

Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, 2, 1927 : 314) says "When they cannot obtain their food from the air, both old and young must perish." However, these young swifts appeared to thrive on small pellets of hamburger and an occasional drink of water.

They were fed at two hour intervals and about six times each day. Feeding time was always amusing as they would clamber from the "strawberry basket" nest onto my mother's hand and then with a persistent, almost deafening, undulatory, rasping clamor, increasing in volume, wait for the morsels of hamburger. The following figures were obtained on the ninth day of their stay with us:

Bird	Approximate Age	Body Weight	Weight of Food Taken at One Feeding
No. 1	3 weeks	21.55 grams*	1.95 grams lean hamburger
" 2	2½ "	18.50 "	1.40 " " "
" 3	2 "	18.40 "	1.25 " " "

\* Approximately 30 grams equal one ounce.

The above figures alone do not convey to the reader the value of Chimney Swifts as insect destroyers. With the above facts in mind further experimentation was made. It was found that 82 house flies weighed one gram. Knowing that the Chimney Swift's diet is largely, if not entirely insects, the approximate number of flies necessary to satisfy each baby swift is easily determined as follows: No. 1—160 flies; No. 2—115 flies; No. 3—103 flies.

The above gives the total number of flies required to satisfy the birds at one feeding. The total number of flies (378) multiplied by the number of feedings per day (6) gives a total of 2,268 flies, the equivalent of which the mother bird would have to supply for her young. This number of flies (2,268) is equivalent in weight to 4.60 grams of lean hamburger. It is little wonder that adult Chimney Swifts spend virtually all of their outdoor life in the air. A conservative quantitative estimate would place the number of insects devoured by a pair of Swifts with a brood of three young at 5,000 to 6,000 insects per day. Many of the insects utilized as food are, however, not as large as the house fly.

Biological Survey bands numbered 39-173672, 39-173673, and 39-173674 were attached to a leg of each bird by Mrs. Frederick Morse Cutler, 43 Butterfield Terrace, Amherst, Massachusetts. The youngest of the lot died on August 27, presumably due to its accidental immersion in dish water. On the following day the two older birds took their departure. There were no other chimney Swifts around at the time of their liberation, and the subsequent fate of these little orphans is not known.—GORDON T. WOODS, Amherst, Massachusetts.

**Group Return of White-throated Sparrows.**—On July 1, 1938 I set a Government sparrow trap at the edge of a fir thicket, not quite twenty yards from where the waves were dashing themselves upon the rocks at high tide. It was in the town of Millbridge on the coast of Maine.

The next day a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) was captured and banded 38-129075. two days later, a much more brightly marked White-throated Sparrow entered the trap and was banded 138-100527. On July 11, a third one was captured and was banded 138-100529. These three birds repeated often, either singly or together, throughout the summer.

Returning to Maine for the summer of 1939, the same trap was set again in the same location.

As the sun was setting on the evening of July 6, 1939, I visited the trap. It held three birds, all White-throated Sparrows, each with a band on its left leg. They were 38-129075, 138-100527, and 138-100529. They had returned together.—G. HAPGOOD PARKS, 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.