appears to be difficult, indeed, to determine at what age the Purple Finch attains mature plumage. C. L. W.

Another Faraway Common Tern Recovery.—Members will be interested to know that the Biological Survey has received word from the American Consul at Para, Brazil, that Common Tern 402316, banded by me at Penikese Island, Massachusetts, on July 10, 1927, was recovered at Soure, Ilha de Marajo (Marajo Island), Brazil, on February 1, 1928, Marajo Island lies between the estuaries of the Amazon and Para Rivers. This island is situated just south of the equator, approximately 3,320 miles, about S. 30° E. from Penikese Island, and the distance from the place of banding is exceeded in this species only by that of the Common Tern banded by Dr. Phillips in Maine, which was recovered at the mouth of the Niger River in Africa.

The personnel of the banding-expedition to Penikese Island resulting in the banding of this Tern and others was Edward H. Forbush, A. C. Bent, Charles L. Whittle, and myself. L. B. FLETCHER.

Notes on a Screech Owl.—Our cover illustration for this issue is a return Screech Owl, No. 208939, photographed at Cohasset, Massachusetts by the writer. The bird was first taken on April 14, 1923, in a flicker box fastened to the trunk of a red maple about fifteen feet from the ground, at my home in Cohasset. In the box with the Screech Owl were two Meadow Mouse bodies, the heads of which had been eaten.

On November 28, 1925, thirty-one months later, the owl was again found in the same flicker box, and with it the decapitated carcass of another Meadow Mouse. The bird had not been recorded in the interval between these two dates. I have captured and banded about a dozen Screech Owls on my place, and in only one other case has one repeated. An owl found in a box on an apple tree fifty feet away was found in the maple tree box two days later. Besides numerous pellets in my three owl-size boxes, the boxes have revealed a number of uneaten articles of diet. The only