

16, 1948, and which has been taken each year since, so it was a return-5. Another, banded as an adult May 12, 1952, was back in 1953 and 1954; another, an immature banded July 18, 1952, was back in 1953 and 1954; still another, an immature banded August 26, 1951, was back in 1954 but was not taken in 1952 or 1953. The remaining three returns were of birds banded as immatures in July 1953."

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## 2,085 PERCENT RETURN INVESTMENT

by Paul Bartsch

In these days when our papers, radio, and television shriek with the investigation of gigantic windfall profits obtained by shady deals in federal housing, it will be a relief to learn that huge returns can be legitimately obtained, as demonstrated by an investment we have made at 'Lebanon'.

Two years ago, we purchased eight sacks (100 lbs. each) of sunflower seeds from Bolgiano which were largely devoured by the horde of Evening Grosbeaks visiting our feeding station. Last year, we raised even a larger crop which was largely consumed by several flocks of Purple Finches that spent the winter with us and enjoyed our board. In this they were joined by the rest of the seed eaters.

This year we have more than doubled our planting, and I was greatly pleased with the splendid stand obtained in spite of the drought. Being curious, I counted the seeds in one of the larger heads and was surprised that they numbered 2,085 -- 2,085% return from a single seed planted! I know of nothing that excels this investment!

This note is published in the hope that it may encourage all my readers who have a city lot to plant some sunflower seeds along their fences which will give them lovely, long-lasting flowers and, finally, food for their avian visitors.

--'Lebanon', Gunston Hall Road, Norton, Virginia

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