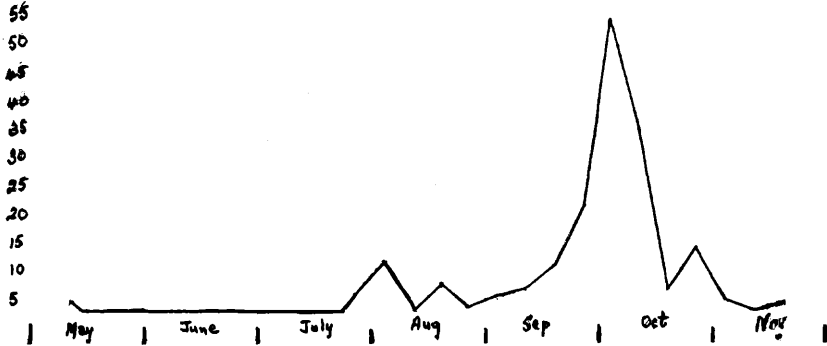


## Swamp Sparrows Banded at Groton, Mass. 1937



nesting territory to the North of this section. The decline after that time is the expected diminution caused by the species' departure for its wintering ground.

A record of the latest dates on which Swamp Sparrows have been trapped at this station is of interest in this respect. It ranges from October 21, in 1931, to November 18, in 1937.—EDWIN A. MASON, Wharton Bird Banding Station, Groton, Massachusetts.

**A Note on the Longevity of the Chimney Swift (*Chytura pelagica*).**—C-32705, a Chimney Swift, was banded by me on May 23, 1930, at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. It had flown into a building through an open window.

I retrapped this bird in 1937 on May 7th and May 11th, both times in a chimney of one of the other College buildings.

This year I trapped it in the same chimney on May 4, 1938. Its appearance and actions were exactly the same as those of other Swifts which I caught; it showed no sign of its age except its band number.

Swifts do not nest in the Philadelphia region until early June<sup>1</sup>, so that when I banded this bird in May 23, 1930, it must have been an adult, at least approaching one year of age. I therefore regard it as being nine years old now; this is the youngest it could be.

Cooke<sup>2</sup> reports a Swift banded by Harold C. Wilson at Madison, Wisconsin, on May 16, 1927, and found dead at Sauk City, Wisconsin, on July 5, 1935. This is the oldest Swift in her records. By the same reasoning, this bird must have been at least nine years old.

My swift, however, is far from dead—in fact, I can state that it is still going strong. If I catch it again next spring, it will have the longevity record among Chimney Swifts.—C. BROOKE WORTH.

**A Veery Return-2.**—A Wilsons Thrust (*Hylocichla f. fuscescens*) banded at Mohonk Lake, New York, on August 21, 1929, from a sparrow trap, was retrapped a few feet away in another government sparrow trap on August 16, 1930. At this time, the bird's tail contained some new feathers and some old ones. On August 2, 1931 this bird was recaptured, for the second time, at the same place as in 1930 in a double-door automatic trap. At this capture, the bird was in the

<sup>1</sup> Egg date, Chester County, Pennsylvania: June 3. Chapman, F. M., Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America.

<sup>2</sup> Cooke, May Thacher, 1937. Longevity Records, *Bird-Banding*, 8, 52-85.

midst of post-nuptial molt with three wing feathers on each side missing, and several tail feathers out. Most of the head and neck feathers had been molted and the new ones were in the pin-feather stage. Baits used were bread and berries.—DANIEL SMILEY, JR., Mohonk Lake, New York.

**Chickadee Movements at Demarest, New Jersey.**—Obviously unusual numbers of new Chickadees (*Parus a. atricapillus*) about the Demarest, New Jersey, banding station during the present March (1938), led to a checking of the records for the current month in comparison to those of March, 1937.

At least 27 Chickadees banded prior to March 1st and most of them prior to January 1st, were repeating quite consistently in the traps up to March. Coincident with the accession of new, unbanded Chickadees from March 15th on only eight such "old-timers" were taken and each of them only once. The repeating birds in the last half of March were mainly the newly-banded Chickadees, further suggesting that new birds had definitely replaced their predecessors.

The figures show that from January 1, 1937, Chickadees banded were as follows:—one on January 5th; one on February 21st; one on February 28th; two on March 23d; one on March 28th. This could doubtless be considered as a normal occurrence of heretofore unbanded Chickadees, *i.e.*, three during the months of January and February and three in March.

For the current year, there was one Chickadee banded on February 8; one on February 15th; one on February 20th; three on March 7th; two on March 24th; one on March 25th; three on March 26th; four on March 27th; three on March 28th. Exactly the same number in the first two months of the year as in 1937, *i.e.*, three, but in March sixteen as compared with the three of March, 1937. The question arises, have we during March, 1938, experienced an unusual movement of Chickadees? Just what should be considered a normal movement of Chickadees out of the breeding season and finally how much after all do we really yet know about the subject?—B. S. BOWDISH, Demarest, New Jersey.

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## RECENT LITERATURE

(Reviews by Margaret M. Nice and Thomas T. McCabe)

### BANDING AND MIGRATION

**1. Report of the Bird-Ringing Committee: Progress for 1937.** A. Landsborough Thompson. 1938. *British Birds*, 31: 345-351. On June 1, 1937 the control of the "British Birds Marking Scheme" was transferred to the Bird-Ringing Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology. The work is partly financed by the journal *British Birds* and partly by the payment by coöperators of 6 shillings per hundred rings. In 1937 45,181 birds were ringed, of which 23,281 were nestlings. The ten species ringed in largest numbers since 1909 were as follows, the total number ringed being given and, in parentheses, the percentage of recoveries: Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) 59,997 (1.8); Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) 50,718 (4.1); Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) 49,754 (4.3); Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 38,656 (0.9); Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) 32,780 (2.2); Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) 26,071 (3.9); Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) 23,672 (6.5); Redbreast (*Erithacus rubecula*) 19,793 (9.1); Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) 17,884 (2.7); Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) 14,332 (1.7).

Recovery percentages are high for Titmice (15.8-18.5) due to trapping. Other high percentages are due to shooting: Heron, 10.9; Cormorant, 19.4; hawks, 5.6-23.4; ducks, 4.8-19.2. This last figure is not as bad as this country's record which averages about 20 per cent.

**2. Bird Banding Brevities**—No. 12. Amelia R. Laskey. 1938. *The Migrant*, 9: 10-11. Four male Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*), three of them, old birds, defended their territories from October on. Two were on their nesting territories, but one has spent three winters on this lot, although nesting