

of British Columbia" by J. A. Munro and I. McT. Cowan. — LEO JOBIN, Kelowna, B.C.

First record of the Dakota Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia juddi* Bishop for British Columbia. — On May 27, 1954, while collecting specimens in the Peace River Parkland, British Columbia, I camped near the south end of Swan Lake, Tupper Creek, Peace River, British Columbia.

In the early morning of May 30, 1954, I heard a bird singing in a patch of tall grass, growing amongst some low bushes, about fifty yards from the lakeshore. This song was unfamiliar to me. After careful watching I saw two very similar birds. I killed both with one shot, but was able to find only one. It proved to be an adult male *Melospiza melodia juddi* Bishop. It would appear that these two birds were mated. The testes of the male collected were fully enlarged. Total length of the bird was 162 millimeters. I have been unable to find any other record for this subspecies in any literature covering the bird fauna of British Columbia. — LEO JOBIN, Kelowna, B.C.

Pseudomma affine G. O. Sars: an addition to the list of the Mysidacea of Eastern Canada. — A large number of specimens of Mysidacea were collected during July and August, 1952, in the vicinity of the Atlantic Biological Station, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, during a search for parasitic nematodes. Four species were collected, one of which was new to Canada. It was *Pseudomma affine* G. O. Sars. The other species were already recorded by Tattersall (1939).

Five males and one female, from 11 to 12 mm. long, were collected about one mile off Campobello Island, New Brunswick, in 80 to 110 metres of water. The only previous record of this species on this side of the Atlantic Ocean is of a single individual collected at Fish Hawk Station 999 (39° 45' 13" N.; 71° 30' W.; i.e. off Martha's Vineyard) in 1881. (Tattersall 1951, page 132). The depth was 484 metres. European records were in depths of 120 to 900 metres. It is not unusual for deep-water forms to be found in lesser depths in the lower Bay of Fundy where tidal mixing brings deep conditions nearer to the surface.

Dr. F. A. Chace, Jr. compared two of our specimens with the one in the United States National Museum and found no significant differences.

REFERENCES

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Purple Martins. — At our summer cottage near Ottawa we have a 16 compartment martin box which has been used to capacity by Purple Martins, *Progne subis*, for the past several years. As they arrive every year in April we have counted from day to day two pairs coming in first being followed by other pairs until all compartments are occupied. There are apparently a few fights for possession to start with but the colony soon gets settled and breeding starts.

When the young are hatched out, one, two, or three in every compartment, the growing birds cause over-crowding and quite a few of the off-spring seem to be edged out and fall to the ground before they are strong winged. The old birds, their mothers and fathers, sometimes flutter above their fallen chicks but scarcely ever are noticed to ground to give assistance.

Until recently we have endeavoured to save some of these young by placing them on a bush adjacent to the martin box. Their parents were able to service them there better than on the ground.

However, we recently acquired a new idea from one of our visiting guests. A long bamboo pole with a perch fixed to its tip was brought into action. The young bird was placed on the perch to which it clung grimly. The pole was then raised and when the tip was alongside the box the bird flew into the box — BUT — only if its nest was on that side. If it was not on that side the bird would again flutter to the ground and a second raising to the opposite side enabled the bird to find its own home. Many young birds were saved in this fashion.

George C. Gardner,
Ottawa.

The Barred Owl in Alberta. — In the course of our investigations and research on the Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex nebulosa nebu-*



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