

will not the little groups like the Chickadees and Juncos which come to your station, and those which you meet so frequently in your bird walks take on a new interest? Bird-banding is of prime importance in such an investigation.

The country is puzzle-mad. Why not harness this surplus energy and puzzle out an ornithological riddle, thereby testing your skill, adding to your pleasure and helping the science of ornithology?

C. L. W.

#### GENERAL NOTES

**The Purple Finch's Nuptial Dance.**—I have been privileged on two occasions to witness the nuptial dance of the male Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*). The first time was in 1923 at my farm. The female stood on a large rock, while the male danced about her.

This last spring I had a pair of banded birds of this species at my banding station in Rock, Mass. The male, No. 40165, was banded by Mrs. Alice C. Pratt, of Middleboro, Mass., May 10, 1923, and the female, No. 127424, was banded by me May 6, 1924. On this second occasion the play was staged by these birds (which were mated) on the ground near a bird-trap. The female simply stood still and watched the male, who, raising his crown feathers, spreading his wings in an arc, with even the wing coverts elevated, thus exposing all his brilliant colors, danced in circles about her, dragging his wing-tips and resembling a dancing flame of fire as the sun shone on his beautiful feathers. The dance circles were fifteen to eighteen inches in diameter, the bird moving first in one direction but often reversing his course, while he faced the female continuously. In duration the dance lasted about two minutes. Of all the beautiful sights I have seen in the bird world, the nuptial dance of the Purple Finch is the most gorgeous. A. W. HIGGINS, December, 1924.

We are very anxious to study bird migration. The Connecticut River valley offers a splendid opportunity to do this, but we lack the necessary number of banders, particularly along the northern part of the valley, and by "valley" we mean both the flood plain along the stream and all the territory drained by the river.

Migration may best be studied by a large number of banders distributed over the valley as a whole, who band many birds during the spring and fall movements and who operate their stations from year to year. If we are to learn the speed and manner of migration of the different species and the routes selected, we must have the stations well distributed across (east and west) and along the valley. Will not every bander endeavor to secure another member in his or her vicinity to help push migration-study and the banding movement as a whole?

Banders should become acquainted with their nearest neighbors by correspondence or otherwise. Where in any community there are several members of this Association, the cause can be furthered by their meeting together occasionally and comparing notes with a view of obtaining co-operative study of some problem. A large community may well have enough members to warrant forming some sort of banders' club. A definite purpose or problem for study in banding work adds much to the interest taken in operating stations and in the results achieved.