

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: