

Sparrows at feeding stations. One, a bird in Pomona banded by Mrs. N. Edward Ayer, came back for four successive winters, and the second near Portland, Oregon came back for three seasons. On its second stay the Oregon bird was accompanied by another Harris' Sparrow. In my article I asked whether the West Coast strays returned each spring to their northern breeding grounds west of Hudson Bay or simply followed the crowned sparrows, with which they associate, northward. On the basis of present knowledge, I would say that loyalty to the ancestral breeding grounds is stronger than that to the ancestral winter range. Not only does it seem likely that these stray birds must return to their breeding grounds, but that on return visits to a new out-of-range wintering locality they very likely at times bring others of their kind with them. Whatever the case, certainly Harris' Sparrow is increasing as a visitor to the West Coast. Field Notes: 10(3), 1956, lists the species at no less than five localities in southern California during the winter of 1955-1956.

Other examples of the return of strays or stragglers, or whatever we may want to call them, could be cited. Needless to say, it is of great importance for banders to capture such birds both for banding and positive identification. Such birds should be looked for again the following season and if there is a return, every effort should be made to establish positive verification.

(to be continued)

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#### PAPERS -- SPEAKERS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

Those members who desire to present banding or scientific papers at the 1963 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association are urged to send information as soon as possible to the Program Committee Chairman, Rev. Garrett Detwiler, 285 Roseville Ave., Newark 7, N.J.

April 19-21, 1963 are the dates of the meeting, which will be held at Washington Crossing, Pa. The information you send to Rev. Detwiler should include your subject, the amount of time you require, whether you will present slides (size of slides, please) or other illustrative material, and whether you will need a projector, easel, blackboard, etc.

