

FEWER PURPLE FINCHES BANDED AT WESTPORT POINT, MASSACHUSETTS IN 1966  
By Malcolm Oakes

Purple Finches at Westport Point, Massachusetts, arrived later in the spring and left earlier than in previous years. Comparatively few birds appeared before May 10th and none were seen at the feeders after September 25th. Total number banded and number of returns were also less than in 1965 - 294 new birds versus 692 and 280 returns as against 319 the year before.

DETAILS OF BANDING BY MONTHS IN 1966  
(1965 figures in parenthesis)

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NO. OF DAYS BANDING</u>	<u>NEW BIRDS BANDED</u>	<u>RETURNS</u>	<u>REPEATS</u>
April (15-30)	3 (3)	5 (24)	19 (78)	2 (12)
May	11 (8)	49 (54)	169 (111)	169 (238)
June	8 (3)	20 (9)	47 (22)	110 (80)
July	12 (16)	92 (142)	28 (35)	191 (245)
August	15 (18)	110 (144)	16 (26)	298 (343)
September	9 (19)	18 (269)	1 (40)	111 (978)
October	<u>2 (11)</u> 60 (78)	<u>0 (30)</u> 294 (672)	<u>0 (7)</u> 280 (319)	<u>0 (176)</u> 881 (2072)

However, some of our old reliables showed up again including 6 Finches originally banded in 1959, the most consistent performers being:

<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 7/11/65 4/16/66	Brown Adult Male
62-49129	Brown	8/16/59	6/24/60 6/9/61 4/19/64 5/21/65 8/21/66	Brown Adult Male

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62-49131	Brown	8/22/59	6/1/61 7/13/62 7/23/63 4/20/64 7/22/64 5/18/65 5/10/66	Adult Male

One interesting feature of the returns was the fact that several Finches originally banded on the same day in 1964 or 1965 returned together on the same date in 1966, not necessarily the same day or month of their original banding. This raises the question as to whether they had stayed together in the interim or whether they were only re-trapped together by chance.

The range of recoveries by others was also extended, south from North Carolina - one Finch No. 69-69410 originally banded on July 31, 1963, being recovered on March 3, 1966, in Fairhope, Alabama. Of interest in fixing the winter range of some Purple Finches is one steady commuter between Massachusetts and Virginia - an adult female No. 70-41735 with the following record:

August 22, 1963	-	Banded at Westport Point, Mass.
January 1, 1964	-	Trapped and released at Richmond, Va.
July 25, 1964	-	Returned to Westport Point, Mass.
May 18, 1965	-	Returned to Westport Point, Mass.
September 25, 1965	-	Returned to Westport Point, Mass.
January 11, 1966	-	Trapped and released at Richmond, Va.

Mr. F. R. Scott of Richmond has this to say about Purple Finches wintering in his area, "Purple Finch No. 70-41735 is a real old friend of mine, having wintered in my area for two separate years. I caught her first on January 1, 1964, and she repeated the same winter on January 25, February 11, and February 23. Two years later I trapped her again on January 11, 1966, and she repeated again on January 14, 15, 25, and 31 and again on March 17. I added up all the Purple Finches I had banded since I caught my first in the winter of 1957-58 and found the total to be 2227, varying from a yearly (winter) total of 90 in 1964-65 to a maximum of 606 in 1965-66. I have had a number of recoveries of birds banded in winter or spring (and others have caught mine), but I have only two others that might be considered to have been banded or recovered on the nesting grounds (other than yours). One of these was one of my birds that was recovered July 26, 1958, at Mt. Desert, Maine, and the other was a bird I recovered that was banded August 7, 1959, on the East Branch, Penobscot River, Maine. I have followed your articles

with a great deal of interest, especially since I get a lot of returns each year also, which may be rather unusual for Purple Finches in winter."

Your Editor has suggested that others might be interested in some details of my method of banding Purple Finches. I use Potter traps almost exclusively ranging in size from single cell to eight cell. Putting these traps around my place on tables of various sizes with tops made of hardware cloth instead of wood, assures good drainage and, more important, saves considerable bending over when setting traps and removing birds. Tables are placed near shrubs or bushes. Excellent results are also obtained by hanging several single top-opening traps from the branches of an apple tree or from a clothes line where birds have been used to coming to feeders. Luckily, squirrels are scarce in our immediate locality so they are not a problem in depleting sunflower seed supplies which are the only bait used for Purple Finches.

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POX AT ISLAND BEACH - 1966  
By Mabel Warburton

Island Beach Operation Recovery continued their Pox Project for Drs. Karstad and Kirmse of the Ontario Veterinary College and collected ten samples from birds banded. Seven of these specimens proved to be pox virus infection. They were taken from the following species:

Blackpoll Warbler ( <i>Dendroica striata</i> )	Banded by D. Bordner
American Robin ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> )	" B. Adams
Yellow-shafted Flicker ( <i>Colaptes auratus</i> )	" B. Adams
Savannah Sparrow ( <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> )	" M. Warburton
Field Sparrow ( <i>Spizella pusilla</i> )	" M. Warburton
White-throated Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> )	" M. Warburton
Mockingbird ( <i>Mimus polyglottos</i> )	" M. Warburton

Dr. Karstad has informed us that, to the best of his knowledge, the diagnoses of pox in the Savannah Sparrow and the Blackpoll Warbler represent new host records. Last season (1965) the Island Beach banders discovered four new hosts for the virus.

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