

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW RETURNS

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(The following is in elaboration of a short note published in the last issue of EBBA NEWS. -Ed.)

From 78 White-throated Sparrows banded between February 13 and April 25, 1960, I have had 33 returns to date (February 15, 1961). These birds were banded at Ashburn, Virginia - we are in open country on the Potomac River about thirty miles northwest of Washington, D.C. There is a spur of the Blue Ridge Mountains about twenty miles from here (the Catoctin Range) but I rather doubt that the Whitethroats are there for breeding. I saw the last ones last spring about the first of May and they came back in dribbles starting October 6.

Almost all these birds have been caught in an all-purpose trap in our front yard about a foot away from a huge yew hedge. I am certain that the reason we have so many birds here is because we have about 300 feet of 25 foot high yew - lots of cover, in open country.

Among other species, I have had 5 returns out of 86 Bluejays banded, 7 out of 61 Cardinals, 2 out of 41 Juncos, 2 out of 2 Nuthatches (100%), one out of 11 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 3 out of 275 Startlings, and 13 out of 27 Titmice.

It may be of interest to enumerate the Whitethroat returns: a list of dates of banding and of returning follows.

<u>Banded</u>	<u>Returned</u>	<u>Banded</u>	<u>Returned</u>
Feb. 13, 1960	Oct. 23, 1960	Mar. 1, 1960	Jan. 7, 1961
Feb. 13, 1960	Nov. 12, 1960	Mar. 2, 1960	Oct. 28, 1960
Feb. 13, 1960	Nov. 14, 1960	Mar. 2, 1960	Dec. 5, 1960
Feb. 13, 1960	Dec. 5, 1960	Mar. 3, 1960	Oct. 24, 1960
Feb. 13, 1960	Oct. 22, 1960	Mar. 3, 1960	Nov. 21, 1960
Feb. 13, 1960	Nov. 2, 1960	Mar. 5, 1960	Dec. 13, 1960
Feb. 13, 1960	Dec. 12, 1960	Mar. 15, 1960	Dec. 29, 1960
Feb. 14, 1960	Dec. 15, 1960	Mar. 15, 1960	Dec. 24, 1960
Feb. 15, 1960	Feb. 1, 1961	Mar. 18, 1960	Dec. 22, 1960
Feb. 15, 1960	Feb. 14, 1961	Mar. 21, 1960	Dec. 11, 1960
Feb. 15, 1960	Dec. 16, 1960	Mar. 25, 1960	Dec. 17, 1960
Feb. 18, 1960	Nov. 8, 1960	Mar. 25, 1960	Jan. 14, 1961
Feb. 25, 1960	Dec. 18, 1960	Mar. 30, 1960	Dec. 6, 1960
Feb. 25, 1960	Dec. 14, 1960	Apr. 3, 1960	Dec. 11, 1960
Feb. 28, 1960	Dec. 12, 1960	Apr. 15, 1960	Feb. 3, 1961
Feb. 29, 1960	Oct. 22, 1960	Apr. 19, 1960	Dec. 17, 1960
Feb. 29, 1960	Dec. 13, 1960		

Janelia Farms, Ashburn, Virginia