

bird-banding and in securing scientific results, or may even bring in reports of banded birds, that seems to me their greatest value.—GRACE COIT MELENEY, 200 Chatterton Parkway, White Plains, New York.

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**A Fox Sparrow with the Trap Habit.**—That indifference to being trapped and handled is not limited to one or two species seems proved by the following records of a Fox Sparrow (*Passerella i. iliaca*), 190169A, taken first on November 14, 1930. A flock of a score or more of this species had been about this feeding and trapping station since October 27th, and nine had been taken and banded at odd days before this individual was taken. Being busy with other Sanctuary duties, especially forestry improvement, I place the sparrow-trap on the feeding station at odd periods and birds can enter at will, and go out if they have the instinct or brain-development to remember the way, this latter ability being highest in the Chickadee. This particular Fox Sparrow repeated on November 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 28th (five times), and 29th, and on December 4th, 10th, 13th, and 15th. Few if any other Fox Sparrows were to be found in the vicinity after November 20th, but this individual seemed loath to leave the spot despite the repeated handling. Doubtless if constant attention could have been given to the trap, the bird could have been taken many times each day during its stay.—LESTER W. SMITH, Stone Bird Sanctuary, Babson Park, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

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**Song Sparrow, Junco, and Purple Finch Recoveries.**—At my banding station, "West Wind," at Oliverea Post Office, New York, a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza m. melodia*) 165752, was banded July 26, 1925. This bird was captured by F. J. Williams at Hookerton, North Carolina, January 9, 1927. Another one, banded October 4, 1926, was dropped by a Shrike, April 15, 1927, at Landsgrove, Vermont, and was found by E. Earl Richardson. Landsgrove is some eighty miles northeast of "West Wind".

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco h. hyemalis*) 66726, banded April 20, 1928, was found dead by Paul G. Sheriff at Portage, Pennsylvania, March 25, 1929, and another bird of this species, A168501, banded October 19, 1929, was captured by A. Whitsill, February 1, 1931, at Heiberger, Alabama.

A Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*) banded May 3, 1929, was killed by a cat at Kentville, Nova Scotia, May 26, 1930.—FLORENCE K. DALEY, "West Wind", Oliverea P. O., Ulster County, New York.

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**Moulting of Adult Female Purple Finches.**—Observations at my Peterboro, New Hampshire, banding station during the summer and fall of 1930 seemed to indicate that some adult female Purple Finches complete their moult much later than the average. Mr. M. J. Magee writes me that moulting of old Purple Finches, in case of many birds, usually begins in July, often by the first of the month, although other birds do not begin moulting until early August; also, that he has noted an occasional male not through moulting as late as October 24th. He sends me several records of females with moult about completed by September 17th or the 20th. In *Bird-Banding*, Vol. I, n. s., No. 3, pp. 136 to 139, he states that "the first female apparently through moulting . . . was trapped September 16th and the first adult male apparently through moulting was trapped

September 25th." He believes (p. 139) that adult birds require twelve to fourteen weeks to complete the moult.

The following data support his conclusions as to the duration of moult, in the case of three adult females at least, but the date of its completion seems to be much later than examples cited by him, as will be seen by the following details:

Adult female Purple Finch B26482 was banded June 21, 1929. She was a return-1 June 15, 1930, a bird with an especially olive yellow rump, at least two years old. She repeated June 15th and again on August 11th, when only slight evidence of moult was noted. On September 4th she was on the shelf feeding two young birds, and she repeated again on September 6th, still showing no more evidence of moult than a slight feather-loss on the lower hind-neck. The rectrices and remiges were badly abraded. She was not seen after this date.

Adult female Purple Finch B26493 was banded June 24, 1929, and returned May 3, 1930. She was also at least two years old and known to be a nesting bird by the fact that she repeated on July 16th with her band well polished. Like B26482, her rump was bright olive yellow. She appeared with young in early September (though she was incubating during the middle of July, as noted), and up to the time she disappeared, September 6th, the evidence of moult was no more than B26482 showed.

Adult female Purple Finch B26592 was banded by me September 7, 1929, and was recovered three miles south of my station by Mrs. Whittle, August 22, 1930. Children had found the bird on the ground unable to fly. Its rectrices and primaries were broken, probably as the result of an encounter with a cat. It was placed in a tree and about September 15th it was brought in by a dog. The bird was then placed in a cage and on September 29th was brought to our home. On this date the bird's new outer primaries were about three-fourths of an inch long, but otherwise, barring a slight feather loss on the forehead, there was no evidence of moult. From this time on feather loss and renewal continued actively till November 8th, when the moult was complete, barring the secondaries, which were not wholly grown, but by November 15th the moult was completed.

At first glance it would be natural to think that the hardships which this bird had experienced might have delayed the beginning of her moult, which was observed to be in progress from about September 15th to November 15th, or two months, but if we assume that a slight feather-loss began as early as was the case with Purple Finches B26482 and B26493, then her moulting-period was about twelve weeks, and seemingly the completeness of the moult in the cases of the first two birds described would probably also last till about November 15th, since on September 6th pronounced moulting had not begun. It required two months for B26592 to complete her moult, beginning about the time the primaries were being renewed, so we are justified in assuming that B26482 and B26493 would require at least two months to complete their moult, starting from September 6th, when no pronounced moult had begun.

The exact ages of these three birds are unknown, though they were known to be at least two years old. It seems certain that the unusual conditions experienced by B26592 had no tendency to retard the beginning or ending of her moult, since it seemed to correspond so closely with that of the other two birds, and, since we have three cases of the moult ending as late as November 15th, it is evident that this late date is not unusual, a fact which leads one to wonder if the explanation may not be that the beginnings of moult, and hence the endings, vary with the ages of the birds.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE.