

nest-building and incubation, have become obsolete. — MRS. JEAN E. CARTH, Morse's Pond Grove, Wellesley, Mass.

Nuptial Dance of the Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*). — I agree with Mr. A. W. Higgins that the nuptial dance of this species is indeed a beautiful sight, as well as a most spirited one. As observed by me on June 11, 1925, the dance took place on the ground in front of a trap not ten feet away. The performance was somewhat different from that described by Mr. Higgins in that the male danced side-wise in semicircles about the female, back and forth, while standing very erect (perhaps twenty degrees from vertically) with the wings fully extended and vibrating rapidly, the crown feathers erect, and all the time singing most ecstatically. At one time his ecstasy was so intense that he was carried into the air, where he hovered directly above the female, singing as before. She seemed little interested, though she watched him all the time. The performance lasted nearly a minute, the male dancing within eight inches of the female and continually facing her, while her position remained the same. — CHARLES L. WHITTLE.

Return Records of Native Wild Birds. — Two Tree Sparrows, banded in January and February, 1923, returned in December, 1924, and again in December, 1925. These stayed all winter during the three seasons.

Five Tree Sparrows, banded during the winter of 1923-1924, were with me again during the season of 1924-1925.

Slate-colored Junco, No. 61464, banded December 12th, 1922, came back April 9th, 1925 after over 27 months' absence.

Catbird, No. 69450, banded May 31st, 1923, was recaptured June 21st, 1925, after two years' absence.

The only Cowbird, a female, banded in 1923 (June 29th), returned June 8th, 1924, and returned again April 25th, 1925; evidently this is her summer home.

One Song Sparrow, banded in 1923, and four marked in 1924, are noted again this season, and I expect more as one came in yesterday, July 3rd, 1925.

Brown Thrasher, No. 259183, banded June 7th, 1924, returned June 17th, 1925.

Two Robin returns were especially interesting. No. 112418, banded June 29th, 1923, had a small running sore on one side of its head below the eye. This bird was recaptured March 31st, 1925, in perfect health, and has repeated three times since.

Robin, No. 259181, banded June 5th, 1924, came back March 27th, 1925, and when he repeated March 29th his tail was missing, having been lost since he returned. He stayed around the yard and repeated several times, and on April 16th his new tail was one and one-half inches long, and on May 30th it was fully grown.

Bronzed Grackle, No. 218749, banded August 5th, 1923, at my station in Rochester, New York, was taken eighteen miles west of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, on May 16th, 1925, by W. Wellington Hunsberry, reported as shot. This is the first of my birds reported from outside of Rochester, and it shows that all banded birds do not return to the home station. However, Ontario may have been his home station and he wandered to Rochester after the nesting period was over. — STATION OF R. E. HORSEY, 440 Highland Ave., Rochester, N. Y. (P. O. Address,

Highland Park, Reservoir Ave., Rochester, N. Y., December, 1924, to the end of June, 1925.)

Interesting Returns from Kittery Point, Me. — Prof. Frederick A. Saunders reports that on June 6th, 1925, he took at his banding station at Kittery Point, Me., a return female Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). On the same date he also took a male return Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica a. aestiva*). On July 3rd he captured a return female Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) and a second return Yellow Warbler, another male. The above birds were banded on July 10th, 1924. Other birds banded on July 3rd, 1925, were three Redstarts, a Baltimore Oriole, a Red-eyed Vireo and a Robin. It is interesting to note that all the above birds were taken in a pull-string water-trap.

Polished Bird Bands.— Bird-banders handling nesting birds, particularly species having the sexes alike, are asked to examine them closely for evidence tending to establish the matter of sex. Both in Peterboro, N. H., and in Cohasset, Mass., it is observed that among the banded Purple Finches appearing at the stations certain ones have the bands markedly clean and polished in great contrast to the unpolished condition of the bands at other seasons of the year. Thus far such bands have been found only on olivaceous birds (females or immature). Of such birds the majority handled show a displacement of the abdominal feathers, the displacement occasionally extending forward along the full length of the keel. It seems reasonable to regard them as nesting females, since the latter phenomenon is of common occurrence among sitting hens. The clean condition of the bands is believed to be due to the confined life led by the birds during incubation, the polishing being due to the movement of the toes and tarsus among the eggs. On account of the extraordinary perfection of this polish in a number of cases, it would appear that the eggs are stirred up very frequently during this period. If further observation along this line establishes the dependability of the foregoing theory, a helpful method of sex determination, as well as a means of detecting whether both the male and the female assist in incubation, will become available. — CHARLES L. WHITTLE.

The frontispiece of this Bulletin is from a photograph sent by Miss. M. L. Bodine, taken at Asticou, Northeast Harbor, Maine. Miss Bodine had made for her what she calls a "Merry-Go-Round," where birds come to feed from small basket trays, placed at short intervals on a bamboo hoop. This Merry-Go-Round swings in the breeze and is occupied by birds most of the time and is frequently overcrowded and often with a waiting-list. This unique feeding station was invented to circumvent the red squirrels and has proven absolutely squirrel proof. The birds seen feeding at this swinging feeder are Purple Finches.

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