

HIGHLIGHTS OF 20 YEARS BANDING ON
BELL HILL (BEDFORD, N.H.) *Cont'd.*

BY JOHN H. KENNARD

THE PURPLE FINCH

The Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) is another example of a species of varying and erratic habits and migrations. This is illustrated by the summary of birds banded by month and year shown in Table I.

Of these more than 1600 birds 70 have returned for a second year, 43 for a third, 19 for 4th, 13 for 5th, 7 for 6th, 3 for 7th, 2 for 8th, and one for a ninth year. Eleven have been reported from elsewhere, as shown in Table II, showing a spread from Maine to Virginia, and west to Ohio. Only one was retrapped the same season (69-33084) and was apparently going north in March-April.

I have trapped ten "Foreign Birds," as shown in Table III, again scattered from Maine to Washington, D.C. However, in the irruption of 1959 there were three individuals recently banded north of my station, apparently indicating a migration southward in March!

I have previously published (*Bird-Banding*, April, 1969) my observations confirming the fact that older females consistently show either pink or yellowish coloration.

These birds fall into three groups; with a few stragglers: Group 1 consists of breeding adults, arriving mid-April to early May. This group is composed of bright red males, and females that mostly show the pinkish or yellowish of ATY females. Group 2, coming in to my feeders from mid-July to September, is composed largely of brown birds, chiefly HY, with a very few adults. Group 3, is composed of winter flocks, occurring in "irruptions." There were three of these occurring in 1954, 1959, and a massive irruption in 1963.

Group 1 birds apparently breed in this area and return year after year. Group 2 scatter and are seldom heard from. Group 3 birds repeat with great frequency, being hungry and returning to the traps time after time, but none have returned in a different year. Three, banded in the irruption of 1959, were reported from Pennsylvania and Virginia the following year.

These winter flocks (Group 3) are composed of over 40% bright red males, the remainder being brown birds, very few of which show the pinkish or yellowish tints of older females. If these flocks are almost half ASYmales, what is the sex of the brown ones? Do the young migrate earlier and to a different area than the adults? If these birds are all adults, but of mixed sex, why do not more of the females show the pink or yellow? Possibly the sexes migrate separately, the males remaining in the Maritime provinces until lack of food causes a southward irruption.

My most interesting individual is 57-33816, brown when banded here 05-11-56, reported by F. Cutler in Lexington, Massachusetts 02-27-59 as "sub-adult male" apparently showing pink. She was retrapped by me 08-08-61, showing "golden yellow on head and rump." 07-06-62 "pink ++ on head and rump"; 06-22-63 a mixture of pink and yellow, and 05-01-64 yellow ++, and when last observed 09-14-64 was still yellow ++. This bird must have been hatched in 1955 or earlier, showed pink at age 4, yellow at age 6, pink again at age 7, fading to yellow again when last recorded at age 9½.

TABLE I

PURPLE FINCHES

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
1953			3									
1954		20	65	39	6	4	2	37	10			
1955			1	3	33		11	1				
1956				8	66	1						
1957				15	4		9	1	1			
1958				2	2							
1959			236	33	1		4	3	1	2		
1960	8	9		12	10							
1961				1			5	9			1	
1962				1	14	3	9					
1963			463	316	21	4	5					
1964				2			12					
1965		1	1	1	3	1	1					
1966				1								
1967					2		1				2	
1968								1				

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1969												
1970				2	2							
1971				2			3	7			1	
1972				16	20			9	16	9		

TABLE II

PURPLE FINCH FOREIGN RETURNS

55-036-10	04-04-54 Br	05-08-56	C. W. Ham, Brunswick, Maine found dead
57-33715	05-15-55 Br	04-18-58	E. E. Dater, Ramsey, New Jersey
55-33801	05-10-56 Br	09-12-57	M. Bent, Middleton, Nova Scotia
57-33816*	05-10-56 Br	02-27-59	F. Cutler, Lexington, Massa- chusetts "Sub adult male"
62-22512	03-21-59 ASY-M	02-20-60	P. Flock, Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania
62-22574	03-25-59 Br	02-20-60	P. Flock, Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania
62-22672	04-19-59 ASY-M	02-14-60	W. P. Mull, Vienna, Virginia
62-22726	01-24-60 ASY-M	02-15-66	R. L. Pyle, Washington, D.C.
62-22764	04-06-60 Y++	04-02-61	C. Robbins, Laurel, Maryland Brown with yellow rump
62-22953	07-23-62 Br	"Hunting season" 63	E. D. Naffsinger, Brinkhaven, Ohio
69-33084	03-30-63 Br	04-25-63	R. Carpenter, Wolfbore, New Hampshire (going north in April)

