

SONG SPARROWS CONTINUE RANGE EXPANSION

C. W. Summerour

In the last issue of Alabama Birdlife (Vol. 27, No. 1,2), I discussed the range extension of the Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia) and cited positive breeding records. Since the publication of that article, the species has been found nesting in Jacksonville, Alabama, establishing the breeding range 15 (24 km) miles farther south into the State.

A singing male was first heard by the author in southwest Jacksonville on August 1, 1979. On August 5, I was successful in locating the nest containing 2 eggs in a dense viny tangle 5 m from the railroad tracks near the depot. On August 8, the nest still held only 2 eggs and the female was incubating. Only 1 singing male and its mate was heard or seen over a three week period and possibly represented the first Song Sparrows to become established in Jacksonville.

By summer's end the breeding range of the Song Sparrow in Alabama extended from Decatur south to Gadsden and Jacksonville and north to Piedmont and Cedar Bluff (for details see Summerour, 1979).

Literature Cited

Summerour, C. W. 1979. Breeding Status of the Song Sparrow in Alabama. Alabama Birdlife. Vol. 27, No. 1,2.