The bands seemed wrapped rather tightly around the legs, and were only half the width of a government band. Judging from the rolled appearance, the material was probably an elastic substance. These readily identified the bird in the field, and it was present from January 8 to 29, and again seen in the same area March 24.

These records, while not at all conclusive, may help to show what results could be obtained through the further use of colored bands in marking birds.—RICHARD G. KUERZI, Kent, Connecticut.

A Brown Thrasher Return-5.—Supplementing my note in *Bird-Banding* on Brown Thrasher returns at my station in Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1937, No. A-298946, an immature bird when banded, was a return-5 on May 26, 1938. The bird repeated June 15th, 16th, 17th and 22d so it was doubtless nesting nearby. —MRS. FREDERICK MORSE CUTLER.

Eastern Purple Finches as Bud-Eaters.—For the past three years, during the period from November to May, I have had a considerable number of Purple Finches (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*) come to my place at Ardmore, Pennsylvania. They usually come to a seckel-pear tree about ten feet from the house, and on one of the lower branches of this tree I have a small feeder in which I keep sunflower seeds, and underneath the tree I have a pull-string ground trap, in which I capture birds for banding. This year to date, I have captured and banded over a hundred Purple Finches.

The finches, while waiting for an opportunity to get at the feeder when another bird is feeding, will very often, during the months between March and May, eat the buds and blossoms of the seckel pear, and they appear to be destroying a large amount of the fruit on the tree. However, while this race of birds has been and still is being accused of doing great damage to fruit trees in different parts of the country, yet, my own experience would indicate that the accusation against these birds is unwarranted.

I have found, during the past three years, that the pruning the birds give the tree is decidedly beneficial. In the fall of each year when the birds were present in the spring, I have noted a very marked improvement in the amount of fruit on the tree, and last year, we not only had the largest number of pears on this tree we ever had before, but a great many of the pears were double the size of the normal seckel pear, and the flavor seemed to be decidedly improved. Let us be fair to the Purple Finch.—HORACE GROSKIN, 220 St. Georges Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

Estimated Sex Ratio of the Eastern Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*), Based Exclusively on Returns at Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan.—M. J. MAGEE, Sault Ste Marie, Michigan.

Year	*Males*	*Females*	*Totals*
1928	87	66	153
1929	83	66	149
1930	86	52	138
1931	81	62	143
1932	119	92	211
1933	86	84	170
1934	64	36	100
1935	66	57	123
1936	63	35	98
1937	51	44	95
Total returns by years	786	594	1380

57 per cent males, 43 per cent females.

Some Bronzed Grackle and Blue Jay Age Records.—While studying a recent lot of returns of birds banded here at my home in Cincinnati, Ohio, I noted a number of records which might interest those who are especially concerned with the longevity of certain species of birds. The records are as follows:

Northern Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta c. cristata*) adult—A392716, banded April 24, 1932; returned May 1, 1935 and May 24, 1938.

Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus q. quiscula*) adult female—A416853, banded April 22, 1931, returned May 14, 1938, and due to wearing, changed to new band 37-353168.

Bronzed Grackle adult male—A416864, banded April 25, 1931, returned June 14, 1933, May 23, 1935 (changed band at that date to 34-300364) May 14, 1937 and May 11, 1938.

Bronzed Grackle adult male—A416960, banded May 31, 1931, returned April 27, 1937 (changed band at that date to 34-355745) and May 29, 1938.

Bronzed Grackle adult female—B326515, banded June 12, 1932, returned April 27, 1934 and May 13, 1938.

Bronzed Grackle adult female—B326413, banded May 3, 1932, returned May 14, 1938.

Translated into years this means that three of the grackles were at least 8 or more years old, two more were at least 7 years old, and one Blue Jay also at least 7 years of age.—CHRISTIAN J. GOETZ, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Three Returns Killed by Automobiles in East Westmoreland, New Hampshire.—Along a stretch of road before my home in East Westmoreland, New Hampshire, three-fifths of a mile long, three returns of my banded birds were killed by automobiles between May 17th and June 14th, 1938. The first to succumb was a Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*), banded May 31, 1933, an adult female. She was a Return-1, June 25, 1934 and a Return-2 when killed. The second bird killed was a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). This bird was banded as an adult, September 6, 1935 and was a Return-1 September, 1936, and a Return-2 May 27, 1938. The third fatality was an Eastern Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella p. passerrina*) that was banded September 16, 1936 and found dead June 14, 1938, a Return-1.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, East Westmoreland, New Hampshire.

Chimney Swifts in Buildings.—Since Chimney Swifts (*Chætura pelagica*) occupy a portion of our buildings, it is not surprising that they should more frequently be found in our living rooms, bed rooms, attics, and cellars than other species of birds. While we assume that in these cases they simply go too far down the chimney and gain access to the house through the fire-place or furnace, this may not always be the case.

Recently I watched a flock of Swifts going to roost in a chimney. It was a cool evening and a small fire had been lighted that day for the first time since the previous spring. When about twenty-five Swifts had entered, I saw a few fly out again. Then one by one they continued to emerge and fly away. At dusk the last one came out, but instead of seeking a new chimney, it fluttered against a window of the attic of the same house. If the window had been open, it would certainly have entered the attic and spent the night there.

I believe that this behavior is a relic of the Chimney Swift's former habit of roosting in hollow trees. It is likely that if a Swift found the main hollow overcrowded or unsatisfactory for any reason, it could often find lodging in one of the side branches. This hollow would probably communicate with the main central one, and the Swift would not feel cut off from the rest of the colony. How are Swifts to know now that our attics do not communicate directly with our chimneys?

The Swifts that I have found in cellars, furnaces, or at the base of ventilating shafts have usually been diseased. "Foot disease" may have robbed them of the ability to cling to the bricks and mortar by depriving them of most of their toe-nails, or other diseases may have weakened them until they dropped down exhausted.

But the Swifts that I have found in the upper stories of houses were usually healthy birds, and I believe, on the basis of the above observation and theory, that they had entered the houses intentionally.

Since many banding returns are derived from Chimney Swifts found in buildings, it would be worthwhile to ascertain in each case what part of the building was involved.—C. BROOKE WORTH, Department of Zoölogy, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.