

RETURNS OF GOLDEN-CROWNED AND KADIAK
FOX SPARROWS TO BREEDING GROUNDS ON
KODIAK ISLAND, ALASKA

By HENRY B. LOOFF

DURING the years of 1935 to 1938, inclusive, the writer has banded birds at Alitak, Kodiak Island, Alaska, including a total of 154 Golden-crowned Sparrows and 351 Kodiak Fox Sparrows. A complete list of returns appears herewith:

TABLE I

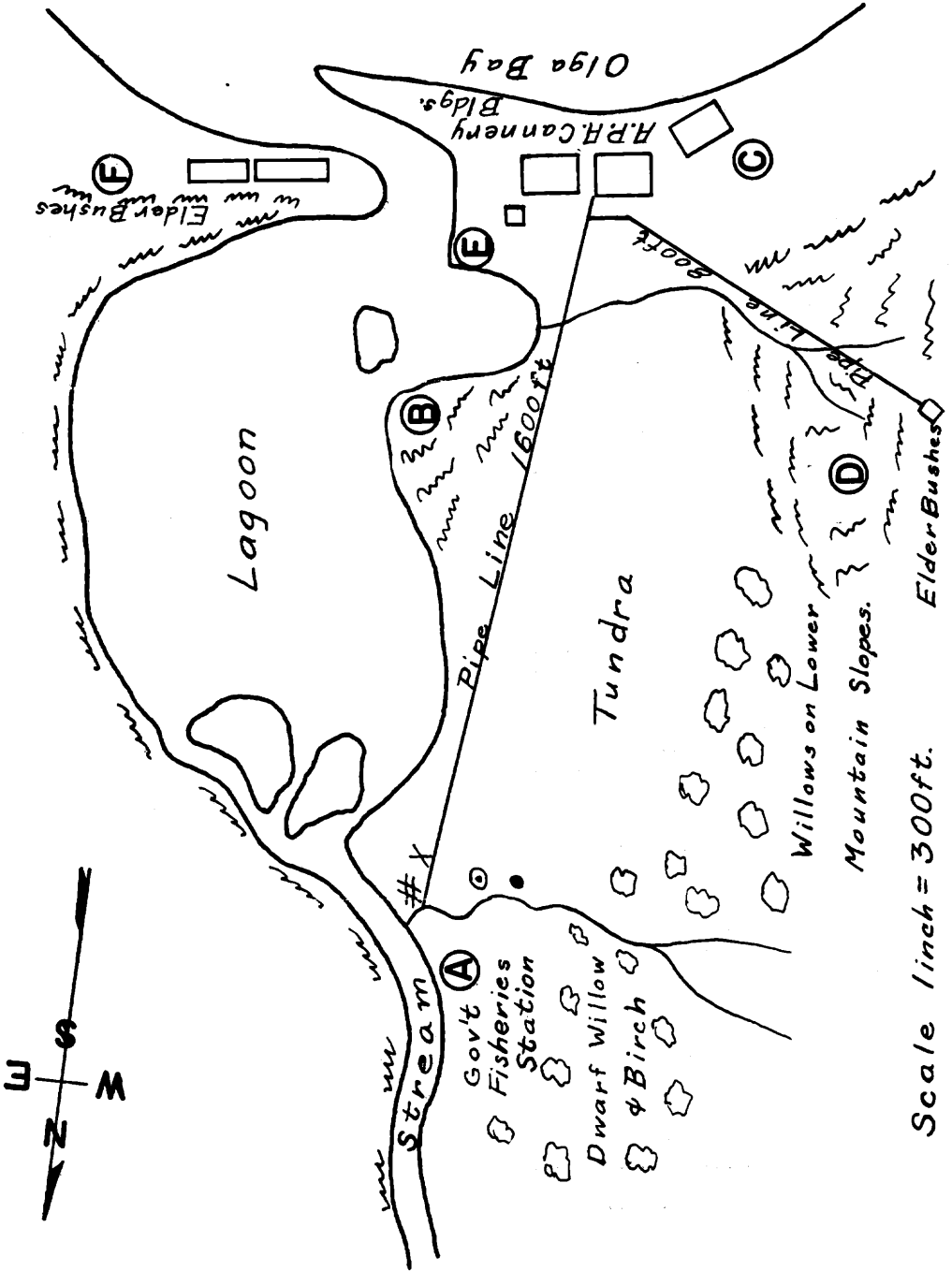
RETURNS OF GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS (*Zonotrichia coronata*)
TO BREEDING GROUNDS ON KODIAK ISLAND, ALASKA

