

SOME RECENT RECOVERY RECORDS

By G. Hapgood Parks

When an envelope containing punched IBM recovery cards from the Banding Laboratory arrives at the home of a bander the interesting stories which unfold as codes are translated usually repay in full the effort that was expended to originate the records involved. Five such cards which we received recently bore data of significant interest.

Two of the cards suggest an instance of remarkable flock cohesion involving a couple of Purple Finches. 57-40730 was banded as an immature female on March 18, 1959 and 57-40886, as an adult male, on March 20, 1959, during a heavy incursion of this species at Hartford, Connecticut. Almost eight years later these two birds were still together when, on February 20, 1967, they were both captured and released in the Union County Refuge by G. Arthur, staff biologist with the Illinois Fish and Game Department. If I have decoded the coordinates accurately the point of recovery in Illinois is a few miles north of Cairo near the extreme southern tip of the state.

Two other cards infer similar significant flock cohesion in the case of two Slate-colored Juncos (101-39578 and 101-39592) banded as immatures during their fall migration through Hartford on October 18 and 26, respectively, in 1963. These two birds were captured and released together 1½ years later (on April 29, 1965) at Indiana, Pennsylvania, by EBBA's net committee member, Bob Merritt.

The fifth card illustrates one of those interesting coincidences which is often contemplated, but only rarely experienced, by banders who operate more than one station at widely separated localities. This record may, also, add evidence of a greater range than is commonly considered to be typical of a species which is usually associated with rather limited northern locale during the entire year. In this instance it was Bob Merritt, again, who captured and released Black-capped Chickadee 101-39499 at Indiana, Pa.; the recovery date: January 13, 1966. We had banded the little fellow on September 27, 1963, not at Hartford, but many tiny wing-beats to the northeast of Hartford, at Milbridge, Maine, 400 odometer miles away. Hartford's geographical location is almost half way between Milbridge, Maine, and the recovery point of two Hartford juncos and a Milbridge chickadee at Indiana, Pa.

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