

six weeks; if it is NOT on file, the procedure, including one or two reminders to the bander, takes over three months.

Once the pink card has been received, the girls have to transpose the bander's data onto worksheets, enter the data into the pipeline to be key-punched, to be included in the next computer run, after which the card to the bander and certificate to the finder are on their way. There is a computer run every three to four weeks, as this is a very costly procedure.

I once read that a computer run for a business firm costs \$460.00 per hour. If this is what it costs the Banding Lab also, you may realize that it is a mighty expensive proposition.

In addition to the foregoing, the Banding Lab staff often discovers:-

(a) The data on the banding schedule and the data sent back on the pink card do not agree. They must then launch into another correspondence session with the bander to determine what is accurate.

(b) When it turns out that the data on the pink card was in error, they must then remove the erroneous data from the computer machine files. They also must correct all their records and send a new "report to the finder" to provide him with the correct data. All this takes a great deal of time.

In addition to this, the Lab takes time to prepare for the long overdue (not surprisingly) banding manuals, code revisions, file edits, processing requests for data from the files, etc.

All the data given above is factual. The dates and times are not exaggerated. Please remember, for every error one of us makes, all the other banders suffer. All these seemingly nebulous errors create an amazing amount of work for the Banding Lab and an almost insurmountable backlog. It is thus not surprising that it often takes months to process a recovery. The Banding Lab can only be efficient...when we are!

Atlantic Flyway Recovery Report

Please note the excellent papers in the last issue of EBBA News (Vol. 32, No. 5) by Raymond Middleton, pp. 224-229; by William E. Savell, p. 220; and by Ralph W. Condee, pp. 231-2. All these papers include interesting recovery and longevity reports on various species.

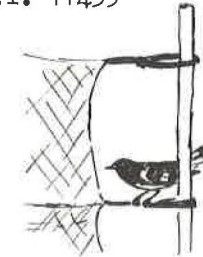
7. (Rc) Brown-headed Cowbird, 495; AHY-M 691-56660. Mrs. Valerie Freer.
04-05-67 - Ellenville, Ulster County, New York.
01-30-69 - Scotland Neck, Halifax County, North Carolina.

8. (Rc) Black-capped Chickadee, 735; HY-U 115-72335. Mrs. Valerie Freer.
09-23-68 - Ellenville, Ulster County, New York.
11-04-68 - Monaca, Beaver County, Penna.
9. (Rc) Starling, 493; HY-F 622-27682. Mrs. Valerie Freer.
08-11-67 - Ellenville, Ulster County, New York.
03-26-69 - Scotland Neck, Halifax County, North Carolina.

Next Issue: Operation Recovery reports. See above list of stations for your due date. Don't forget the postcard (Station Statistical Summary, described above, p. 254) due by December 25!

Next deadline: December 25, 1969.

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TWO MORE YEARS OF BANDING PURPLE FINCHES AT WESTPORT POINT, MASS. By Malcolm Oakes

Since my 1967 report on ten years of banding Purple Finches the pace of my activities at Westport Point during the summer months has slackened considerably. This has been due both to spending less time banding and to the fact that the number of finches appearing at our feeders has fallen off very decidedly, especially during 1969. This summer not only have Purple Finches been scarcer but the numbers of most other species of local birds, with the possible exception of Robins, has also been much lower than in previous years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>No. of Days Banding</u>	<u>New Birds Banded</u>	<u>No. of Returns</u>
1968	May 2 - Sept. 23	53	316	117
1969	May 10 - Sept. 14	44	170	108

The number of returns was also the lowest in several years, although many old-timers continued coming back for the fourth, fifth or sixth time since 1962. A new longevity record for me of ten years was established by male finch No. 61-70977 originally banded in 1959, in brown plumage at

that time. This bird first appeared in male plumage in 1963 and has returned to Westport Point on the following dates:-

July 4, 1960 (brown plumage)	April 16, 1966
June 8, 1963 (male plumage)	June 24, 1967
May 8, 1964	June 22, 1969 (plumage in excellent condition)
July 10, 1965	

Another point of interest, in my opinion, is the number of individual birds that have returned one or more times over the years as shown in the table that follows:-

Year	<u>No. of birds Banded</u>	<u>No. returned during 1968</u>	<u>No. returned during 1969</u>	<u>No. of individual birds returned since year of original banding</u>
1958	42	-	-	6
1959	190	-	1	45
1960	178	-	-	52
1961	110	-	-	35
1962	336	8	4	115
1963	645	10	8	159
1964	409	13	11	147
1965	672	20	8	126
1966	294	27	15	70
1967	267	39	26	48
1968	<u>316</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>
Totals	3459	117	108	837

These figures show that out of a total of 3459 Purple Finches banded since 1958, 837 individual birds, or an average of 24% have returned to Westport Point during one or more years since they were first banded.

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