

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