

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.