

Additional Purple Finch Returning Ratios.—From time to time in this *Bulletin* there has appeared the known history in the form of returns of the 1923 season's banding of the Purple Finch at Mrs. Whittle's banding station in Peterboro, New Hampshire, namely one hundred and sixty-six birds. The following table contains the statistical data already published plus that obtained during 1928 up to the 18th of December, together with the known history of the Purple Finches banded in 1924:

Year of Banding	No. Banded	Returns-1	%	Returns-2	%	Returns-3	%
1923	166	24 (1924)	15.06	17 (1925)	68.00	10 (1926)	58.82
		7 (1927)	70.00	2 (1928)	28.57		
1924	241	67 (1925) ¹	27.80	32 (1926)	47.76	17 (1927)	53.12
		4 (1928)	23.59				

The number of returns of the 166 birds banded in 1923 has diminished from 15.06% in 1924 (returns-1), to 12.409% in 1925 (returns-2), to 6.02% in 1926 (returns-3), to 4.21% in 1927 (returns-4), and to 1.20% in 1928 (returns-5). In other words, the 1923 season's bandings of Purple Finches have practically reached the vanishing point in so far as the records go. The high percentage of each season's returns the following year, which were 68.00 in 1925, 58.82 in 1926, 70.00 in 1927, took a sudden drop in 1928 to 28.57 percent.

If these returning ratios measured the approximate average survival ratios, a year's time witnessed the loss of 84.94 per cent of the original one hundred and sixty-six Purple Finches of various ages banded in 1923, and two years' time the loss of 89.76 per cent. The above data, in so far as it can be relied upon, supports Magee's preliminary estimate that the average age of the Purple Finch is about two years. (See this *Bulletin*, Vol. IV, 1928, pp. 132-136.)

The table above contains a parallel history of 241 Purple Finches banded at the same station in 1924, up to 1928. This table shows important deviations from the history of the 1923 birds and indicates that no single series of records of this sort can be depended upon, at least in the case of Purple Finches, to furnish an accurate history of a season's bandings at the end of a year's time, but it agrees with the history of the 1923 birds in that at the close of the third year after banding there were apparently very few birds alive.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, Peterboro, New Hampshire.

A Chipping Sparrow Recovered in South Carolina.—Miss G. C. Meleney reports that a Chipping Sparrow, No. 94049, banded by her at Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, July 7, 1925, was killed by F. Hardy at Charleston, South Carolina, February 7, 1928. Recoveries of this sort (northern-nesting migrants captured on their wintering-grounds), taken in conjunction with returns of species banded on their wintering-grounds are of prime importance in helping solve the problem: Is the distribution of a migratory species on its wintering-ground a purely haphazard one, or is it governed by some law such as the suggested one that northern-nesting members of a species occupy the southern portion of the species' wintering-area, and that the southern-nesting members of a species occupy the northern portion of the species' wintering-area?

The process of determining the facts in the case is bound to be a slow one, but with many banders widely distributed an answer will be forthcoming in time.—C. L. W.

¹In addition to the sixty-seven returns-1 in 1925, there were seven 1924 birds which returned for the first time in 1926 and four more in 1927, making a total of seventy-eight birds out of two hundred and forty-one which survived at least a year.