

## BANDING OF PURPLE FINCHES AT WESTPORT POINT, MASS.

By Malcolm Oakes

The feature of my banding of Purple Finches during the spring and summer of 1964 was the increased number of returns, a total of 201 birds, 64 in full male plumage and 137 in brown plumage. Of the 108 returning birds which were banded in 1963, only 18 were in full male plumage so that many of the remaining brown plumage birds will eventually prove to be males.

DETAILS OF BANDING BY MONTHS DURING 1964

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NO. OF DAYS BANDING</u>	<u>NEW BIRDS BANDED</u>	<u>RETURNS AFTER 90 DAYS</u>	<u>REPEATS, LESS THAN 90 DAYS</u>
April	4	14	48	14
May	8	80	106	80
June	5	9	9	47
July	11	107	33	175
August	13	168	4	257
September	<u>10</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>42</u>
	<u>51</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>615</u>

SUMMARY OF PURPLE FINCHES BANDED SINCE 1958

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. OF DAYS BANDING</u>	<u>NO. OF BIRDS BANDED</u>	<u>NO. OF BIRDS WHICH RETURNED IN 1964</u>
1958	5	42	0
1959	17	190	7
1960	45	170	12
1961	39	110	14
1962	92	336	59
1963	67	645	108
1964	<u>51</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>316</u>	<u>1902</u>	<u>201</u>

Plumage - Returning Finches with pink or yellow coloration on rump and/or sides continued to show no definite pattern which would enable me to determine sex by plumage alone. I am, therefore, ready to accept the fact that, from my experience, individual plumages vary so much that there is no consistent character that can be depended on. The following table shows what I mean:

<u>PLUMAGE IN 1963</u>	<u>PLUMAGE IN 1964</u>	<u>NUMBER OF FINCHES</u>
Brown	Pink	15
Brown	Yellow	4
Pink	Brown	14
Pink	Pink	17

<u>PLUMAGE IN 1963</u>	<u>PLUMAGE IN 1964</u>	<u>NUMBER OF FINCHES</u>
Pink	Yellow	4
Pink	Full Male	6
Yellow	Full Male	2
Yellow	Pink	2
Yellow	Yellow	1

Age - Three of my older Finches, reported last year, came back again this summer. Three other birds originally banded in 1959 also returned, one of them twice in 1964. Five of these six old timers were adult males with only one female being able to match their record. One male and one female have returned every year since 1959. Details are given below:

<u>BAND NO.</u>	<u>PLUMAGE WHEN BANDED</u>	<u>DATE BANDED</u>	<u>DATE RETURNED</u>	<u>PLUMAGE WHEN RETURNED</u>
61-70977	Brown	7/26/59	7/4/60 6/8/63 5/8/64	Brown Adult Male
62-49129	Brown	8/16/59	6/24/60 6/9/61 4/19/64	Brown Adult Male
62-49131	Brown	8/16/59	6/1/61 7/13/62 7/23/63 4/20/64 7/22/64	Adult Male
62-49136	Brown	8/22/59	4/18/64	Adult Male
62-49145	Brown	8/22/59	6/12/60 7/14/61 7/9/62 8/5/63 7/9/64	Brown Tinge of Pink Brown - No Pink Very Pink Rump Very Pink Rump
62-49150*	Brown	8/22/59	5/8/60 8/11/60 5/1/61 6/3/62 7/23/63 4/20/64	Adult Male

\*This bird must have been hatched in 1958 and is, therefore, 6 years old.

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