EBBA NEWS

November-December 1963 BANDING OF PURPLE FINCHES AT WESTFORT POINT, MASS. DURING SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1963 By Malcolm Oakes

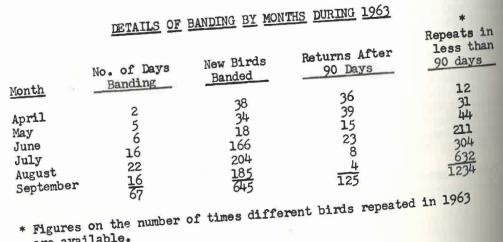
During the spring and summer of 1963, I banded 645 Purple Finches, more than during any similar period since I started banding in 1958. Returns from previous years were also substantial, 125 birds (44 in full male plumage and 81 in brown plumage) or 37% of the 336 birds banded in 1962. Two very active days were July 23rd when I banded 40 new birds, had 7 returns and 46 repeats, a total of 93 birds, and August 24th when 33 new birds were banded, with 3 returns and 81 one-time repeats, a total of 114 different Purple Finches. In addition, 15 of the 81 repeats were

trapped twice on that day.

SUMMARY OF PURPLE FINCHES BANDED SINCE 1958

	No. of Days	No. of Birds Banded	No. of Birds Which Returned in 1963
<u>Year</u>	5	42	0
1958	17	190	6
1959	45	170	15
1960	39 *	110	21
1961	92	336	81
1962	<u>67</u>	<u>645</u>	<u>2</u>
1963	265	1493	125

* A correction from previous reports.



are available.

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PLUMAGE - In my report last year, I noted that of approximately 285 Purple Finches banded in 1962 after July 1st, 40 birds showed pink, or less frequently yellow, coloring on the rump and/or sides and throat, as distinguished from the complete raspberry plumage of the adult male. Eight (8) of these 40 birds returned in 1963 - 3 in full male plumage, 3 with the same pink or yellow coloring they had in 1962 and 2 in brown plumage with no sign of pink or yellow. Of the 645 new Finches banded in 1963, 15 were in full male plumage, 448 were in brown plumage and 177 had pink or yellow coloring, either at the time they were banded or when they were re-trapped in August and September. I found that of the latter 177 birds, 95 had completely brown plumage when banded in July and early August, but had changed to pink or yellow coloring when re-trapped in late August or in September. All of these facts bear out the difficulty I, as well as many others, have experienced in distinguishing between males and females in the brown, pink or yellow coloring.

Some older Purple Finches, as evidenced by returns, are shown below:

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Band No.	Plumage When Banded	Date Banded	Date <u>Retaken</u>	Plumage When Retaken
61 - 70977	Brown	7/26/59	7/4/60 6/8/63	Brown Adult Male
61 - 70980 *	Adult Male	7/26/59	5/30/60 5/14/61 5/31/63	Adult Male
62 - 49145	Brown	8/22/59	6/12/60 7/14/61	Brown Tinge of Pink
			7/9/62	Brown - No Pink
			8/5/63	Very Pink Rump
62 - 49150 **	Brown	8/22/59	5/8/60 8/11/60 5/1/61 6/3/62 7/23/63	Adult Male

* Since adult male plumage is acquired in the second year after hatching, this bird was hatched in 1957 or before, and is, therefore, at least 6 years old.

" This bird was hatched in 1958 and is, therefore, 5 years old.

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	PLUMAGE OF	PURPLE FINCHES	BANDED IN 196	3
Month Banded	No. of Birds Banded	No. in Full Male Plumage	No. in Brown <u>Plumage</u>	No. with Pink or Yellow Coloring
April May June July August September	38 34 18 166 204 185	7 1 2 4 1 0	24 28 14 134* 200* <u>143</u>	7 5* 2 28 3 42
TOTAL	645	15	543*	87*
Revised Totals due to changes in repeate birds	ed char	15	1448	177

Remarks

5* 1 bird of pink plumage repeated on 7/27/63 in full male plumage. 35 birds had pink or yellow coloring when they repeated in August 134*

60 birds had pink or yellow coloring when they repeated in late 200* August and September.

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1334 times 480 different birds repeated -

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