

East-West and West-East Purple Finch Recoveries—There seem to be on record only three recoveries of this sort:

- An adult female, banded by M. J. Magee, at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, on May 8, 1923, was killed by a cat at Tatemagouche, Nova Scotia, on June 17, 1929.
- A54292, banded by C. L. Whittle, at Cohasset, Massachusetts, on January 30, 1927, was recovered by Dr. K. Christofferson, at Pickford, Michigan, (a few miles south of Sault Ste. Marie), on March 10, 1929.
- C69545, banded as young of the year, by Magee, at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, on August 17, 1930, was recovered by R. M. Hinchman, at Milton, Massachusetts, (a few miles north of Cohasset), on February 14, 1931.

The first bird might have gone south and there joined a flock going north-east. The same is true of the second, only in the opposite direction. It seems rather improbable that the third could have done likewise and got to Milton, Massachusetts, in the time elapsed. So we may assume a fairly direct west-east trip. But, as the records of over 11,000 birds, banded by Magee, show nothing further to support this, we must regard it as one of those purely fortuitous exceptions which are said to prove the rule.—RICHARD M. HINCHMAN, Milton, Mass.

New Returning Species—Species taken as true returns-W at Summer-ville, South Carolina, for the first time during the season of 1931 were Vesper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Catbird, Junco, Myrtle Warbler, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Three individuals of the first-named species, all banded in the winter and spring of 1930, were trapped in the same general localities where they were banded. The same is true of the two Song Sparrows. But one individual of each of the other species named was recovered, each likewise banded during the season of 1930, and all taken at approximately the same localities where they were banded.—WILLIAM P. WHARTON.

A Slate-colored Junco Recovery—A Slate-colored Junco, female, No. C95899, banded by me at East Westmoreland, New Hampshire, April 5, 1931, was found dead by Luke B. Amos at Doaktown, New Brunswick, April 24, 1931. It was trapped from a flock of fifty or more individuals, the last bird from which was taken on April 8th, immediately after which date I believe they resumed the northern migration, for none appeared at the traps for an interval of five days. At this slow rate of migrating, it seems notable that the bird in question covered the distance to New Brunswick in a fifteen-day period at the most. This bird when banded was manifestly either leaving its winter quarters or migrating to its nesting-grounds. In either case the record shows a marked northeast migration direction.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, East Westmoreland, N. H.

Some Notes on Starlings—At this station during a period of two years ending this April, we have banded one hundred and eleven Starlings, of which one hundred were caught in an ordinary drop-trap and eleven were banded as fledglings in nesting-boxes.

Of the entire one hundred adults banded only one repeated, and this bird repeated once on the day following its banding. Of the eleven fledglings, one individual, No. A153805, banded in a nesting-box half a mile north of our station on June 19, 1929, was trapped at our station on November 15th of the same year, showing little movement from its birthplace if it was present in this territory during the entire five months. Adult Starling No. A273689, banded February 26, 1931, at our station, was reported to the Bureau of Biological Survey as found dead on April 9th by the nine-

year-old son of Mrs. M. Kuehne, living about three fourths of a mile south of our station. This record also shows little spring movement.

Starlings at our station seem very trap-shy, and while groups of twenty-five to fifty were often feeding within twenty-five feet of our house, no birds were observed with bands. These birds are very greedy, and the best bait is table scraps and suet. They feed close together, but not without fighting. As many as five have been caught under a four-foot drop-trap at once during periods when snow is on the ground.

In a letter from the Biological Survey dated March 25, 1931, it is stated that 18,421 Starlings have been banded, and while the new return file has not been completed, 352 returns have been recorded, consisting of 125 from localities other than where they were banded, and 227 trapped or otherwise captured at the banding locality.

In case of many of the Starlings trapped at this station, notes were made on the coloring of the mandibles, and a great variety of shadings were recorded. On this matter, W. C. Henderson, Acting Chief of the Biological Survey writes:

"Mr. E. R. Kalmbach, of this office, who has made quite an extensive study of this species, states that there is a distinct sexual difference in the coloring of the bill. The male bird has a deep, almost chrome yellow tip to its bill, whereas the base of the lower mandible is of a lead-blue color. The tip of the female's bill is of a paler yellow, and the base of the lower mandible is pale, almost white. This brightening of the bill takes place far in advance of the breeding-season. Mr. Kalmbach further states that he has seen individual birds that had brilliantly colored bills as early as the middle of November. Immediately after the breeding-season, the bill darkens, losing all of its yellow hue. He has no information concerning the factor of age in connection with this coloration, although he is inclined to believe that the more mature birds have the most brilliantly colored bills."

In *Farmers' Bulletin* 1571 of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Kalmbach in writing of the bills of this species gives much the same description but adds that while the brightening of the bill may occur as early as the middle of November, normally it is not apparent until January or February. In checking over my own notes I find No. A249142, trapped February 6, 1931, as having upper mandible all black; lower, black, shading to grayish at base. No. A249146, trapped on February 16, 1931, the same as A249142; while A249147, caught with A249146, had a brilliant chrome-yellow bill. Could it be possible that Starlings having a very dark bill late in February are young birds of the previous summer? It is probable that age is a deciding factor in the coloration of the mandibles of these birds, as Mr. Kalmbach is inclined to believe. Unfortunately no notes were taken of the fledgling that was retrapped.—GEOFFREY GILL, Huntington, Long Island, New York.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak Returns—It is always an impressive experience to have birds return which have wintered hundreds and perhaps thousands of miles beyond our borders and have made migration journeys of two to three thousand miles during their seasonal absence. It is even more impressive if, as shown by recent records, at least 66.66 per cent of locally nesting adults are able to make these journeys in safety, presumably across the hazardous Caribbean Sea or the Gulf of Mexico.

During 1930 six nesting adult Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (*Hedymeles ludoviciana*)—three males and three females—and three young-of-the-year were banded at my station in Peterboro, New Hampshire. Of these, two adult males and two adult females and one young-of-the-year returned and nested in 1931.