

PURPLE FINCHES BANDED AT WESTPORT POINT, MASSACHUSETTS IN 1965  
By Malcolm Oakes

Purple Finches continued to return to Westport Point in increasing numbers during 1965, a total of 319 returns against 201 in 1964. The number of new Finches banded, as well as the number of repeats (less than 90 days), also reached new highs. The largest number of returns occurred in April and May, and of the 189 Finches returning in these months 41 returned again (after 90 days) during August, September and early October, without having been trapped in between. This suggests a movement farther north by these birds during the summer months, with a stop-over on the way South in the Fall. It also appears that large numbers of Finches nest locally in the area, as shown by the many young banded in July and August. Finches at my feeders usually disappear completely in late September or early October and reports of birds re-trapped by others during the Winter months show a range south from Pennsylvania, through Maryland and Virginia to North Carolina.

DETAILS OF BANDING BY MONTHS DURING 1965

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NO. OF DAYS BANDING</u>	<u>NEW BIRDS BANDED</u>	<u>RETURNS AFTER 90 DAYS</u>	<u>REPEATS LESS THAN 90 DAYS</u>
April (19-30)	3	24	78	12
May	8	54	111	238
June	3	9	22	80
July	16	142	35	245
August	18	144	26	343
September	19	269	40	978
October (1-11)	11	30	7	176
	<u>78</u>	<u>672</u>	<u>319</u>	<u>2072</u>

SUMMARY OF PURPLE FINCHES BANDED SINCE 1958

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. OF DAYS BANDING</u>	<u>NO. OF BIRDS BANDED</u>	<u>NO. OF BIRDS WHICH RETURNED IN 1965</u>
1958	5	42	0
1959	17	190	5
1960	45	170	8
1961	39	110	6
1962	92	336	55
1963	67	645	86
1964	51	409	149
1965	78	672	10
	<u>394</u>	<u>2574</u>	<u>319</u>

Summary - Birds previously recorded as having pink or yellow rumps followed the same pattern shown in previous years and returned in 1965

in both male and female plumages. I also noted that several birds having brown plumage when trapped in April and May returned in August and September (after 90 days) in full male plumage, indicating that adult male plumage is acquired in mid-summer.

Age - Last year I gave details of six Purple Finches originally banded in 1959. Four of these birds returned again in 1965, two did not return and one additional 1959 bird returned this year. All five 1959 birds have an indicated age of at least 6 years. Two other older birds banded in 1960 as adult males also returned in 1965, giving them an indicated age of at least 7 years. Details are given below:

<u>BAND NO.</u>	<u>PLUMAGE WHEN BANDED</u>	<u>DATE BANDED</u>	<u>DATE RETURNED</u>	<u>PLUMAGE WHEN RETURNED</u>
61-70977	Brown	7/26/59	7/4/60 6/8/63 5/8/64 7/11/65	Brown Adult Male
62-49129	Brown	8/16/59	6/24/60 6/9/61 4/19/64 5/21/65	Brown Adult Male
62-49131	Brown	8/16/59	6/1/61 7/13/62 7/23/63 4/20/64 7/22/64 5/18/65	Adult Male
62-49145	Brown	8/22/59	6/12/60 7/14/61 7/9/62 8/5/63 7/9/64 5/18/65	Brown Tinge of Pink Brown - No Pink Very Pink Rump Very Pink Rump Very Pink Rump
63-12224	Brown	9/26/59	7/25/60 6/15/65	Brown Adult Male
63-12252*	Adult Male	6/23/60	7/22/61 7/13/62 7/31/63 4/19/64 7/17/65	
64-44040*	Adult Male	7/31/60	7/8/61 6/5/64 5/18/65	

\* These two Finches must have been hatched in 1958 or before and are therefore at least 7 years old. All other Finches shown above were hatched in 1959 or before and are at least six years old.

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# CYLINDER TYPE GATHERING CAGE

By Ralph K. Bell

The drawing (by Anne Shreve) shows the type of gathering cage used at our Operation Recovery Station on top of the Alleghany Frount Mountains at Red Creek Campground (approx. 10 miles southeast of Davis, W. Va.)



I much prefer to band and release at the net site without using gathering cages, but there are times when gathering cages are quite handy. . . such as when special studies are being made, when we get heavy flights, hard winds, the approach of rain storms, etc. when it is imperative that the nets be cleared as soon as possible.

Two experimental models were used during the 1964 season. Improvements were made and seven were used this year (1965).

They are cylinder containers made of heavy cardboard and painted white to keep them cooler on sunny days (but they still should never be left in the sun for any length of time). The cages are 12" high and 8" in diameter. The bottom is entirely covered (for sanitary purposes) with  $\frac{1}{2}$  x 2" welded wire. Although I have never seen but one case of foot pox at Red Creek (a Junco several years ago) chances of promoting possible spread are minimized

taking the following precautions: warblers and sparrows are never put into the same cage and cages are turned "bottoms up" to the sun when not in use. The wire bottom is scrubbed periodically with a good disinfectant.

Advantages of this type of gathering cage are many. By being dark, most birds remain relatively quiet and do not use up a lot of vital energy fighting to get out. So-called "poor keepers" can be kept overnight (if caught late) and released early the next morning with no ill effects. Also, a bunch of warblers in one of these cages tend to warm up on a cold day as they are being processed. One of these cages will hold 25 warblers safely. The only disadvantages we have noted so far is that Wilson's warblers may sometimes get their heads through the wire mesh. Also the cages should be kept well painted or they will deteriorate in rainy weather.

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