

White-throated Sparrow. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. Sept. 22, adult, weight 22.5 grams; wing 71 mm.; tail 72 mm.

Swamp Sparrow. *Melospiza georgiana*. Sept. 21, adult, weight 15.7 grams; wing 59 mm.; tail 53 mm.

—MAURICE BROWN, Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham, Massachusetts.

Night Migration of Eastern Chipping Sparrows.—A telephone call from a Capitol guard at 9.00 p.m. on the cloudy and windy night of October 23d informed me that our National Capitol building had been suddenly surrounded by small birds. Immediate investigation revealed that fully a thousand Chipping Sparrows were swarming in the lighted area from the statue of Freedom on the apex of the dome, outward over the Senate and House wings and on to the lighted terrace and walks surrounding the building.

The birds were in greatest numbers in the areas of maximum light-concentration. From twenty to fifty birds were resting on, or immediately in front of, each of the eight clusters of high-powered flood lights placed on the roof of the Senate and House wings, illuminating the dome at night.

The birds appeared completely bewildered, scarcely an action being typical of the Chipping Sparrow as it is seen under normal conditions. For a few minutes one would settle down on the walk in the shadow of a step or projection, often almost under foot of pedestrians. Shortly it would fly with uncertainty and with no apparent purpose toward another lighted area. This restless movement was continuous from one area of light-concentration to another, and there were from fifteen to one hundred birds constantly on the wing, flitting aimlessly back and forth over the Senate and House wings or irregularly circling the lighted dome.

Each of the three arcades on the dome appeared to be alive with bewildered birds unable to determine whether it was night or day, whether they should resume their migratory flight or settle down to roost. The steps, walks, and terrace also had their shares of birds, which were so tame that the observer could approach within five or ten feet. On the middle deck of the dome a lone Sparrow Hawk was startled from its perch on the top of one of the columns. It appeared to be in no way molesting the smaller birds that were endlessly passing in front of it. As usual, a number of domestic pigeons were also roosting in the darkened niches of the dome.

The absence of any leadership among the Chipping Sparrows was pronounced; they seemed to be held in the same general area merely by a desire for association with others of their kind and by the concentration of light. When in flight each individual seemed to be a law unto itself; consequently there was no group course. In their erratic zigzagging back and forth a number were seen to penetrate into the darkness, but apparently the attraction of light and companions would immediately draw them back. Even though there was some insect life present, no feeding was noted.

When the flood-lights illuminating the dome were turned off shortly after midnight, there was a marked cessation of activity. A weak illumination still shone on the statue of Freedom capping the dome. Many birds promptly flew to this area and seemed to occupy every available crevice. Most of the remaining individuals that had been on the top of the building flew to the lighted area on the terrace and walks surrounding the main structure. By 1:00 a.m. there was very little activity and the birds seemed to be settled for the night. Consequently the observer left, but when he returned about sunrise not a Chipping Sparrow could be found.

No birds were noted on the nights preceding or succeeding this wave of migration, but a week later, on the night of October 29th, while the writer was out of the city, another huge flock was reported at the Capitol. From

reports their actions were typical of those here described.—CLARENCE COTTAM, United States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

Interesting Chickadee Records.—Among interesting Chickadee records at my station this fall there has been one bird at least five years old and another one at least six years old. Their records follow:

A87171	Banded February 17, 1927:	Return-1 ¹	December 25, 1927
		Return-2	February 2, 1930
		Return-3	March 21, 1931
		Return-4	February 25, 1932
		Return-5	October 11, 1932
A87173	Banded December 19, 1927:	Return-1	March 24, 1931
		Return-2	November 10, 1931
		Return-3	October 31, 1932

The autumn and winter of 1928-29 I was away from home, so have no record of returns for that year. Also I have no record of A87173 in the year 1929-30.

One pair of Chickadees, F23149 and F23154, which, by the use of colored bands, I traced to their nesting area this summer, appeared together at my station on October 5th and again on October 11th. Since the latter date F23154 has not been seen. This pair and their young came to the feeding-shelves together in July, but unfortunately I was unable to capture the young to band them. The last date upon which the two young were seen with F23149 was July 11th, at which time, however, the young fed themselves. On October 11th, when the pair of old birds was last seen together, one or possibly two young Chickadees accompanied them, all four busily feeding and storing up food. Two young Chickadees were given bands F31780 and F31792, with colored bands in addition, on October 23d and 24th, respectively, and on the 29th these two birds were again busily storing food in company with F23149. I would give a good deal to know if these are the young of the above mated pair, or merely others of the younger set to whom they had taken a liking.

Two other Chickadees, F23150 and F23152, I did not succeed in tracing in the spring, but I feel sure that they were mates. Both were banded January 29, 1932, within ten minutes of each other, a third Chickadee having been banded between these two. The three were evidently of one flock, as shown by later sight repeats in each other's company, but from the first the two whose numbers are given above showed particular friendliness toward each other, frequently remaining on the feeding-shelves and eating most amicably together, which they would not do even with the third member of their flock. These two birds were recorded together on October 8th, and again came together on October 25th. Both have repeated since, though on different days so far as I have seen.

From these two instances it seems that attachment between mates may hold them together until fall. It remains to be seen whether it will hold over, or be resumed, for another breeding season.

Both individuals of a third pair, C50532 and F23148, which I traced to their nest in the spring have returned this fall, although I have not happened to see them together. The Hardwick Chickadees seem to have had a successful season, as seventy per cent of those that I marked with colored bands last winter have already returned.—DOROTHY A. BALDWIN, Hardwick, Massachusetts, November 17, 1932.

¹I am reporting these recaptures as "returns" following the practice of the Biological Survey, though I am sure most of the records are merely repeats.