<i>Band No.</i>	<i>Date Banded</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>
35-47169.....	June 20, 1935	May 29, 1938
35-47170.....	June 21, 1935	Aug. 10, 1936
35-205962.....	June 24, 1935	{ May 29, 1936 June 4, 1937
35-205963.....	June 24, 1935	{ May 7, 1936 May 16, 1937
35-116633.....	Aug. 26, 1935	April 28, 1936
35-116647.....	Aug. 27, 1935	May 18, 1936
36-134408.....	May 19, 1936	{ May 23, 1937 June 2, 1938
36-134411.....	May 19, 1936	May 20, 1937
36-134413.....	May 20, 1936	May 25, 1937
36-134414.....	May 20, 1936	{ May 25, 1937 May 18, 1938
36-134415.....	May 23, 1936	{ May 22, 1937 June 30, 1938
36-134416.....	May 26, 1936	June 3, 1937
36-134417.....	May 29, 1936	May 28, 1937
36-134418.....	May 31, 1936	{ May 24, 1937 May 12, 1938
36-134429.....	June 5, 1936	May 21, 1937
36-134457.....	June 19, 1936	June 6, 1937
36-134465.....	June 25, 1936	{ May 9, 1937 July 10, 1938
36-134481.....	June 30, 1936	May 20, 1937
36-156554.....	May 18, 1937	May 27, 1938
36-156557.....	May 21, 1937	May 29, 1938
36-156583.....	June 10, 1937	June 8, 1938

TABLE II

RETURNS OF KADIAK FOX SPARROWS (*Passerella iliaca insularis*)
TO BREEDING GROUNDS ON KODIAK ISLAND, ALASKA

<i>Band No.</i>	<i>Date Banded</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>
35-112989.....	May 27, 1935	{ July 8, 1936 June 7, 1937
35-112990.....	May 27, 1935	{ June 1, 1938 May 14, 1936



Scale 1 inch = 300ft.

Map Showing Locations of Banding Stations on Kodiak Island

35-112991.....	May 27, 1935	{ May 22, 1936 May 11, 1937 May 21, 1938
35-112994.....	June 11, 1935	{ July 13, 1936 May 29, 1937 May 15, 1938
35-205964.....	June 24, 1935	{ May 29, 1936 May 11, 1937 May 21, 1938
35-205967.....	June 28, 1935	{ July 9, 1936
35-116609.....	Aug 23, 1935	{ June 5, 1936
35-116610.....	Aug. 23, 1935	{ June 5, 1936 June 17, 1937
35-116614.....	Aug. 24, 1935	{ July 2, 1936
35-116621.....	Aug. 25, 1935	{ June 7, 1936 June 22, 1937
35-116626.....	Aug. 26, 1935	{ May 3, 1936
36-134406.....	May 14, 1936	{ May 10, 1937 May 14, 1938
36-134438.....	June 6, 1936	{ May 31, 1937 May 17, 1938
36-134440.....	June 6, 1936	{ May 11, 1937 May 12, 1938
36-134449.....	June 11, 1936	{ May 25, 1937 June 29, 1938
36-134455.....	June 12, 1936	{ June 1, 1938
36-134461.....	June 21, 1936	{ May 9, 1937
36-134464.....	June 25, 1936	{ June 6, 1937
36-134479.....	June 30, 1936	{ May 22, 1937
36-134491.....	July 3, 1936	{ June 4, 1937
36-156546.....	May 3, 1937	{ May 12, 1938
36-156568.....	May 31, 1937	{ May 12, 1938
36-156574.....	June 2, 1937	{ June 10, 1938
36-156576.....	June 5, 1937	{ May 14, 1938
36-156578.....	June 5, 1937	{ May 30, 1938
36-156589—Im.....	June 24, 1937	{ June 22, 1938
37-151630—Im.....	July 6, 1937	{ May 14, 1938
37-151641—Im.....	July 8, 1937	{ June 2, 1938
37-151657—Im.....	July 10, 1937	{ June 10, 1938
37-227154—Im.....	July 20, 1937	{ May 14, 1938

