

'The Auk'—42774 is the number of the band on the leg of this particular bird, which made strenuous objection to wearing a bracelet.—WM. P. WHARTON, *Fiveoaks Farm, Groton, Mass.*

Note on the Nesting Habits of the Tree Swallow:—During the progress of an attempt to define the line in New England (if, indeed, any such exists) separating the area in which Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) raise one brood, from the area in which they raise two broods, annually, the writer has noted the reluctance with which this species nests colonially in some localities and its willingness to do so in others.

If we erect a several-compartment bird-house on our premises on the theory that we shall get a colony of Tree Swallows because a few miles distant an acquaintance has been successful in so attracting several pairs, we are likely to be disappointed, although before nesting begins the birds may be seen flying in and out of every hole in the edifice.

Writers describing the nesting habits of this species usually find them most numerous where dead trees standing in or close to the water abound, for here old Woodpecker holes in which the birds nest are frequent. Many writers refer to such groups of nesting Tree Swallows as colonies, and perhaps most ornithologists will agree that they are such, but, accompanying such statements, I find no references to just how close together the nests are placed, or just what is meant by the word "colony." This has led me to inquire as to the extent compartment bird-houses are used colonially by this species, which in turn has raised the question of why one person cannot get more than a single pair of birds to occupy such a bird-house each season, while another succeeds year after year in doing so. I have had several reports from correspondents of "all compartments occupied," but in most cases investigation reveals that such occupancy has to do with conditions preceding actual nesting, for by June all the Swallows have left, barring a single pair. This, however, is not always the case, for occasionally each compartment in a bird-house, even of ten divisions, is occupied by a nesting pair. Such a case is reported by R. W. Means of Topsfield, Mass. A barrel erected in Peterboro, N. H., as a compartment bird-house for two seasons housed two pairs of nesting birds.

A lesser degree of colonization is common, and this more widely spaced nesting is due largely to circumstances referred to below. It is doubtless true that tree growth with its old Woodpecker holes will not permit the intimate nesting conditions present in a compartment bird-house. Man also, though he may have a hundred pairs nesting close by, seldom spaces his single houses nearer than ten feet apart. Mr. Edward F. Woods writes me that on his place at Bournedale, Mass., within an area of less than three-fourths of an acre he has had for years as many as 150 pairs of Tree Swallows nesting, many of the houses ranging from seven to twelve feet apart. George C. Atwell of Strafford, N. H., reports thirteen pairs nesting in an area of three-fifths of an acre, the two nearest nests being thirteen

feet apart. Thornton W. Burgess has sent me a photograph of a garage in Springfield, Mass., on which, during 1925, five pairs of Tree Swallows nested, each individual box being seven feet from at least one other occupied box. In addition, sixteen feet from the garage still another box was occupied.

These several examples of intimate nesting relations indicate in this species a disposition to nest colonially, and undoubted examples of their doing so are not infrequent. In primitive times they appeared to nest as close together as opportunity afforded. Had a given area of dead stubs had twice or thrice as many available sites, doubtless the birds would have been found nesting much closer together, and yet compartment birdhouses are often occupied by only a single pair of this species at nesting time. To a degree, which I fear is rather inadequate to serve as a basis for a conclusion, I have investigated a number of places where man has succeeded in getting these birds to nest colonially, and the evidence seems to indicate that the determining factor is the adequacy of a nearby feeding area, or areas, be they meadows (old, filled lakes), marshes or water, to furnish the necessary quantity of food for the young at the requisite period.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, *Cohasset, Mass.*

Sycamore Warbler in Connecticut.—On May 18, 1925, Mr. Frank Novak, warden of Birdcraft Sanctuary at Fairfield, found a badly injured bird that, so far as descriptions go, is an adult male Sycamore Warbler, (*Dendroica dominica abilora*). This bird is now mounted and in the collection at the Birdcraft Sanctuary. It was reported to Mr. Forbush and recorded by him in his 'Bulletin' for May 1925, as a Yellow-throated Warbler. On my suggestion to Mr. Novak that the occurrence was of enough importance and interest to be published in a more permanent place, he granted me permission to send a note of it to 'The Auk.'

The bird was evidently injured by flying into wires along the railroad track at Fairfield, and not far from the Sanctuary grounds. The lores of the bird are clearly white, without a trace of yellow. The question of which subspecies the bird really represents, however, is determined by the locality from which it actually came, and since I am informed that occasional white-lored birds are to be found in the range of the Yellow-throated Warbler, it would seem more probable that this bird is such an individual, than a true Sycamore Warbler. Whichever subspecies it represents, it is the first Connecticut record of the species to be backed by a specimen. I believe there are one or two previous sight records of the bird by those who ought to know, but these have not been published.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Conn.*

Mockingbird at Marquette, Michigan.—From October 5 to 9, 1925, I observed a Mockingbird (*Mimus p. polyglottos*), in a small garden. This garden at Marquette in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is surrounded by a white pine hedge, twelve feet high. The circumstances under which