

near the western end of the Strait of Belle Isle and the eastern boundary of Canada. In reply to inquiry Mr. Skovgaard has kindly stated that this band was placed on a young Pintail at Adaldal, near Husavik, in northern Iceland, on June 30, 1930. This record appears to supply the first certain evidence of the occurrence of *Dafila acuta acuta* in North America and so provides a basis for the addition of that subspecies to the A. O. U. "Check-List."—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

Nesting White-throated Sparrow Returns.—The White-throated Sparrow nests commonly about my station. Thirty-two birds of this species were banded by me during the season of 1931, five of which returned this season. Following is the record of these birds:

- A 191428—Banded June 25, 1931. Repeated Aug. 25.
Returned May 4, 1932. Repeated May 9, 15, 20, 24, and July 5, 20, 23.
B 169666—Banded Aug. 23, 1931. Repeated May 9, 15, 20, 24, and July 5, 20, 23.
Returned April 30, 1932.
B 169672—Banded Aug. 31, 1931. Repeated May 9, 15, 20, 24, and July 5, 20, 23.
Returned June 17, 1932. Repeated July 8.
B 169676—Banded Sept. 2, 1931. Repeated Sept. 3, 21.
Returned July 6, 1932.
B 169681—Banded Sept. 9, 1931. Repeated May 9, 15, 20, 24, and July 5, 20, 23.
Returned May 4, 1932. Repeated May 5, 9, 11, 18.

These birds were all banded as adults. I feel that it is reasonable to conclude from the above data that at least some of these birds nested in the vicinity of my station.—BYRON W. MCPHETERS, Pine Street, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Returns of Banded Purple Martins.—During the four years 1925–1928 the writer banded a number of Purple Martins (*Progne subis subis*) which nested in a 10-room martin-house at Fredericktown, Ohio. As probably none of these are still living and as several results of interest have been obtained, a brief report is now made.

A total of 36 Martins were banded, including 16 adults and 20 nestlings, by operating string hinge traps placed at the entrance of each nesting compartment. The openings were sufficiently large to permit ready capture of the adults without interference with nesting activities. Adults were retrapped repeatedly (during experiments several females were captured ten or twelve times daily) without any great disturbance which might result in desertion. The males, however, became timid after repeated trapping.

Fifteen adult birds repeated 96 times. Five were taken as returns in the same house one or two years after banding, and two distant recoveries were recorded. A female, 346412, was banded at Fredericktown on June 13, 1926, and repeated fourteen times at the nest-box between June 13th and July 28th, successfully rearing a brood of four young. This bird was found dead by D. H. Gerwick, Martinsburg Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, on June 5, 1927, ten miles from the place of banding. The bird was apparently nesting at the martin-house at that place.

A male, 72541, was banded at Fredericktown on May 5, 1925, and repeated eight times from May 5th to July 7th, raising three young. In 1926 this bird nested in the same room as the previous year, again raising three young and repeating twelve times from April 29th to July 8th. On May 5, 1927, during a severe storm the bird was found with a broken wing at Hillsboro, Ohio, by Clyde L. Strofe, a distance of about one hundred and twenty-five miles from the point of banding. The date would appear

to be evidence of nesting at Hillsboro. These two records would seem to indicate that Purple Martins may nest in one locality for one or more years and then establish a summer residence in a new and distant locality.

Martin 72547 was one of four nestlings banded on July 18, 1925. It left the nest on July 25th but returned and was captured daily until August 2d. In 1926 this bird returned as an adult male and mated with female 346492, nesting in the same room of the martin-house in which it was caught as a nestling in 1925. It was very timid, but was trapped on July 18, 1925, and several times thereafter until its young died in the nest. Of several hundred nestlings banded by the writer of various species this is the only individual known to have returned to nest in the locality where it was raised. None of the other banded nestlings have returned to martin-houses in the vicinity, this one instance probably representing a very exceptional case.

Male 72546, banded on June 13, 1926, returned on April 28, 1927, but did not nest. Female 410136, banded on June 13, 1926, was mated with male 346419 during that year but returned in 1927 and mated with male 194132. Male 194137, banded on June 23, 1927, was mated with female 194138, but returned in 1928 and mated with female 629201. Male 440137, banded on June 13, 1926, was mated that year with female 346412 (which returned from Mt. Vernon, Ohio, in 1927) but returned in 1927 and mated with female 194131.

These three returns would seem to indicate that Martins seldom, if ever, have the same mates on successive years. This habit may be related to the migratory movements which tend to separate the sexes, or to the short life-span of the species, and may account for the known shifting of two birds to new nesting localities as related above. The opportunities for detailed, intensive work close at home with this species and the unusually large percentage of returns from this one station, would seem to recommend the Purple Martin as a bird worthy of more attention in intensive, continuous banding studies.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, Department of Botany, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Some Complicated Bluebird Family History.—At Pomfret, Connecticut, during May, 1932, Bluebirds B128957(♂) and B135555(♀), both wearing red bands, were mated and raised a brood of four young that left the nest on May 28th. About ten days later they built a second nest in the same box and eggs were laid. At this same time, Bluebird B176225(♀), nesting about eight hundred feet distant, lost her unbanded mate either by death or desertion, and on June 11th, B128957(♂), whose mate was laying eggs for their second brood, was seen making love to and feeding the five half-grown young of B176225(♀). For a few days he was back and forth from one mate to the other, then, as his first mate was sitting, he apparently forgot her and spent all of his time with B176225(♀). The young birds by his first mate were now beginning to care for themselves, and his step-children were under his protection until July 12th. His first mate, B135555, was left to bring up their second brood alone. It proved too great a task, and on July 8th her half-grown fledglings were found dead in the nest. On the same date she (B135555) was found to have acquired a new mate B176426(♂), and they began to look over a new box.

About the middle of July a new unbanded female appeared, and B128957(♂), his second mate now sitting, and his step-children large enough to care for themselves, immediately fell in love with the new unbanded female. One morning B176225(♀) found her spouse B128957(♂)