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## Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) Longevity Record

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## Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) Longevity Record

Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory (formerly Chino Farms Banding Station) has been in operation on Chino Farms since 1998. FBBO is located on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, about five miles east of Chestertown in Queen Anne's County. The observatory is surrounded by diverse habitats including second-growth woodlots, hedgerows, fallow fields, successional fields, and runs parallel to a man-made lake.

During nine years of operation, FBBO has mist-netted and banded 3468 Field Sparrows and has recaptured (including repeats and returns) approximately 760 individuals 1670 times. The fallow and successional fields around the farm are ideal for Field Sparrows that breed and winter in the area, though the breeders are not necessarily the wintering birds and vice versa.

Field Sparrow #1551-96173 was originally banded as an ASY of unknown sex on 5 Apr 1999. The last recapture date was 9 Nov 2006, making the bird at least 9 yr and 10 mo old, assuming a hatch date of 1 Jun (Kennard 1975). The previous longevity record was 8 yr and 9 mo (Klimkiewicz 2006).

Sexed as a male by the presence of a cloacal protuberance on six of the recaptures, he is undoubtedly a local breeder. Field Sparrow #1551-96173 has been recaptured 22 times and was missed only in 2005.

Recap Dates of Field Sparrow 1551-96173 at FBBO	
1999	2, 3 & 31 Aug, 3 Oct
2000	31 Mar, 7 & 28 Apr, 23 May, 2 Oct
2001	8 Apr
2002	11 Apr, 6 May, 23 Sep
2003	13 & 25 Apr, 18 May
2004	24 Oct
2006	2 Apr, 15 Aug, 13 Sep, 9 Nov
2007	18 Apr

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the many folks who contribute their time and energy to the FBBO, especially the staff of Chino and Bluestem Farms. In addition, we thank Henry Sears, whose support is essential to the existence of FBBO.

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## Survival After Banding

"Does banding hurt the birds?" During a recent bird banding talk when the audience was told that we band birds year round, someone in the audience asked that question.

Most banding stations operate seasonally. However, the Wekiva Basin Banding Station operates every month of the year. During April and early May and