

TEN YEARS OF BANDING PURPLE FINCHES AT WESTPORT POINT, MASS.
By Malcolm Oakes

With the exception of 1958 and 1967, my banding of Purple Finches at Westport Point was done during the period from the middle of April to the end of September. Birds appear at the feeders overnight after our arrival and have practically disappeared before we leave around October 1st. All birds are caught in Potter traps ranging in size from single cell to ten cell, or in single open-top traps suspended from a branch or clothes line. No mist nets are used.

SUMMARY OF PURPLE FINCHES BANDED 1958-1967

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>NO. OF DAYS BANDING</u>	<u>NEW BIRDS BANDED</u>	<u>NO. OF RETURNS</u>
1958	Sept. 9 - Sept. 14	5	42	0
1959	(Apr. 18 - Apr. 19 July 24 - Oct. 14)	22	190	4
1960	May 7 - Sept. 22	45	178	44
1961	Apr. 30 - Sept. 13	39	110	58
1962	Apr. 8 - Sept. 30	92	336	60
1963	Apr. 26 - Sept. 25	67	645	125
1964	Apr. 17 - Sept. 24	51	409	201
1965	Apr. 20 - Oct. 11	78	672	319
1966	Apr. 15 - Sept. 10	60	294	280
1967	June 24 - Sept. 30	51	267	145
		<u>510</u>	<u>3143</u>	<u>1236</u>

The greatest number of new birds are banded in July and August indicating a fairly large breeding area a short distance from our property. Most returns are trapped in April and May which suggests they have come in from points farther south (See under Recoveries below). In addition, many of these same birds return again in late August or September, without having repeated in the interim, possibly from areas farther to the north.

OLD RELIABLES - In 1965 and 1966 six Finches originally banded in 1959 returned. In 1967 this number was reduced to two:

<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	Brown
			6/8/63	Adult Male
			5/8/64	
			7/11/65	
			4/16/66	
			6/24/67	

62-49131	Brown	8/16/59	6/1/61 7/13/62 7/23/63 4/20/64 7/22/64 5/18/65 5/10/66 7/30/67	Adult Male
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Both of these birds were probably hatched in 1959 and are, therefore, now 8 years old.

RECOVERIES - Birds banded at Westport Point have been recovered by others in eleven states from Massachusetts to Alabama. My complete 10 year record of recoveries is shown below:

<u>BAND NO.</u>	<u>DATE BANDED</u>	<u>DATE RECOVERED</u>	<u>PLACE OF RECOVERY</u>
65-66229	8/21/62	5/18/63	Rehoboth, Mass.
71-37049	5/8/64	3/16/65	Walpole, Mass.
71-37158	7/17/64	4/17/65	Hatchville, Mass.
71-37427	4/20/65	5/4/66	Marion, Mass.
68-53531	9/10/62	8/17/64	Little Compton, R.I.
71-37009	4/18/64	4/1/65	Newport, R.I.
65-66279	9/1/64	1/12/65	Storrs, Conn.
69-69201	5/8/63	2/25/65	Watertown, N.Y.
65-66159	7/30/62	4/18/63	Ramsey, N.J.
70-41976	9/22/63	2/9/65	Philadelphia, Pa.
70-41911	9/14/63	1/17/64	Hyattsville, Pa.
64-44117	5/13/61	4/6/65	Silver Springs, Md.
62-49192	9/14/59	1/16/60	Fairfax, Va.
64-44192	8/4/61	3/27/64	Arlington, Va.
70-41735 *	8/22/63	1/1/64)	Richmond, Va.
		1/11/65)	" "
71-37343	8/24/64	3/6/66	Melfa, Va.
69-69234	6/12/63	2/21/64	Newport News, Va.
71-37190	7/25/64	3/24/66	Williamsburg, Va.
72-23543	8/21/65	3/3/66	Chapel Hill, N.C.
62-49198	9/16/59	3/14/61	Erwin, N.C.
72-23490	8/15/65	4/4/66	Nashville, Tenn.
69-69410	7/31/63	3/7/66	Fairhope, Alabama

* The complete record of No. 70-41735, an adult female, is worth repeating:

August 22, 1963	-	Banded at Westport Point, Mass.
January 1, 1964	-	Trapped and released at Richmond, Va. Repeated at Richmond on Jan. 25th, Feb. 11th and 23rd.
July 25, 1964	-	Returned to Westport Point, Mass.
May 18, 1965	-	Returned to Westport Point, Mass.
September 25, 1965	-	Returned to Westport Point, Mass.
January 11, 1966	-	Trapped and released at Richmond, Va. Repeated at Richmond, Va. Jan. 11th, 14th, 15th, 25th, 31st and March 12th.