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SONG SPARROWS, MELOSPIZA MELODIA,
MOVE FARTHER SOUTH IN ALABAMA

C. W. Summerour

Since Song Sparrows, Melospiza melodia, were found nesting at Weiss Lake in 1974, and Piedmont in 1977 (Summerour, 1979), the species has since moved into Jacksonville (Summerour, 1980) and now, in the summer of 1982, has turned up in Oxford, thus extending the leading edge of their push into Alabama 20 miles further south.

This most recent account was of a singing male observed by the author along a weedy ditch bank behind Quintard Mall in Oxford, just north of I-20. If this southward movement continues as predicted, pioneering males should turn up next in Munford or Talladega if, in fact, they are not already there.

Meanwhile, the Song Sparrow population has continued to increase slowly in Jacksonville since the first pair was found nesting here in the summer of 1979. If this increase follows a sigmoid curve as expected, Song Sparrows should increase rapidly in Jacksonville over the next several years. In the meantime more pioneering males may be expected to turn up in Anniston and Oxford and as far south as Talladega.

LITERATURE CITED

- Summerour, C. W., 1979. Breeding Status of the Song Sparrow, Melospiza melodia, in Alabama. Alabama Birdlife, Vol. 27:3-5.
- _____. 1980. Song Sparrows Continue Range Expansion. Alabama Birdlife, Vol. 28:3.

C. W. Summerour
Biology Department
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, AL 36265