

Since the majority of bird books do not give the wing and tail measurements of the two sexes, I will quote from Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America" (1901, *Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus.* 50, Part 1) as to the four most common winter sparrows.

Junco, Male:	wing 76.71-82.30 (79.25); tail, 63.25-71.12 (66.55).
Female:	wing, 70.61-78.23 (74.93); tail, 62.23-67.06 (64.26).
Tree Sparrow, Male:	wing, 74.17-77.47 (75.95); tail, 64.01-69.60 (66.29).
Female:	wing, 69.85-78.74 (72.64); tail, 64.26-68.83 (65.79).
White-throat, Male:	wing, 72.39-77.22 (74.68); tail, 71.12-76.20 (73.15).
Female:	wing, 69.60-73.15 (71.12); tail, 68.07-73.66 (69.60).
Song Sparrow, Male:	wing, 63.25-72.14 (67.31); tail, 61.98-70.87 (66.80).
Female:	wing, 61.47-71.37 (65.02); tail, 55.63-70.36 (63.75).

With Tree and Song Sparrows the measurements of the two sexes greatly overlap. It seems probable that any one bander would find his birds much more homogeneous than the scattered specimens that Ridgway dealt with. For instance his seventy-eight Song Sparrows (*M. m. melodia*) now divided into four subspecies, varied from 61 to 72mm. in wing measurement, whereas my sixty-seven birds (the moulters were omitted) varied between 63 and 70mm.

For measuring, dividers and a millimeter rule are necessary. (A celluloid rule proved quite inaccurate.) It is wise to make several trials on each bird. Ridgway explains the methods as follows: "Wing, measured with dividers, one point resting against the anterior side of the bend the other touching the extremity of the longest primary. Tail, measured with dividers, one point of which is inserted between the shafts of the middle pair of rectrices at the base and pressed forward as far as they will go without splitting the integument, the other point touching the extremity of the longest rectrix."

To recapitulate, let me say that in trying to determine the sex of these Sparrows I depend primarily on wing measurement, using Ridgway as a guide. Where this measurement is intermediate between the two sexes, either the tail measurement or the weight, or both, may help in a decision, or the sex may have to be left in doubt. With Juncos general darkness of plumage cannot be depended on as always indicating males, nor with White-throats does general dinginess necessarily mean a female, for in this species I found no sex differences in plumage except that no female showed the very brightest coloring.—MARGARET M. NICE, Columbus, Ohio.

Two Common Tern Recoveries on their Wintering Grounds.—

From approximately four hundred and fifty chicks of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) banded last year on the small islands at the mouth of the Kennebec River in Maine I have to date received two returns. One, No. 364220, banded July 11, 1930, on Lower Sugar Loaf Island, was reported shot by E. Gama at Brighton, Trinidad, B. W. I., during the month of March, 1931. The second, No. 340920, banded July 5, 1930, on Upper Sugar Loaf Island was found dead by "Doc." Henry at Cayenne, French Guiana, on May 31, 1931. Unfortunately I have no information as to how long this second bird had been dead. Should it be determined that it had been dead but a short time, as was probably the case, the record would serve as another indication that the Common Tern does not carry out its full migration the second, non-breeding year. Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln of the Biological Survey informs me that there are several return records for the Common Tern as well as the Caspian Tern for the summer months from this same general area. It is possible, then, that this particular bird would have spent the summer on the South American coast had not death intervened.—OLIN S. PETTINGILL, JR., Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.