

Atlantic Beach (Richard Cohen)

The netting station here is set up on an 85 x 120 foot plot in a suburban garden located on a barrier beach. Netting began August 1st. Richard and Shirlene Cohen operated the station. Monthly data follow:

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/ 100 net hours	Species
Aug.	31	302	0	--	--	37
Sept.	30	598	0	--	--	63
Oct.	31	834	0	--	--	63

The three month total at the station was the lowest since 1967. No single day catch was over 76 birds. The October total was the lowest since 1965.

The most commonly banded birds at the station were Golden-crowned Kinglet (163); Redstart (143); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (131); Yellowthroat (97); and Brown Creeper (93). Two new records for the station were a Lawrence's Warbler (Male) on August 16th and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow on October 15th. A Clay-colored Sparrow was banded on October 7th.

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Wadsworth Wildlife Sanctuary, Westport, Conn. (Robert Dewire)

The banding station here is located on the 50 acre Wadsworth Wildlife Sanctuary which is owned by the Mid-Fairfield County Youth Museum. This station began operating for the first time this fall. One to three nets were used and were set up most of the time in thickets surrounding a sizeable red maple swamp. Once in a while a net was set up in a pine grove close to a feeding station. A monthly breakdown is indicated below:

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/ 100 Net Hours	Species
Aug.	19	208	0	69	65.8	29
Sept.	18	254	0	45	53.3	45
Oct.	16	379	0	11	78.9	44

Most numerous banded birds were White-throated Sparrow (63); Catbird (58); Blue Jay (56); Black-capped Chickadee (51); and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (44). Best birds caught were a Red-bellied Woodpecker on Oct. 20 and a Carolina Wren on Aug. 26.

Since this is the first year of operation at this station it is hard to draw any conclusions based on the banding data. The station is about 4 miles inland from Long Island Sound which could easily result in differences in migrating bird populations from those stations right on the coast. Probably the most interesting thing to be noticed from the totals this year was the fact that there was no one species that was far more abundant than all the others. Next year we will increase the number of nets used and have permanent net lanes to standardize data in years to come.

(Also see page 147.Ed.)

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A FLIP NETTING TECHNIQUE FOR CAPTURING SWIFTS AND SWALLOWS
By Charles T. Collins

In the course of field studies of swifts in Trinidad over several years, I had often observed, but never caught, individuals of the Fork-tailed Palm Swift (Reinarda squamata). Thus it was with considerable interest that during a visit there in 1966 I was told by my friend and fellow EBBA member, Dr. C. Brooke Worth, that he had just seen many of these swifts foraging low over an open pasture a few miles away. This situation held much greater promise for their capture in mist nets than their usual mode of foraging amidst the palms or over wet savannas. The two of us quickly returned to the field where the swifts had been seen and with Brooke's help I set up a couple of mist nets. Any experienced mist-netter could predict the results; the swifts clearly saw our nets standing out in the open pasture and darted all around them but never into them. Having given up in despair we were in the process of taking down the nets when we noticed the swifts darting between us only waist high above the ground. The collapsed net, still stretched in a line between us, bothered them not at all. This situation brought to mind an article I had seen some time before (Hallett and Brown, 1964). In it was described a technique of swinging a net up from ground level into the path of low flying swallows, followed by a rolling forward of the net to loop it over and capture the bird even if it were not tangled in the net. Modifying this one-man technique a bit, we quickly restrung one mist net on the poles and then, with both of us kneeling and holding opposite ends, the net was stretched horizontally a few inches above the ground. From this position, on an agreed upon command from one member of the team, the net was quickly raised into a vertical position, and the motion continued so as to flip it over onto the ground. If done quickly and smoothly, an approaching bird usually became entangled in the net and those few that bounced off were trapped beneath it on the ground. In very short order we were able to capture a sample of the swifts for weighing and an examination of molt pattern. The rate of successful capture was surprisingly high!

In the spring of 1971, in the course of banding studies of spring migrants in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County, California, this technique was again used with the same effectiveness. Most of the birds captured at this locality were taken in fixed position sets of mist nets (a full description of this area and the birds taken in the 1970 operation of this station is contained in Collins and Bradley, 1971a, 1971b). On several days when the weather was cool and windy, large numbers of swallows and swifts were observed foraging low over the water of a nearby pond. Their foraging flights also carried them low over an open grassy portion of the shoreline. Recalling the initial success with "flip netting" I tried it out again. With the help of various members of the banding team, a standard 12 meter net was erected and operated as mentioned before. In the space of about an hour we captured 5 Vaux's Swifts (Chaetura vauxi), 5 Violet-green