The Swamp Sparrow, Melospiza georgiana, as a host for long-term arbovirus studies.—The purpose of this note is to call attention to the use of Swamp Sparrows as indicator hosts of Eastern (EE) and Western (WE) Encephalitis activity. For the past seven years the Encephalitis Field Station has been banding and bleeding Swamp Sparrows at its study sites in southeastern Massachusetts. This species was selected because in New England the bird is present from late March into November, an unusually long period in a species that apparently has rather restricted nesting territories. The birds also show colonial tendencies, and it is possible to study many individuals within a small area.

The three epidemics of Eastern Encephalitis in Massachusetts appeared to center around fresh water swamps. This is typical Swamp Sparrow habitat. As Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*, Publ. of Mass. Dept. Agr. 1929; see pp. 101-104) indicates, the bird breeds in wet meadows, bogs, swamps and marshes, or about low swampy shores of lakes and streams. The nests are close to the ground in bushes, grasses or sedges. This species is generally low-flying and can be readily and repeatedly caught in 30-mm. or 36-mm. nylon mist nets.

During the seven years 324 Swamp Sparrows were banded. Of these 103 individuals (32%) have repeated at least once. Five to seven repeats in a single season is not uncommon, and the birds withstand repeated bleedings at 14-day intervals with very little mortality.

Fifty-one individuals, of 277 birds banded long enough to return, have returned at least once. Eight to 12 blood samples have been collected from several birds over a period of 4 to 6 years.

Swamp Sparrows with viremia for either EE or WE have been found in our study area. Occasionally, individuals have been found which exhibited neutralizing antibody for both viruses. Two examples of this are: 1) A male Swamp Sparrow banded as an immature in 1963 was negative at the first bleeding. Later in 1963 the bird was recaptured and was positive for WE antibody. In 1964 the same bird was in viremia for EE when netted. 2) A female Swamp Sparrow, positive for WE antibody early in 1963, later the same year was positive for both WE and EE antibody.

The wide distribution of the Swamp Sparrow throughout the Northeastern two-thirds of the U. S. A. and Canada during the summer months, the fact that they winter in Southern United States, the close association of their breeding territories to ecological foci of EE and WE, and the large percent of repeats and returns makes this an ideal species for bird-virus life history studies.—Kathleen S. Anderson, Robert J. Tonn, Elizabeth J. Randall and Andrew Main. Encephalitis Field Station, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Lakeville Hospital, Middleboro, Massachusetts.

RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING

1. Bird-Banding Activities at Falsterbo Bird Station 1959-1964. Report No. 33. (Ringmärkningsverksamheten vid Falsterbo fågelstation 1959-1964. Bengt Fritz. 1966. *Vår Fågelvärld*, **25**: 22-36. (English summary.) This report covers the banding of 66,556 birds of 167 species. The work was done during the months June to November or December each year using mist nets which allowed the banders to catch birds in hitherto untouched localities. So, for instance, the reed beds yielded about 600 Willow Warblers (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) attracted by an unusual concentration of aphids during a few days in August 1964. Many ducks and Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) were treated for oil damage and the washing did not seem to affect the health of the birds afterwards. On 1 October 1964, the banders processed 1456 birds, a record number for one day, most of them Robins (*Erithacus rubecula*) and the rest divided among 22 species. A week after banding a Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*) was found on board a ship in the Baltic Sea, presumably having boarded the ship exhausted and then been carried to this point 400 km northeast of Falsterbo. Correction is made in Swedish but not in English of the species captions mistakenly reversed under Figures 2 and 3.—Louise de K. Lawrence.