* See Text

TABLE III

FOREIGN PURPLE FINCHES

53-13072	01-31-54 N. C. Nash, Goffstown, New Hampshire 03-12-54 to 04-21-57 Pink Female
53-13073*	01-31-54 N. C. Nash, Goffstown, New Hampshire 04-21-57 Brown Female!
54-05429	01-21-56 W. R. Middleton, Winonah, New Jersey 04-04-59 Yellow Female
55-02717	09-12-54 P. C. Reed, Lexington, Massachusetts 05-11-56 Brown Female
55-17163	02-18-59 R. Carpenter, Wolfboro, New Hampshire 03-03-59 Brown Female, on way south in March!
55-17303	02-25-59 R. Carpenter, Wolfboro, New Hampshire 03-12-59 Red Male, on way south in March!
59-024733	03-06-59 N. Messer, E. Madison, Maine 03-28-59 Red Male, on way south in March!
61-36062	04-25-60 L. G. Albertine, Ware, Massachusetts 04-05-63 Red Male
62-17901	03-10-59 R. C. Fenn, Concord, Massachusetts 02-07-60 Red Male
65-89072	05-05-62 R. Pyle, Washington, D. C. 04-21-63 Brown Female
810-71073	01-08-72 A. K. Bates Birmingham Ala. 10-04-72 Brown, female?

GOLDFINCH

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) are permanent residents of this area. However, they are birds chiefly of the farm fields and hedgerows. They come to my feeders, on a hill in the woods, only in the winter and early spring, when food is short in the valleys.

Except for two, in April 1956, they did not come in to my traps until the winter of 1958. My experience since then is summarized in Table I. This represents a total of 519 birds, rather unevenly distributed. During the winters 1958 through 1960 there were small flocks, and I banded a total of 60. Then for two years there were only sporadic individuals. In the winters of

1963 and 1964, they returned and I banded 112. Then for six years again only sporadic single birds, until the winter of 1971. Up to this time I had been feeding chiefly commercial "wild bird seed," but in 1971 acquired a "Droll Yankee" feeder and started adding thistle seed for the goldfinches and siskins which was an added attraction. In 1971 and 1972 I succeeded in banding 198, and in December, 1972, 46, so that it appears that the winter of 1973 would be a good goldfinch winter.

Returns on these goldfinch are somewhat disappointing as of 519 birds only 10 or 2% have returned for a second year (as compared to 60% for chickadees). Of these 10, six have returned a second year, two a third, and one each a fourth and fifth. My oldest bird 31-92180, banded 03-03-60, was last trapped 03-31-64.

I have had no foreign returns of birds that I have banded. I have trapped two banded elsewhere as follows:

102-64112, trapped 05-02-64
banded 12-20-61 by J. Blodgett, Sterling Jct.,
Massachusetts
122-78895, trapped 02-03-71
banded 04-18-70 AHY-F H. McEntee, Ridgewood, New
Jersey

In only one year (1971) local birds brought their young to my feeders, and in 1972 I trapped one stray in August. Otherwise, I have had no success from June through November, although my traps are manned (part time) throughout the year.

TABLE I

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1956					2							
1957												
1958	2	2	10	1								
1959	1	1	19									4
1960	3	3	1	1	12							
1961												2
1962	1			3								2
1963	7	5	35	9	7							3
1964	8	6	11	14	5							
1965	1											3

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1966					1							
1967												1
1968												21
1969			7									29
1970	9				2							
1971		12	92	21	5			10				3
1972	24	10	4	5	22			1				46

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CORRECTION

In EBBA NEWS, 36(SUPPLEMENT):4, 1974, an error was made. In "Eye Line on Swamp Sparrows", the last line of the first paragraph should have read: on birds incompletely ossified and therefore HY-SY.

EDITOR'S NOTES

A note of thanks is in order for all those loyal EBBA members who participated in the production of EBBA NEWS. Since the August 1973 issue, the copy has been typed by Miss Sharon L. Snyder, who deserves my fullest appreciation (Ye Editor isn't the easiest to get along with, especially when it concerns EBBA NEWS), Dr. and Mrs. Jeff Swinebroad, for spending arduous hours proofreading Miss Snyder's copy. Further thanks are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Christopher N. Rose, who spend many hours beyond the call of duty to try to deal with the U.S. Postal Services. To the printer, Mr. Edward M. Johnson, for not raising prices on us so far, and for his constant help and cooperation. To all authors who've participated. To all of you, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all of us at EBBA NEWS!

Many prices are going up for us in 1974. Besides higher postal rates, we're also expecting increases in printing costs. As a result, the issues in Volume 37 will be smaller than they currently are. This means that it would be better if we do not promise out space in specific issues for the time being until we're in a better position to gauge the effects of these increases. Thus, all authors who have manuscripts pending with us, will have their contributions printed as soon as space becomes available. Future contributions will be accepted on the same basis. We will keep in touch with you about this. EDITOR