

## GENERAL NOTES

**Notes on Duck Recoveries.**—The banding recoveries given below are those returned from the Biological Survey during 1937 and 1938. All these ducks were banded at Montcalm Farms, Phoenixville, Pa.

**Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*):**

662640, banded August, 1932, was shot October, 1937, near Port Clinton, Ohio.  
644591, banded December 24, 1936, was shot October 9, 1937, near Fremont, Ohio.  
644573, banded October 25, 1936, was shot November 2, 1937, at Weaver, Minnesota.  
644520, banded November 9, 1935, was found dead July 28, 1938, at Kimberton, Pennsylvania.  
644576, banded October 25, 1936, was shot October 28, 1938, at French Creek, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

**Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*):**

644918, banded February 26, 1937, found dead about February 7, 1938, at Indian Head, Maryland.  
541898, banded January 22, 1935, taken June 27, 1937, at Attawapiskat, Ontario, by an Indian.  
644286, banded December 14, 1936, killed about November 9, 1937, at Paulsboro, New Jersey.  
644164, banded December 24, 1935, shot on November 26, 1937, on the Schuylkill River near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The Mallards show a much greater tendency toward a westward movement while the Black Ducks in these few recoveries were all either north or south of the place of banding.—FRANK B. FOSTER, Phoenixville, Pa.

**Return Records of a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*).**—Although I have banded only fifteen Scarlet Tanagers, I have had returns on two of them.

A-286073, ♂, banded in Montvale, July 2, 1931 and retrapped July 9, 1931. Returned on May 18, 1932 and was not retrapped that year. Returned on May 19, 1933 and was retrapped on August 21, August 22, and August 26.

Returned on May 12, 1934 and was not retrapped that year. Returned on May 13, 1935, and retrapped twice on May 15, three times on May 16, once on May 17 and on May 18 it was in the trap so many times that I finally left the trap open. The bird was in and out of the trap several times a day until July 20 as it was feeding a couple of young ones. It stopped going to the trap on that date so I reset it and caught the bird again on July 28, August 1, August 2, and August 18. Since that time I have not retrapped it.

B-221324, ♂, banded on July 31, 1932 was found dead in Montvale on May 25, 1933.

It is rather remarkable that the first bird returned so close to the same date and always went into the same trap. I also noticed that it kept the young ones at least twenty-five feet from the trap and seemed to want them not to be caught.

One reason that I do not trap so many of these birds is that many of my neighbors have become bird minded and keep suet out all the time. This, plus the fact that they have large and tall oak trees has made the birds remain in their territories. I have seen bands on some of these birds but of course could not get any information. They are around my station too, but I can manage to trap only about one each year.—CARL A. PEDERSEN, Montvale, N. J.

**Notes on Returns of the Eastern Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*), and their Sex Ratio.** To review my records on the sex of Purple Finches is not a simple matter. Males do not begin to assume the crimson plumage until a year old. In the spring, young males are in their brownish plumage and cannot be positively separated from the females. After molting, young-of-the-year and adult females are similar and cannot be separated. During the molting season adult females can be separated from young-of-the-year as they molt their wing feathers, the young not doing so. Large numbers of Finches are banded every year that, at the time of banding, cannot be separated as to sex. Many of these birds return and can then be determined as to sex. I believe the most reliable sex ratio for this species can be obtained by studying returns. I have, therefore, checked all my returns on Finches banded since I started banding them in 1922 to the end of 1938, 17 years, as follows: Number banded in this seventeen-year period 21,715. The returns numbered 1,746. Of these 139 could not be separated as to sex, and, of the balance 922, were males and 685 females, the percentages being: Sex not known, 7.96%; Male, 52.81%; Female, 39.23%.

In studying my cards I also secured data on the number of the Finches that were at least five years or older up to time they were last trapped, as follows:

			Returned every year from year banded to last year trapped	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
At least 5 years old.....	107	64	21	13
At least 6 years old.....	30	17	4	4
At least 7 years old.....	11	7	1	1
At least 8 years old.....	4	2	2	2
At least 10 years old.....	1	0	—	0
	153	90	28	20

The above list is as complete as the age can be positively determined. The males, on account of not getting their crimson plumage until a year old, furnish the most accurate data. For example: a male in crimson plumage, banded any time before molting in 1937, is at least a 1935 bird. A female, banded at the same time in 1937, is at least a 1936 bird. If year-old and second-year females could be told apart, some females that can only be determined as at least 4 years of age would be in the 5-year list, and some of the listed females might be advanced a year. During the next few years some of these birds that have returned will be back again and some banded that have not yet returned will be back. The list will be corrected from year to year and in time will have a complete record of my Finch returns for this 17-year period.

My oldest Purple Finch record is still the adult male banded in Spring of 1922, at least a 1920 bird, trapped every year but one to 1930.—M. J. MAGEE, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

**A Crippled White-throated Sparrow.**—On January 5, 1939 on the campus of the University of Georgia at Athens, Georgia, the writer caught a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) that had managed to survive despite a seriously crippled right leg. The bird was taken in a modified Government Sparrow Trap along with ten English Sparrows. The right leg had been broken about a third of an inch below the ankle joint and had healed with the lower part of the leg turned inward at a right angle to its normal position. The lower part of the leg had also become twisted in healing so that the two outer toes were turned completely over. While hopping on the ground the bird relied mostly on the normal leg but the crippled one was used effectively as a support, resting on the ground from the point of fracture to the toes. The two outer toes had become swollen and the whole leg discolored from its newly acquired function.

While perching only the normal leg was used but in scrambling through the bushes the lame leg also came into use. While perching the bird frequently worked the crippled leg as though trying to use it but the break was so serious the leg remained folded beneath the body quite useless.

The only other remarkable thing about the bird was the shortness of its tail which was only about an inch long. Perhaps the tail was lost and the leg broken in the same mishap. The bird bears U. S. Biological Survey band number 39-133229.—WILLIAM CANTRELL, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

**Returns of Birds released away from Station.**—On December 8, 1937, we banded eight Starlings; numbers 38-201641 to 48. These were released at Pompton Lakes, N. J., 3 miles northeast of station. 38-201643 was retaken two days later. On June 28, 1938 38-201648 was trapped as a return. 38-201646 was found dead in the garage in February 5, 1939.

Six Starlings, numbers 38-201649 to 54 were banded the following day (Dec. 9th) and were released at Englewood Cliffs, N. J., 19 miles east of station. 38-201654 was retaken on the 10th, and with three other Starlings was released at Harrison, N. J. This is 16½ miles southeast of station. On December 24th this bird was again taken from the traps, this time being released here. It repeated on January 17, 18, and March 8, 1938. We find it very unusual for Starlings to repeat. I might add, however, we have banded comparatively few of these birds, as they are quite a nuisance and are not encouraged.