

and poplar trees. In the morning I noted among others a Cape May and some Parulas, and I was hoping they would stay about until afternoon as I expected some guests "to see a demonstration of bird banding". My wish was granted, for the birds stayed here all day.

At 3.30 P. M. a male Parula Warbler was captured in my pull-string open-top trap (with water drip), and fifteen minutes later we banded a male Cape May Warbler. Thirty minutes later we secured another male Cape May, and as we had kept the first one to show our guests, we carefully compared them and discovered that A34582 was less bright than A34581, but both were unmistakably males. At five o'clock another Parula was banded. The two Parulas were not compared, but they also were both males, even though they had only a faint black band on the breast.

The cherry trees are twelve feet from the veranda where we were observing the birds, and the open-top trap stands on the ground under a plum tree twenty feet farther away. These Cape Mays were the first of this species banded here, my total species banded now standing at fifty-one.—(Mrs.) MARY E. F. HUBBARD, New Haven, Conn., June 3, 1927.

Distribution of the April 1927 Bulletin.—Readers of the *Bulletin* doubtless noted our change of policy as set forth under the heading "Announcement" in the last number, namely to open our pages to any one wishing to publish articles or notes calculated to advance the science of Ornithology by bird-banding methods. In order that bird-banders in this country and in Canada should be advised of this fact, arrangements were made with the Bureau of Biological Survey to distribute copies of that number to all banders in the Eastern, Inland and Western Bird Banding Associations, the *Bulletin* going out under government frank with an accompanying letter from Mr. W. C. Henderson, Associate Chief of the Bureau. About ten hundred and fifty copies were thus distributed to the three associations mentioned, this Association supplying them gratis.

A Query Regarding Purple Finches.—It is a remarkable fact that during five nesting seasons at two banding stations where opportunity to observe Purple Finches at short range is perhaps unsurpassed, I have never seen an olivaceous bird of this species, an immature male, courting another olivaceous Purple Finch. If, as it is believed, this species mates when the birds are in their first winter plumage, it is strange that no case of the kind referred to has ever been recognizably seen by me. Furthermore, I have never heard to my knowledge an olivaceous Purple Finch sing the familiar, ecstatic warble of the "rosy" male. Many times, both in Peterboro, New Hampshire, and in Cohasset, Massachusetts, on hearing such a song, I have searched out the singer and have invariably found him to be an adult bird. Mrs. Whittle has on the contrary on one or two occasions seen instances of a courting olivaceous bird and has heard such birds sing the ecstatic warble of the old male. That many olivaceous birds presumed to be immature males sing is obvious. Before nest building begins, such birds sing all about my Cohasset banding station, on the ground, shelf and feeding tray, but the song is very different from that of old males, a simple song, of six or eight notes, familiar to many, a song much less frequently heard about my station during nesting time.

The question I would like answered is: Why, since the number of living

young or immature males must be large, do we see so little evidence of their courting or mating, one of the familiar sights among rosy males?

This note is published in the hope that those of our banders who have had an opportunity to study this species at nesting time will write me in what degree their experiences coincide with or differ from mine.—C. L. WHITTLE.

Concerning the Nesting and Trapping of the Barn Swallow.—During 1925 only one pair of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*) nested in the hay loft of my barn. In the spring about the time Swallows first appeared, I selected a few small pieces of board, about one inch by one inch by three inches and nailed them to the sides of the rafters as a support for possible Swallows' nests. When a pair of these birds appeared, they appropriated one of these rests and built a nest on the north side of the rafter, about five feet from the north wall and about five and one-half feet above the floor. In this nest five young were raised, and on July 9, 1925, they were banded, Nos. A1105—A1109.

Going to the loft on July 13, 1925, after dark, I found a male Barn Swallow roosting on an old discarded window sash, which hung upon a nail on the wall of the barn loft, about five feet from the nest. I walked up to it with a flash-light and took it in my hands, and banded it. I then attempted to catch the female, but she flew and disappeared out of the window. The following evening, July 14th, having prepared a net of mosquito netting, I again went to the loft. The male was in his former position on the old window sash, and the female with the young were in the nest. Approaching the nest quietly, I slipped the net over the nest, and secured and banded her, No. A1114.

I have had in mind a Swallow trap to be made of cotton mosquito netting, fastened to a hinged frame of flexible copper-wire so made as to be easily screwed to the rafters or timber of a barn below a nest. This device could be operated as a pull-string trap, to catch the adult birds, but I have had no opportunity to try it out.—GEORGE E. ALLEN, Whitinsville, Mass.

A Black-throated Blue Warbler Return near Lake Asquam, New Hampshire.—On the twenty-eighth of June 1926, I banded a female Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica c. caerulescens*) with number A65065 (a plain band), and her mate with a scarlet band number A15649. Their three fledglings were also banded when eight days old with numbers A65063, A65064 (uncolored) and A15646, a blue band.

On June 1, 1927, I found a newly finished Black-throated Blue Warbler's nest about a quarter of a mile from the nest occupied by one of the above family banded in 1926. A blind was erected from which to make detailed observations of the nesting habits of the species.

A clutch of four eggs was completed on June fifth and the female commenced incubating them. The first time I saw her leave the nest I observed that she was banded. Three eggs hatched on June eighteenth, the fourth being sterile. On June twenty-sixth, when the female was brooding the well-grown young, and while the sun was shining on her band, I approached within five feet of the nest and with powerful binoculars read the first two figures on the band, "65", thus identifying her as A65065.

When I entered the blind on June twenty-eighth at 5.30 A. M., the nest was empty, the young birds having left the night before. In a few minutes, however, I located and captured two of them "chipping" in