

was obviously headed for the other side, about 400 yards away, and I watched it as it gained elevation for about half the distance, then slanted down toward the far shoreline. I lost it there in the shadows, but felt sure it had made land, and I picked up the cage and was just turning away when I saw the reflection of the bird in the calm water, and then I saw it, coming back again. It was now losing elevation rapidly, and was only a few feet above the water when it reached shore and dropped in the grass only a few yards from where it had taken off. It lay there with wings half open, completely exhausted, and I watched it for about a minute, and then moved forward to pick it up. However, it pulled itself together at that moment, flew up into a low tree, shook itself, and went off to look for its companion.

All of us know that a bird released after banding, especially if it has been knocked about a bit, may do erratic things, and the careful bander always watches his birds to see that they make a normal getaway, but I thought this was an exceptionally interesting case, not so much because the bird flew out over the water, but that it turned back from an unknown shore and came back to almost the same spot it had just left.

(The above is from a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Dickerson from Mr. Rutter, an EBBA member and Park Naturalist of the Algonquin Park in Ontario and Curator of the Park's Museum. -Ed.)

Huntsville, Ontario, Canada

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9-YEAR PURPLE
FINCH RECOVERY

Howard Drinkwater, of Whitehouse, N. J., writes: "On Feb. 3, 1953, the first year I banded any number of Purple Finches, (254 that winter) I placed band no. 51-25728 on one that I judged to be a bird of the preceding year, sex undetermined. Today (Jan. 2, 1962), just short of nine years later, the bird - it was a male - returned. Now that of itself was, I thought, remarkable and worth a special note, but what really placed the bird in a very special category was the fact that both legs wore bands; both mine of Feb. 3, 1953, and one put in place just 20 days after the original banding. How I managed to do that, I'll never know. I suppose other banders have done the same but I wonder how many have their birds thus brought to their attention?"

"Both bands were in perfect condition and I released the bird with both intact. If it did so well thus far why disturb his aged equilibrium! I think I'll use this bird as an example when I'm called upon to allay the fears of those kindly bird-lovers who insist that banding small birds must do them harm and shorten their lives."

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NEXT DEADLINE
IS MARCH 6th

Because we wish to get the March-April issue of EBBA NEWS out well in advance of the Annual Meeting, the deadline for copy for this issue will be March 6th.