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Survival After Banding

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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

late August through November, banding occurs five to six times a month; and during the rest of the year, two to three times a month. Some birds have been recaptured many times.

Mulvihill and Leberman (1997) reported the suspected loss of a banded Ovenbird in Pennsylvania during winter because of its inability to forage and the subsequent detrimental weight loss. Calder (1984), Dobson (1990), and Swanson (1992) reported that survival of birds is related to body mass.

Five resident birds, Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*, NOCA), Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*, CARW), Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, EATO), Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*, TUTI) and White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus* WEVI) and two winter migrants, Ruby-

crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*, RCKI) and Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*, HETH), were selected for study. Our records from 1 Jan 1994 to 31 Dec 2006 were examined for recaptured birds. Individual birds chosen for Table 1 were captured the most times for that species.

Weights of all birds were within the limits listed in the Band Manager Program of the Bird Banding Laboratory except one CARW that was 2 g heavier and four TUTI which were slightly lighter. Some birds were slightly heavier at their last capture, while some slightly lighter. The only large difference was one WEVI captured 3 Mar 2002, which was 4 g heavier, possibly due to the presence of unlaidd eggs.

Information in Table 1 suggests that repeated captures of passerines are not detrimental to the birds.

Table 1. Survival of Recaptured Passerines

Date			Weight (g)		
Species	First Capture	Last Capture	First Capture	Last Capture	# Times Captured
CARW	23 Nov 03	11 May 05	19.0	18.0	15
CARW	21 Aug 96	10 Sep 99	19.0	20.0	12
CARW	19 Sep 01	21 Feb 02	20.0	22.0	11
CARW	27 May 96	28 May 99	18.0	21.0	12
EATO	28 Aug 03	18 Jun 06	38.0	36.0	10
EATO	7 Oct 03	28 Aug 05	40.5	41.0	10
EATO	23 Nov 03	29 Jun 05	39.0	36.0	11
EATO	31 Jan 04	26 Jun 05	33.0	31.0	8
TUTI	09 Oct 03	18 Sep 05	22.0	22.0	8
TUTI	21 Aug 94	28 Sep 97	19.5	20.0	11
TUTI	31 May 98	26 Apr 01	20.0	19.0	10
TUTI	01 Sep 97	25 Oct 00	19.5	19.0	5
HETH	12 Dec 03	24 Jan 04	25.0	30.0	4
HETH	19 Nov 06	31 Dec 06	31.0	33.0	5
HETH	10 Nov 02	1 Feb 03	32.0	32.0	5
HETH	29 Oct 99	27 Feb 00	26.0	26.0	5
NOCA	2 Sep 99	9 Oct 00	44.0	43.0	9
NOCA	4 Sep 99	29 Jan 00	38.0	37.0	9
NOCA	4 Sep 00	31 Mar 02	35.0	36.0	9
NOCA	16 Jul 95	16 Sep 00	44.0	42.0	10
RCKI	31 Oct 04	22 Feb 06	5.0	5.0	15
RCKI	14 Nov 04	8 Jan 06	5.0	6.0	9
RCKI	23 Nov 03	4 Apr 04	5.0	5.0	6
RCKI	30 Oct 99	18 Mar 01	5.0	5.0	11
WEVI	28 Nov 04	11 May 06	10.0	11.0	18
WEVI	19 Sep 97	3 Mar 02	11.0	15.0	34
WEVI	20 Sep 98	3 Feb 01	11.0	9.0	17
WEVI	6 Sep 00	3 Mar 02	11.0	11.0	17

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Recent Literature

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A tribute to Eugene Marais. K. Webster. 2004. *Afring News* 33:35. no address indicated. (Brief memoir of mist-netting efforts at one of Marais' study areas.) MKM

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BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

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