

Highland Park, Reservoir Ave., Rochester, N. Y., December, 1924, to the end of June, 1925.)

Interesting Returns from Kittery Point, Me. — Prof. Frederick A. Saunders reports that on June 6th, 1925, he took at his banding station at Kittery Point, Me., a return female Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). On the same date he also took a male return Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica a. aestiva*). On July 3rd he captured a return female Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) and a second return Yellow Warbler, another male. The above birds were banded on July 10th, 1924. Other birds banded on July 3rd, 1925, were three Redstarts, a Baltimore Oriole, a Red-eyed Vireo and a Robin. It is interesting to note that all the above birds were taken in a pull-string water-trap.

Polished Bird Bands.— Bird-banders handling nesting birds, particularly species having the sexes alike, are asked to examine them closely for evidence tending to establish the matter of sex. Both in Peterboro, N. H., and in Cohasset, Mass., it is observed that among the banded Purple Finches appearing at the stations certain ones have the bands markedly clean and polished in great contrast to the unpolished condition of the bands at other seasons of the year. Thus far such bands have been found only on olivaceous birds (females or immature). Of such birds the majority handled show a displacement of the abdominal feathers, the displacement occasionally extending forward along the full length of the keel. It seems reasonable to regard them as nesting females, since the latter phenomenon is of common occurrence among sitting hens. The clean condition of the bands is believed to be due to the confined life led by the birds during incubation, the polishing being due to the movement of the toes and tarsus among the eggs. On account of the extraordinary perfection of this polish in a number of cases, it would appear that the eggs are stirred up very frequently during this period. If further observation along this line establishes the dependability of the foregoing theory, a helpful method of sex determination, as well as a means of detecting whether both the male and the female assist in incubation, will become available. — CHARLES L. WHITTLE.

The frontispiece of this Bulletin is from a photograph sent by Miss. M. L. Bodine, taken at Asticou, Northeast Harbor, Maine. Miss Bodine had made for her what she calls a "Merry-Go-Round," where birds come to feed from small basket trays, placed at short intervals on a bamboo hoop. This Merry-Go-Round swings in the breeze and is occupied by birds most of the time and is frequently overcrowded and often with a waiting-list. This unique feeding station was invented to circumvent the red squirrels and has proven absolutely squirrel proof. The birds seen feeding at this swinging feeder are Purple Finches.