

PURPLE FINCH INVASION  
and  
TICK-INFESTED JUNCO  
By Laura Law Bailey

In February and March of last year (1960), during the periods of our heavy snow storms, we had an influx of Purple Finches probably on their northern migration. A total of 87 of these birds, 55 male and 32 female, were banded and all were trapped in a one-cell trap set on a window ledge. Repeats were often. Among the birds trapped was a Recovery of a male Purple Finch banded by E. A. Bergstrom in Hartford, Conn. in 1959. This invasion of Purple Finches was most unusual for us, as in previous years we have only seen them as migrants, and then rarely, and not more than 3 to 5 individuals at a time. This winter our heavy snows have been earlier and we have had few Purple Finches at our feeders. Only 10 have been trapped, and of these 3 were Returns from last year.

Our resident Junco population has dropped considerably this winter (we have seen no Redpolls here at all; and we have had no Evening Grosbeaks, though several were trapped and banded last year.) One female Junco, that appeared somewhat sluggish in her movements, when trapped was found to have a swollen tick about the size of a pea clinging to the throat slightly under the lower mandible. The tick was removed, but not saved, and iodine put on the infected spot on the bird's throat. After banding, the Junco flew from hand to a nearby tree with apparently quite normal activity.

Route 2, Goshen, Va.

EGGS TAKEN BY LIZARDS?  
By Lillian Cardinali

Can an EBBA reader answer this question?

This past summer is the first time this has happened to any of the nesting boxes on the range. A Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) had four eggs in a nesting box. In four days all the eggs were gone, shells and all. A Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*) had five eggs in a bluebird house, and in two days all five eggs disappeared the same way. A House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) had five eggs in a box and they disappeared in two days.

Nests were not destroyed; just the eggs were removed as if a human hand had taken them out. There were no signs of shells. Most of these boxes were on fence posts  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 feet from the ground. Could lizards be the guilty ones? There seemed to be a greater number of them this year than at any other season.

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