

tality. On August 16, 1941, Dr. E. G. Davis and I crossed this same bridge over Albemarle Sound just at sunset. A very large flock of Purple Martins was circling down and roosting on the timbers and rafters under the bridge, not on the railing. As we approached the southern end of the bridge, a threatening thunderstorm broke and the still circling birds were forced lower and lower until many were struck by cars and a few landed unharmed but drenched on the roadway. On returning on foot, we counted 173 birds on the bridge; 169 were dead, either struck in the air or crushed on the ground, and of the other four, two were injured and died shortly afterward, whereas the other two flew away after dusk when partially dried out. After dark, there were no birds on the railings or flying about, but many hundreds could be seen by flashlight on the timbers underneath the bridge.—DR. NORMAN P. HILL, *Arlington, Massachusetts.*

**Unusual nesting behavior of a Wood Duck.**—The Indiana Department of Conservation, cooperating with the Illinois Natural History Survey, released on the Jasper-Pulaski Game Preserve in Jasper County, Indiana, 95 Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) at the age of 11 weeks on July 14, 1944. Frank C. Bellrose, Jr., of the Illinois Natural History Survey, collected eggs from nests of wild Wood Ducks in Illinois and raised the young ducks used in this experimental release. The collection of records in Indiana was conducted by O. D. McKeever as an activity carried out in connection with his Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Research investigation of waterfowl.

The following year, on May 5, 1945, Mr. McKeever captured one of the previously banded birds, bearing U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service band 41-602047, in Wood Duck nesting box No. 17 erected on this same game preserve. It had a nest containing 12 eggs. On May 11, 1945, eight eggs were pipped and three eggs showed no signs of incubation. One newly hatched young, with a piece of egg shell still attached, was also found dead on the ground under the box. On May 12, eight young were found in the box and the other three eggs were removed and placed in a semi-domesticated Mallard nest at Wallace Lake, a display pond, located in another part of this game preserve. These three eggs did not hatch until May 25, 1945, indicating that more than one hen had been laying in this nest. On May 14, seven young were still in the nesting box and one young was dead. The adult female was nowhere in evidence; consequently, the seven live ducklings were removed to an electric brooder. It is believed that the inner surface of the yellow poplar lumber used for construction of the box did not afford enough rough surface for the young ducklings to climb out of the box and that they were abandoned by the mother.

On July 7, 1945, Mr. McKeever again captured this same adult female in nesting box No. 37, three-fourths of a mile from the original nesting box No. 17. She was incubating eight eggs. Upon re-inspection of the box on July 17, it was found that three eggs had hatched, probably two or three days previously, and the young were successful in leaving the box. Of the five remaining eggs, four were infertile and one showed imperfect hatching.—WM. B. BARNES, *Project Leader, Indiana Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Research Project, Indianapolis 4, Indiana.*

**Polygamy at a Groove-billed Ani nest.**—Near the middle of August, 1947, I saw some Groove-billed Anis (*Crotophaga s. sulcirostris* Swainson) causing much clatter in a tree with abundant foliage and many bunches of long, dried capsules. At first I thought the birds were chasing insects, but as they persisted about this tree for some days, I began to suspect something about a nest, and decided to watch them closely. On August 15—a bright day—the birds started work about 8:00 A.M.