

and my latest April 11 in 1915. In the present year of 1947, not included in the foregoing summary, I heard the song on four days in January—the 19th, 13th, 25th, and 28th. It occurs to me that perhaps my early records of Chickadee song may be due to the fact that the Chickadee, especially since winter feeding began, is a pretty constant inhabitant of my immediate neighborhood in winter and spring. I find that my records for the only two years that show April dates for the earliest song also show comparatively few records of the presence of the bird about my house. In 1915, when the first singing was noted April 11, I recorded the bird as present with us only January 4, 10, 17, 24; February 27, 28; March 13, 21, 24; and on April dates before the 11th. In 1921, when the first singing was noted April 6, the only Chickadees recorded about the house were on January 1, 16; February 13; and March 16 and 21. The omission of these two aberrant years from my summary would bring my average back into January, the month when Mr. Saunders has never heard the song—to January 31, to be precise.

I am puzzled to account for this difference between Mr. Saunders's experience with Chickadee song and mine, and on writing to him about it I find that he too is unable to account for it satisfactorily. He writes me under date of February 20, 1947: "At least part of the discrepancy between your experiences and mine is due to my not living among Chickadees most of the time. From 1919 to 1939 I lived in a place where Chickadees were almost never seen, so my observations were largely confined to field trips which were mainly week-ends. But since the fall of 1939 I have lived practically in the woods, and have fed Chickadees every winter. They were scarce some winters, but in others I recorded them almost daily each January yet never heard the song. This year I beat my earliest record by hearing one February 3, but still that wasn't January."

It would be interesting to learn of the experience of other observers with this common bird whose song seasons do not follow conventional patterns.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Massachusetts*.

Post-nuptial copulation among swallows.—While I was watching a large number of migrating swallows swarming over the Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Oregon, on August 31, 1946, a copulation act was observed between a female Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina lepida*) and a male Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*).

Numerous swallows of both of these species and two others were alighting along the water's edge from six to twenty feet from the car in which I was sitting. While I was watching these birds, I noticed a female Violet-green Swallow alight and not settle down as the other birds were doing. Rather she fluttered her wings and rocked her body. Very shortly afterwards a finely marked male Barn Swallow dropped onto her back, performed copulation, flew off a few feet and returned to repeat a second time. After the second action, both birds flew away and disappeared into the swarming flock. Having observed the nesting and habits related to nesting of the Violet-green Swallows for several years, I had no doubt as to the action anticipated by the female, nor was there the least doubt concerning the species performing the action.—GORDON W. GULLION, *1657 E. 13th St., Eugene, Oregon*.

Behavior of nestling Tree Swallows in water.—The following event took place while I was banding young Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) at Douglas Lake, Cheboygan County, Michigan, on July 29, 1946. I had just banded and returned to the nest (in a swallow house on a five-foot post about five feet from the water's edge) the last of a family of five fledglings and was continuing my daily