

A RECOVERY OF A PAIR OF PURPLE FINCHES

By Robert P. Yunick

Malcolm Oakes' and Hapgood Parks' notes on Purple Finches and some interesting recoveries in the March-April 1968 issue of EBBA News prompt me to relate a recent experience with a pair of Purple Finches in my yard.

A pair of Purple Finches, a rosy male (ASY) and a bird in brown plumage (AHY-U), flew into the yard together on April 28, 1968 when no other Purple Finches were present. They quickly settled in a platform trap and with a pull of a string were captured simultaneously. Both birds wore my bands of a previous year. After processing the birds and releasing them, I consulted my records. The following is their banding history.

71-98299

Banded as U-U on 4/17/65
at 1120, wing 82; fat class 0; weight
25.62 g.

Repeated 4/17/65 at 1425; weight
was 25.4 g.

Returned 4/28/68 at 0800 as
AHY-U, wing 83; fat class 0;
weight 25.3 g.

71-98300

Banded as an adult male on
4/17/65 at 1150, wing 84; fat
class 0; weight 22.67 g.

Repeated on 5/8/65 at 1115;
weight was 22.15 g.

Returned on 8/14/66 at 0920 as
Ad. M., weight 23.55 g., fat
class 0.

Returned 5/1/67 at 1730 as Ad. M.,
wing 84, fat class 0, wt. 23.0 g.

Returned 4/28/68 at 0800 as ASY-M,
wing 84; fat class 0; wt. 22.5 g.

Thus, the brown-plumaged bird turned out to be a female, though a peculiar one. Both in 1965 as well as 1968, her brown plumage was liberally tinged on the rump, back and head with a light rosy case. The above data along with other information on the local status of the species strongly suggest, though they do not prove, that the male is a local breeder about to enter at least his sixth year, and the female is his mate.

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