

Nov-Dec 1962

PURPLE FINCHES MORE PLENTIFUL AT WESTPORT POINT, MASS.
DURING SUMMER OF 1962
By Malcolm Oakes

My experience in banding Purple Finches at Westport Point, Massachusetts during the spring and summer of 1962 (April through September) shows a marked increase in numbers over the last two years and seems to indicate an extension of breeding activity in the area.

1958	-	42	banded in	5	days of banding	(September only)
1959	-	190	"	"	"	(April through September)
1960	-	170	"	"	"	(June " ")
1961	-	110	"	"	"	(May " ")
1962	-	336	"	"	"	(April " ")

On August 1st, for example, I banded 17 new birds, had 3 returns from previous years and 40 one-time repeats, a total of 60 different birds. In addition, 12 birds were trapped twice during that day.

1962 returns were again substantial in number. 60 returns (24 birds in full male plumage, 36 in brown plumage) or 55% of the number of birds banded in 1961. These 1962 returns can be further broken down as follows:

Birds originally banded in	1958	-	1	(1)
"	1959	-	6	(2)
"	1960	-	22	(3)
"	1961	-	26	
"	1962	-	5	(4)

- (1) Band #61-70911, a female, originally banded on September 10, 1958, returned on July 25, 1960 and again on July 16, 1962.
- (2) 5 birds (4 males, 1 female) banded in 1959 returned in 1960, 1961 and 1962. 1 bird (male) banded in 1959, skipped 1960 but returned in 1961 and 1962.
- (3) 13 birds (8 males, 5 females) banded in 1960 returned both in 1961 and 1962. 9 birds (2 males, 7 females) banded in 1960 skipped 1961 but returned in 1962.
- (4) The longest stay was Band #65-66040, brown plumage, first banded on May 26, 1962, repeated on July 3 and July 13 and returned on September 21.

Repeats - 273 birds that were banded or that returned in 1962 repeated in 1962, as compared to 73 birds repeating in 1961 and 126 birds repeating in 1960. Of the 273 1962 repeats:

89	birds	repeated	once	18	birds	repeated	7	times
66	"	"	twice	3	"	"	8	"
31	"	"	3 times	4	"	"	9	"
21	"	"	4 "	1	bird	"	10	"
23	"	"	5 "	1	"	"	11	"
16	"	"	6 "					

Plumage - Three birds banded in late May and early June, 1962, showing no color, returned in late September in full male plumage. Five birds, showing no color in 1960, returned in 1962 in full male plumage. Early in July, 1962, after reading Mr. John H. Kennard's article in the April 1962 issue of Bird-Banding, (Vol. 33: 2, pa. 90) I began to check my brown plumaged birds for pink coloration. Of the approximately 285 Purple Finches banded after July 1st, I noticed this pink coloration in about 40 birds, varying from a pinkish tinge to a definite pink (occasionally yellow) on the head, sides and rump. The number of birds with pink coloration increased in August and September. Another year I will pay more attention to this from the start of the summer season.

Traps - All birds were caught in traps - no mist nets used.

PURPLE FINCH DETAILS BY MONTHS - 1962

<u>Month</u>	<u>New Birds Banded</u>	<u>Returns after 90 Days</u>	<u>Repeats (less than 90 Days)</u>
April	4	2	0
May	23	18	31
June	23	7	35
July	91	23	128
August	112	5	314
September	<u>83</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>320</u>
Totals	336	60	828

Westport Point, Massachusetts. October 15, 1962.



CALL FOR PAPERS
FOR 1963 ANNUAL MEETING

Rev. Garrett Detwiler, 285 Roseville Ave., Newark 7, New Jersey, is this year's Program Committee Chairman for the 1963 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association. Rev. Detwiler urges those who desire to present papers to contact him as soon as possible giving details on the subject, the amount of time required, what props will be needed -- blackboard, slide projector and size of slides, etc.