Banding was carried on at six stations, the main station and residence of the writer at A (see map) and five substations at B, C, D, E, and F. Returns and repeats showed a definite tendency of the birds to frequent and hold definite territories. For example, birds banded at station A were never retaken at any of the other stations, which also proved the case with birds banded at stations C and D; although birds from stations B, E and F sometimes repeated at either of these latter stations, they being quite close together. This overlapping of territories became more frequent after the nesting season was over.

A pair of Golden-crowned Sparrows Nos. 35-205962 and 35-205963 were banded on June 24, 1935 at station A having nested at © (see map). They returned and were retrapped at A, May 29, 1936 and May 7, 1936, nesting at [] about fifty feet from the previous nesting site. Returning again May 16, 1937 and June 4, 1937, the pair seemed to nest near the previous site although the nest was not actually found. This pair raised two broods of five during 1936

and 1937 respectively, bringing them to our doorstep at station A. They left the first brood for us to feed while they busied themselves with the second. Nesting activities began as soon as the first brood was able to care for themselves. We observed 35-205962, the female, drop nesting material long enough to feed one of her first brood youngsters nearly as large as she was. Golden-crowns Nos. 36-134408, 36-134411, 36-134413, 36-134414, 36-134415, 36-134416, 36-134417 and 36-134418 were banded at station F in 1936. All returned and were retrapped at this station in 1937, while Nos. 36-134408, 36-134411, 36-134414, 36-134415 and 36-134418 were retaken at this station in 1938. No. 36-134418 repeated at both stations E and F during the season of 1938.

Fox Sparrows Nos. 35-112994 and 35-205964 were banded at Station A in 1935, having nested at # (see map). They returned to A in 1936, nesting at X about thirty feet from the previous nesting site.

Nos. 35-112989 and 35-112990, thought to be a pair, were banded at D May 27, 1935. They returned to this station on July 8, 1936 and May 14, 1936 respectively. No. 35-112989 was retaken June 7, 1937 and June 1, 1938; No. 35-112990 was not retaken after 1936.

During the season of 1938, the writer was stationed at the Alaska Packers Cannery and, due to pressure of other duties, banding activities were rather limited and necessarily restricted to points nearby. Therefore no trapping was done at station A during 1938, and the chance for further return records of several pairs of birds was lost. In general, the nests of the Fox Sparrows were well hidden, usually on the ground under overhanging dead grass or bushes, and in some cases on the beach, under overhanging rocks. The nests were bulky structures, the outside constructed of grass stems lined with soft moss and feathers. The sites of the Golden-crowned Sparrows were as a rule well selected but in one instance a nest was found where the vegetation grew so fast as practically to smother it. While the site had all the appearances at first of being a dry location the growth proved so dense later that light could not penetrate to the nest beneath and the nest and ground about it was always wet. It was presumed that for this reason the nest was abandoned.

Traps used were Modesto funnel traps and six drop traps 4 ft. x 5 ft. covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. seine webbing.

Rolled oats proved to be the best bait for both the Fox and Golden-crowned Sparrows, and while this food was available they hardly made the effort to search for any other. In the early spring Fox Sparrows frequented the clumps of Elder bushes, foraging presumably for the seeds of the Elderberry on the ground beneath. They also were noted scratching about the remains of spent salmon lying on the gravel bars and beaches, feeding on the maggots there. Fox Sparrows arrive at Alitak about May 1st with the Golden-crowns following about a week later. By September 15, most of them have migrated southward.

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