

and far between. The only definite record which I can find for this region is that which Wells gives of a bird obtained before 1887 near Grenada, where he believed the species to be common. He also recorded it from the neighboring island of Carriacou. There is also an uncertain record of some Petrels which Newton believed to be this species which he saw between St. Thomas and St. Croix on June 14, 1858. Gosse gives a record of a Petrel blown ashore in Portland, Jamaica, after a storm in the autumn of 1846, which may have been this species. These three records, two of them admittedly indefinite, are the only West Indian records that I have been able to discover. Therefore it gives me pleasure to be able to report that on May 9, 1927, while I was passing from Desecheo Island to Porto Rico on a small fishing sloop I made a very satisfactory observation of a Wilson's Petrel about two miles west of Rincón Point, Porto Rico. It was flying straight northward, keeping just above the waves, and passed very close to the boat. I believe this to be the first record for the Porto Rican region, and one of the very few West Indian records.

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SOME 1927 RETURNS AT ROCK, MASSACHUSETTS AND THE INFORMATION THEY CONVEY

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SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza m. melodia*)

ON May 23, 1923, I banded my first bird of this species with band 25933. The bird, an adult, nested near my station during 1923, and it was a return-1 April 1, 1924; a return-2 April 1, 1925; a return-3 in 1926, on April 23rd; and this year, 1927, the bird was a return-4 on March 20th, and is accordingly at least five years old.

PURPLE FINCHES (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*)

Although there are several banders, four in fact, in the town of Middleboro (in which Rock is situated), all operating stations about six miles northward of mine, only one bird

banded by them during a period of five years has been recovered by me, this case being a male Purple Finch No. 40165 banded by Alice B. Pratt, May 11, 1923. At that time the bird was in olivaceous plumage and was banded as a probable female, but when recovered by me, May 6, 1924, the bird wore the purple coat of the male. We accordingly know that it was born in 1922, and wore the colors of immaturity when first banded. During the nesting season of 1924, No. 40165 stayed about my station and mated with No. 127424, nesting in my only spruce tree. On April 5, 1925, he returned and nested again in the same spruce with a new mate, 155133. I did not take him in 1926, but this spring he returned on April 26th with still another new female. He is now five years old.

On May 2, 1926, I gave band 167187 to a male Purple Finch and on the 9th I banded a female (167190) which mated with 167187 and they raised one brood of young in my spruce tree, and a second brood in an arbor vitae, the nest being placed about forty feet from the ground. The first brood of three was banded. Both these parent birds returned this spring as mates, apparently coming together, as I trapped the female, 167190, on April 15th and the male, 167187, on April 18th. That they were mated was determined by the fact that I saw them acting as mates near my trap when they both entered the trap and were captured. Later I took them again at the same time.

PHOEBES (*Sayornis Phoebe*)

In this Bulletin for October 1926, pp. 81 and 82, I published a partial nesting history of a pair of Phoebes, 155135 (♀) and 155134 (♂). These birds were banded on April 18, 1925, as mates, both returning in 1926 to the same spot as mates, and now they are back as returns-2 mated for the third season, the male appearing on March 13th, the female appearing six days later, the nineteenth of March. Each year they have come in the same order,—1925, male ten days ahead; 1926, male seventeen days ahead of female. In 1925 and 1926 the female used the same nesting place (and the same nest with additions), but because of being disturbed this year the birds chose a new place further under the barn. I catch the birds in the dark with the aid of a flash-light. They have raised two broods each year.

June, 1927.