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|--|-----------|----------|-----|----------|
| Cliff Swallow ( <i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i> )      | SW.       | W.       | —   | —        |
| Purple Martin ( <i>Progne subis</i> )                  | Turn.     | —        | —   | —        |
| Blue Jay ( <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> )                | —         | W; turn. | —   | W; SW.   |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher ( <i>Poliioptila caerulea</i> )  | —         | —        | W.  | —        |
| Water Pipit ( <i>Anthus spinoletta</i> )               | WNW; W.   | WNW.     | —   | —        |
| Cedar Waxwing ( <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i> )           | NW; turn. | —        | —   | —        |
| Black and White Warbler ( <i>Mniotilta varia</i> )     | Stop.     | —        | —   | —        |
| Yellow Warbler ( <i>Dendroica petechia</i> )           | Stop.     | —        | —   | —        |
| Magnolia Warbler ( <i>Dendroica magnolia</i> )         | —         | —        | NW. | —        |
| Prairie Warbler ( <i>Dendroica discolor</i> )          | Stop.     | —        | —   | —        |
| Palm Warbler ( <i>Dendroica palmarum</i> )             | —         | —        | W.  | —        |
| Northern Waterthrush ( <i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i> ) | Turn.     | —        | —   | —        |
| Yellowthroat ( <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> )             | —         | Stop.    | W.  | —        |
| Eastern Meadowlark ( <i>Sturnella magna</i> )          | Turn.     | Turn.    | —   | —        |
| Redwinged Blackbird ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> )     | NNW; NW.  | W.       | W.  | WSW; SW. |
| Baltimore Oriole ( <i>Icterus galbula</i> )            | Turn.     | NW.      | —   | —        |
| Rusty Blackbird ( <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> )          | Turn.     | —        | —   | —        |
| Dickcissel ( <i>Spiza americana</i> )                  | NW; turn. | —        | —   | —        |
| Purple Finch ( <i>Carpodacus purpureus</i> )           | —         | —        | —   | SW.      |
| Pine Siskin ( <i>Spinus pinus</i> )                    | Turn.     | —        | —   | —        |
| American Goldfinch ( <i>Spinus tristis</i> )           | Turn.     | NW; W;   | W.  | NW; WSW. |
| Savannah Sparrow ( <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> )  | —         | turn.    | —   | —        |
| Slate-colored Junco ( <i>Junco hyemalis</i> )          | —         | Turn.    | —   | NW.      |
| Snow Bunting ( <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> )          | —         | NW; W.   | —   | —        |

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### GENERAL NOTES

**A Method for Opening Nesting Holes.**—The study of hole-nesting birds presents problems of access not met with among other species. Certain species nest in abandoned woodpecker holes which are normally too small to permit the insertion of a hand. Some recent workers in British Columbia have opened such nests by cutting a panel from the sill below the hole; such panels can be nailed into place again with little resultant change in the appearance of the nesting site. Repeated opening of the nest by this means, however, usually results in the panel becoming permanently loose, particularly if the wood is rotten or the sill thin. Dr. I. McT. Cowan suggested that a hole drilled from the back or side of the tree would avoid this difficulty.

Holes of a suitable size may be made with a brace and 3-inch expansion bit, and by preliminary measurement one can place the hole close above the eggs for more convenient observation. Sapwood often clogs the big bit; in such cases it was usually found more satisfactory to start with the big bit and continue with a smaller ( $\frac{1}{2}$ " or  $\frac{5}{8}$ " ) bit, finishing up with a keyhole saw. The same modification was used when the wood was too rotten to hold the lead screw of the big bit. In all cases the round hole is readily plugged with a section of 3-inch dowel, and such plugs are usually covered with bark to render them less conspicuous.

The method was devised for use upon the nests of Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), but is of course applicable to those of any species using holes of Flicker (*Colaptes sp.*) size or larger. It has been used throughout the past summer and was generally found entirely satisfactory. The method was tested upon a nest of Common Sapsucker, but was considered less satisfactory with the smaller cavity excavated by that species.

Besides retaining the original appearance of the site, this method was also found to facilitate banding of the birds. With other methods it is necessary to insert one's hand and arm into the hole to bring out its occupant. With ducks this almost invariably results in the fouling of the eggs, and in any case makes the bird ruffled and distrustful of the nest from which it was dragged. When the bird is prodded through the new hole it leaves quietly through the normal opening and may be easily caught in a net held over the entrance. Most of the distrust thus created, as well as any fouling, was probably concentrated upon the net.

One limitation of the method is that one can not operate a brace and bit from a precarious perch. In such cases the cut-out panel is almost obligatory although the use of a "safety belt" greatly extends the use of the present method.

Mr. A. J. Wiggs performed much of the actual drilling operations, and suggested the variation used when the big bit was not feasible.—A. J. Erskine, Dept. of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, B. C.

**Two 13-year-old age records for the House Sparrow.**—Some longevity records for the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), widely known in this country as the English Sparrow, have been published by S. S. Flower (*Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, ser. A. 95: 1378. 1925; 108:200. 1938). These records are based upon caged birds. One bird lived for 11 years, 5 months, and one day, another bird for 14 years, and a third reached the age of 23 years. Dayton Stoner (*Auk* 59: 440-442, 1942) reported on another caged House Sparrow which was taken as a nestling and kept in captivity for 12 years. Longevity records of birds living in the wild are not easily obtained, and undoubtedly do not often reach the extreme age of caged birds.

At the time my study of banding House Sparrows was published (*Bird-Banding* 20: 40-50. 1949), the oldest recovery I had obtained was nearly five years old. Since then two of my banded sparrows have been recovered which extend the longevity record to somewhat over 13 years. These two (nos. 43-129716 and 43-129740) were banded as immature birds on June 13 and 24, 1944, respectively, on the roof of McGilvrey Hall at the campus of Kent State University. These were never recaptured by the writer, although many of those banded about the same time were later retaken in the same traps or others nearby as reported in the reference above. In October of 1957 these two were captured in a sparrow trap by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Pirl at 711 Crain Ave. in Kent, Ohio, about 0.4 mile away from the site of banding. Unfortunately the carcasses of these birds were destroyed before the writer learned of their recapture. Mrs. Pirl believes that both specimens were males. It would be interesting to speculate how long these birds might have lived if they had not been destroyed as pests at a feeding station.—Ralph W. Dexter, Dept. of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

**Some Long Distance Barn Owl Recoveries.**—On 1 July 1953 we banded a brood of six nestling Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) in the Town of Granville, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. Two of them were subsequently found dead at points over 1200 miles distant, a greater distance than has been previously recorded (see Stewart, *Auk* 69: 227-245, 1952, and Broun, *Bird-Banding* 25: 149, 1954). One of the Owls (557-56405) was found at Delray Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, on 25 November 1953, and 557-56407 was recovered 6 June 1954 at Miami, Florida.

We captured and banded an adult Barn Owl (557-56442) in the Town of Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, on 11 July 1955. On 1 November 1955 it was captured on a ship 225 miles due east of Savannah, Georgia, about 940 miles from the place of banding. The bird was kept captive, fed raw meat, and released 4 November on the Mississippi River about 65 miles south of New Orleans.—Helmut C. Mueller, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Daniel D. Berger, Cedar Grove Ornithological Station, Route 1, Cedar Grove, Wisconsin.

**A Second Peregrine Falcon Banding Return from Uruguay.**—On 1 October 1941 Murl Deusing trapped and banded an immature Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) at Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. This bird was recovered near Buschental, Department of San Jose, Uruguay on 8