

A QUESTION FOR EBBA READERS

Mrs. Howard G. McEntee, 490 Fairfield Ave., Ridgewood, N. J. asks the following question:

"Do all banders of Tree Sparrows find that the greatest number of unbanded birds appear at their stations after the first of February, or do those in more northerly, or westerly locations band their greatest number in the early winter months?"

"I would like some information on the migration of the Tree Sparrow and quite possibly the banders can supply it. This is my fourth winter for banding and each year at least three-quarters of newly banded birds have been done in the late winter.

"Oddly enough, however, about nine-tenths of my returns appear before February, many in December. Up through the 20th of January this year I had 16 returns and had banded only 16 new ones. An interesting observation on my Tree Sparrow returns is that I continue to get back greater numbers of the birds banded in the '48/'49 winter than those banded in later years. That first winter of banding at this location netted me 105; in '49/'50 season 25 of the original 105 returned; in '50/'51 - 17 of the 105 came back; and in '51/'52 so far 9 have returned. At the end of this banding year I intend to get all these figures together in chart form as I think it might prove to be quite interesting for others who band Tree Sparrows in fairly good numbers.

"In the meantime, where are these birds in December and January?"

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Mrs. M. Brantley Peacock, Route 2, Fairfax, Virginia, tells us of some of the highlights of her banding experiences:

"A White-throated Sparrow banded here in Fairfax, Va., May 13, 1950 was recovered on October 8, 1951 at 6:00 A.M. when it hit the rigging of a ship 1/4 mile southwest of Bloodsworth Island, Md. while crossing the Chesapeake Bay. The bird was flying against

strong wind. Am I right to assume that I am on the path of a more or less east-west migration route of the White-throat?"

"September 26, 1951 was a red-letter day for me. I banded a Philadelphia Vireo, Lincoln Sparrow and a Nashville Warbler. I took them to the D. C. Audubon Society meeting where their identifications were checked by none other than Mr. Roger Levy Peterson.

"I haven't had enough experience to decide about the value of traps, except that I have had no success with the top-opening Warbler traps. My Dove trap worked fine in the spring for ground birds (not Doves) but almost nothing this fall. Robins continue to elude me."

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A note from one of our members, Mrs. Agnes Romig, who has recently moved to Pacific Palisades, California, from Manhasset, Long Island, reads as follows:

"Our new home is on Porturo Canyon and bird life is abundant. From our living room we view the Pacific Ocean and Sierra Madres.

"The birds must all nest in the Canyon for we see no nests in yards or parking trees. A great variety of small birds come into our enclosed patio daily to feed. Humming Birds, Warblers, and Brown Towhees are there at all times. They do not seem to notice our presence.

"I find that I will have to study up on many new varieties and also on slight color variations on the ones we were familiar with on Long Island."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to an extended business trip by your Editor this issue will be late when it reaches you. We hope you understand.