

returns-4, one at least is six years old, a male, No. 66834, banded as such May 15, 1923. The other six birds are males and females of undetermined age, but they are all of course at least five years old, the banding dates (early May) precluding the existence of birds in juvenal plumage.

It is also of interest to prepare a similar table showing the returning ratios of Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*) taken at Cohasset, Massachusetts, up to July 2, 1927, as follows:

RETURNING RATIOS OF BANDED COHASSET CATBIRDS\*  
(1923 to July 2, 1927)

No. Banded	Year Banded	Returns-1	%	Returns-2	%	Returns-3	%
7	1923	2 (1924)	28.57	2 (1925)	100.00		
11	1924	5 (1925)	45.45	3 (1926)	60.00	2 (1927)	66.66
15	1925	3 (1926)	20.00	3 (1927)	100.00		
19	1926	7 (1927)	36.84				

This table shows that of the seven birds banded in 1923, two returned in 1924, and that 100 percent of the returns-1 of 1924 were returns-2 in 1925. The history of those banded in 1924 is more complete, the figures again showing high and increasing returning ratios with increasing age. Of the five returns-1 in 1925, three were returns-2 in 1926, and of these two were returns-3, in 1927,—45.45, 60.00 and 66.66 per cent respectively.

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## WILSON'S PETREL IN THE WEST INDIES

BY STUART T. DANFORTH

The Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) is such an abundant bird in its breeding grounds on the Antarctic islands and in its range during the Antarctic winter off the American coast that it seems rather surprising that there are so few records of its occurrence in the region separating its breeding and winter ranges, across which it must migrate twice a year. Records of its occurrence in the West Indies are few

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\* Of the twelve returning birds during 1927 (up to July 2nd), two are sight-returns-2, and six are sight-returns-1. All twelve were adult birds when banded.

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.

College of Agriculture, University of Porto Rico,  
Mayagüez, P. R.

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

BY A. W. HIGGINS

### 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