

The significant feature of this horde of felines is that when I questioned the foreman and commented on the number of cats living there he stated that generally the greater number left in the spring and foraged for themselves in the woods, coming back to the farm again when the weather became inclement and they remained until the following spring when they left for the woods and fields. This being the case there will be probably thirty-eight cats at large securing their living from birds and small mammals and one can easily imagine what a toll of wild life they will take.—CHARLES B. FLOYD.

**A Recovery Record of a Roaming Eastern Purple Finch.**—A record that illustrates the roaming habit of the species was made by Eastern Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*) 138-15209, banded on July 30, 1938, at the Wharton Bird-Banding Station, Groton, Massachusetts. This bird was then a juvenile, and was one of two birds of this species trapped on that date. The bird repeated at the station on August 1.

The next report of this young Purple Finch came to us via the Biological Survey, who informed us that it was trapped and released by Mrs. Mary Bowers at her station at 19 Hubbard Street, Concord, Massachusetts. From Groton to Concord is about 16 miles in a southeasterly direction.

The erratic travels of the Eastern Purple Finch are well known, but a remarkable example of this phenomenon is the trip back to Groton made by this bird. Trapped and released at Concord on August 19, it was taken again as a repeat at Groton on August 21, having made the 16 mile return trip in two days.—EDWIN A. MASON, Wharton Bird-Banding Station, Groton, Massachusetts.

**Auxiliary Perch for Top-opening Traps.**—Banders who use top-opening traps are often annoyed by birds perching on the open door and subsequently springing the trap without catching the bird. This trouble can be alleviated with an ordinary wire coat hanger or a piece of hay wire. I prefer an enameled coat hanger as it is rust-proof. The wire is bent into a "U" shape, similar to a croquet arch, the top of the "U" being an inch wider than the top of the door. Fasten the inverted "U" solidly to the trap. The wire can be bent to any angle and as it is always higher than the door, birds will perch on it instead of the door. It is also convenient when such traps are covered by snow, since the perch will often protrude above the surface, thus locating the traps and serving as handles at the same time.—GEOFFREY GILL, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L. I., N. Y.

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## RECENT LITERATURE

Reviews by Margaret M. Nice and Thomas T. McCabe

### BANDING AND MIGRATION

**1. Bird-Banding Notes.**—1938. Vol. 2(16):269-294. In North America 346,056 birds were banded in 1938, the total since 1922 reaching 2,828,100. The ten species landed in greatest numbers were: Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) 25,607; Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) 18,805; White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) 17,026; Pintail (*Dafila acuta*) 16,360; Junco (*Junco hyemalis & oreganus*) 14,701; Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) 14,376; Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 13,587; Franklin Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) 10,841; Green-winged Teal (*Nettion carolinense*) 8,372; Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) 8,023.

Great numbers of birds are banded on this continent, but the accumulating data are not being utilized.

Some information is given on longevity: two Mallards were at least 15 years old, one at least 14, one at least 11; a Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) was at least 14; two Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo borealis*) and a Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*), reached 13 years; a Chimney Swift at least 12, a Herring Gull 10; Common Terns 10, 9, and 8; a Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) at least 8 years and a Nuttall