

times a day. Although a pan of water was also available, the only observed drinking was done when in the tub. Each day the bird accepted six or seven finger-sized fish or similar-sized strips of larger fish, and about ten pieces of fish-flavored cat food molded to the same size. Such food was taken freely when dangled in front of the bird, but not from the floor unless dropped there by the bird itself. When it ate more than about three pieces at a time (it would take five or six), it would regurgitate the extra pieces with violent effort and pay no further attention to them, or to more food proffered at that time. It seemed to be in vigorous health, frequently tried to fly, and became quite tame, allowing its head to be stroked and not objecting to some handling when shown to visitors.

On 10 November, after about ten minutes in its tub, it was found dead from no obvious cause. Shortly after death it was examined by Drs. Harry C. Oberholser and Owen Davies, and identified as a Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). The specimen, apparently the second for Ohio (Trautman and Walker, 1930. *Auk*, 47:242), has been deposited in the University of Cincinnati Museum.—EDWIN NOVOTNY, 97 W. 44th St., Ashtabula, Ohio, 8 July 1960.

**Purple Martins nesting in city buildings.**—On 29 May 1960, I discovered four pairs of Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) nesting in crevices and cavities of a two-story brick building on the main street of Ottawa, Franklin County, Kansas. The birds were using the building housing the Kramer Drug Store, near the corner of Second and Main streets. The side of this building facing the street has its upper edge (approximately 40 feet high) ornamented with 14 objects resembling one-gallon tin cans suspended on their sides. About one-half of these have one or both ends, or their base attachments, partly or fully broken away, allowing entrance to the interior by the birds. Besides the four pairs of martins, Starlings (*Sternus vulgaris*) and House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were nesting in these ornaments. The martins all appeared to be adults; two pairs behaved as if incubating and another as if feeding young on 2 June, when Richard F. Johnston and I visited Ottawa and observed the birds.

Although several other buildings seemed to possess suitable cavities for martins, no indications of their breeding elsewhere in such crevices were noted by us. Johnston and I questioned an elderly resident of the town about the birds, selecting for this inquiry a gentleman who had three martin houses in his back yard. He was familiar with the birds in question, estimating that they had frequented the Main Street area for 10 to 15 years, although he had never determined where the birds entered the building. Purple Martins nesting in bird houses are common in Ottawa as they are throughout eastern Kansas, and there is no noticeable scarcity of such man-made structures which might cause the birds to use natural cavities.

Allen and Nice (1952. *Amer. Midl. Nat.*, 47:614–616) summarize use of natural cavities for nesting by Purple Martins. In the eastern United States, use of nest sites other than those provided in martin houses has been rare in populated areas and has not been reported since the early part of the 20th century. Use of crevices in city buildings is known in the western United States (for example, Seattle, Washington), but previous to discovery of these Kansan birds, may not be recorded for the eastern half of the country. The use of natural cavities in sparsely populated areas farther east (such as in northern Minnesota and coastal Florida) doubtless still occurs.

The present observations were made while I was a research zoologist at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.—JOHN WILLIAM HARDY, *Department of Zoology, University of California, Los Angeles 24, California, 25 July 1960.*