

in the spring migration of 1925, 1926, or 1927, and the species has been relatively even less common in the field.

On May 27th we found a White-crowned Sparrow seriously ill. The bird, a male, was unable to fly and offered little resistance to capture. It was breathing heavily and felt hot to the hand. We placed it in a cage at first, but as it seemed discontented, we gave it the range of the room. After hopping about on a tour of inspection, it returned to the cage, and, pulling a piece of bread from the cage, proceeded to eat part of it. The bird remained in that place for several hours but that evening was found dead in a corner of the room under a bureau.

We sent the bird to Dr. E. E. Tyzzer, of the Harvard Medical School, for examination, and received the following report: "Bird shows marked emaciation and feathers matted with white, chalky material posteriorly. There is massive, rather dry cheesy exudate over the surface of the heart from which there is a growth of mould. There is also a thick layer of similar material between gizzard and the body wall. Both lungs are largely replaced with firm, dry material. The diagnosis is pulmonary mycosis with extension to pericardium and abdominal cavity."

We dare not venture the opinion that herein lies the explanation of the scarcity of the species at Wells River during the past season, in view of its abundance elsewhere. We should like to know the status of the species as regards abundance or scarcity on its nesting-grounds.

During the week or ten days preceding the finding of this individual, we had been having much rainy weather, a condition favorable to the growth of fungi.—WENDELL P. SMITH, Wells River, Vermont, June 8, 1928.

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**A White-breasted Nuthatch Age-Record.**—Miss Rachel Caughey, of Antrim, New Hampshire, reports the following captures of a White-breasted Nuthatch at her banding station: banded May 14, 1923, repeating twice in 1924, five times in 1925, once in 1926, and once in 1928. As the bird must have been at least about a year old when banded, it was approximately six years old when last taken, May 5, 1928.

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**Purple Finch Returns.**—M. J. Magee writes from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, that during last May (1928) he was just about "swamped" with Purple Finches. During this month he banded over 800 of this species and had about 150 returns.

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**A Return-4 Junco.**—It is always of interest to secure information as to the persistency with which any migrating bird returns either to its nesting-area or to its wintering residence, as these habits are of biological significance. Such records also will determine the average age of different species. The above Junco (*Junco h. hyemalis*) was banded by L. B. Fletcher in Cohasset, Massachusetts, January 25, 1923, the returning dates being February 4, 1924; January 30, 1925; March 25, 1926; and January 10, 1928. The bird was accordingly at least five and one half years old.

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**Purple Finch No. A6111.**—An example of the seemingly erratic habit of the Purple Finch of wandering about at random is found in No. A6111,

an adult male banded as such on February 22, 1925, by C. L. Whittle at Cohasset, Massachusetts. Since that date he has not been recaptured at Cohasset, but on May 7, 1928, Mrs. Alice B. Pratt recovered the bird at her banding station in Middleboro, Massachusetts.—C. L. W.

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**Preponderance of Banded Male Chewinks.**—Allan Keniston sends in a report of having banded during May, 1928, at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, thirty-five Chewinks (*Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus*). Of these birds only five were females. Keniston has published the fact that during two previous seasons, 1926 and 1927, he has banded many more male birds, most of them captured in May (See the *Bulletin*, Vol. III, pp. 93-95). This spring the first fourteen Chewinks banded were males and were trapped between May 7th and May 18th. Mabel Gillespie (see the *Bulletin*, Vol. III, p. 18) has banded a much larger number of males than females, her banding taking place on the same island but later in the season after the birds were nesting. The writer would explain this apparent surplus of males over females by suggesting that many of Keniston's birds taken in May were migrants and that in migration the males precede the females. Later in the season, when the females are incubating, the males have more leisure and hence more opportunity to visit banding stations.—C. L. W.

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**A Return-3 Rose-breasted Grosbeak.**—Mrs. Jean E. Carth, of Wellesley, reports the capture of a return-3 Rose-breasted Grosbeak banded June 21, 1924, as an adult male. The bird returned on May 22, 1925, June 21, 1926, and again on May 22, 1928, but was not taken in 1927. He was at least five years old when last captured.

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**Caution.**—Banders are asked to be very careful in reading the numbers on their repeats and recovered birds, the letters A or B, which are placed above the figures and to the right of them, often being omitted in the reports sent in. The correct reading of band-numbers is an important matter: an incorrect reading either introduces inexcusable error into our records, or it may result in the loss of a record of exceptional importance. If, when a number is read, the bander has in mind the fact that an A or B may be an integral part of the number, it will be greatly appreciated, for outside of introducing errors and the loss of an important record, much time and annoyance will be saved our Recording Secretary and the Bureau of Biological Survey in Washington.

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**A Recovered Junco.**—The capture of a banded Junco (*Junco h. hyemalis*) as a recovery is so rare an occurrence that it is desirable to place a recent case on record. This Junco was banded at Manchester, New Hampshire, by the Rev. Eugene Goellner, on April 10, 1926, and was found dead in Middleboro, Massachusetts, about April 1, 1928, by R. McKenney. The bird was doubtless moving northerly in migration.

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**Another Purple Finch Recovery.**—Alice B. Pratt, of Middleboro, Massachusetts, reports that Purple Finch A68905, banded by her Decem-