

Spizella passerina. Chipping Sparrow. There are only a few published records of Chipping Sparrows in Alaska: Brower collected one at Point Barrow on September 18, 1929 (Bailey, *Birds of Arctic Alaska*, 1948), and Francis H. Fay observed one at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, on May 23, 1956 (Fay and Cade, *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, 63, 1959:73-150). There apparently has been, however, a range extension along the Tanana River Valley into interior Alaska by birds from Yukon Territory. On the morning of May 27, 1958, I watched a male Chipping Sparrow as it sang almost continuously from a stand of tall willows at College. The specimen (UA 1068) weighed 11.5 grams, and the testes measured 8×5 and 6×5 mm. In 1959 four nesting records were obtained along the Tanana Valley. At Tetlin Lake Donald E. McKnight found a nest with 4 eggs on July 3, 10 inches up in a rose bush (*Rosa acicularis*); and in the same area James King found one with 3 eggs on July 6 in a 3-foot spruce. Svein Haftorn found two nests containing young in white spruce at Big Delta on July 10, 1959 (Haftorn, *Det. Kgl. Norske Vidensk. Selsk. Forh.*, 32, 1959:107-111).—BRINA KESSEL, *University of Alaska, College, Alaska, April 18, 1960*.

Notes on Vaux and Chimney Swifts.—There have recently been two instances of Vaux Swifts (*Chaetura vauxi*) seeking night roosting shelter in chimneys near San Diego, California. On May 4, 1960, Mrs. Edith Heller brought to the Natural History Museum in San Diego a specimen of a Vaux Swift for verification of identity. She reported that shortly after sundown, on the evening of May 3, a flock of about 25 of these swifts came down the fireplace chimney into the living room of a residence in the Point Loma district of San Diego. The day had been misty with intermittent showers, and there was a prediction of sharper showers during the night so that conditions were such that the birds were seeking shelter for the night. After some commotion one bird was captured; this is the swift she brought in and it is now a specimen in the collection of the museum. Mrs. Heller also stated that a like occurrence had taken place in May five years ago at the same residence when a much larger flock had descended the chimney for a night's shelter.

On preparing the specimen I found a small amount of material in the stomach. As little seems to be recorded of the food of this species, it was saved for study by Dr. F. X. Williams and Mr. C. F. Harbison, entomologists on the museum staff. The contents had been heavily digested and appeared to be a black pasty mass, highly mutilated, with no pieces large enough to see with the naked eye. However, with the aid of a microscope, they were able to find insect fragments representing three orders: Lepidoptera, Diptera and Hymenoptera. These flying insects had apparently been caught by the bird before it sought shelter for the night.

Mrs. Heller subsequently returned with a further report. On the evening of April 23, 1960, a flock of swifts estimated to have been 500 birds flew down the fireplace chimney at the residence of Mrs. Robert Mosher in La Jolla. They descended the chimney in such numbers that most of the soot that had accumulated on the chimney walls was brought with them into the room. The police were called to help remove the birds and next day the interior decorators were called to repaint the walls and revamp the furniture! The writer found that April 23 had been overcast and showery as was the 24th, so without question the migrating swifts were seeking shelter from inclement conditions.

A further record of importance is the capture of a Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) within the boundary of California. The bird was a male and is now in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History (no. 13055); it was collected in the willow-cottonwood association, 1 mile north of Potholes, Imperial County, California, on the Colorado River, May 6, 1930, by Samuel G. Harter. This record adds another species to the list of California birds.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, May 20, 1960*.

Notes on the Nesting of the Roadrunner.—In Bent's Life Histories (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 176, 1940) the account of the nesting of the Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) states (p. 41) that "it is supposed that only the female incubates"; it is also suggested that it had not been proved that second sets of eggs are laid by females that had already succeeded in bringing out one brood.