

based on 81 birds banded up to the beginning of the period, gives a population of 127. This is obviously too high because of variations in the numbers of the departures and arrivals previously discussed. On the assumption that the arrivals and departures were of the same order of magnitude and that the "old" birds visited the traps as frequently as the "new" ones from April 20th to May 11th, a sample between these dates, based on 67 banded individuals, would indicate a population of 113 birds as shown by sample No. 10. An average of samples Nos. 7, 9, 10 and 11 gives a population of 115 as an over-all figure. These are believed to be too high as the new arrivals appeared to rely more on the newly discovered food supply than the older birds which were no doubt more widely distributed and familiar with other food supplies. A still more valid assumption is that there was a larger number of departures than arrivals. These factors appear to give a somewhat higher population than it actually was. I believe a somewhat lower value of 105 to 110 is probably closer to the actual numbers over the period of this study.

Much of the credit for the success of this study is due Mrs. Shaub, who spent many hours, in the writer's absence, tending the traps and keeping the record.

LITERATURE CITED

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GENERAL NOTES

A Twelve-year-old Sooty Tern in Arkansas.—A Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata* L.) wearing U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service band No. 38-352683 was found dead on Highway 110, near Shirley, Van Buren County, Arkansas, on September 4, 1950. This individual was banded as an immature on June 23, 1938, at Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida. Correspondence with Mrs. Ray Murray, of Route 2, Shirley, Arkansas, finder of the bird, indicates that there is little doubt as to the authenticity of this record.—J. C. Dickinson, Jr., Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville.

(*Ed. Note:* a brief check of published records suggests this may be the first definite record for the species north of the Gulf of Mexico (Louisiana and Texas) and west of the Appalachians-Tennessee and W. Virginia.)

A New Method of Capturing Chimney Swifts.—The classical method of capturing Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica* L.) involves setting a trap atop a chimney sometime during the hours of darkness. As day approaches, the swifts leave the chimney and are guided into a gathering cage attached to the trap. Although this is an admirable procedure when used on flocks of swifts, it leaves much to be desired when one is studying breeding birds.

During my study of the nesting behavior of this species, a technique was developed which has greatly expedited their capture. At first a small wooden box was fastened, open part up, to the end of a thin pole about 18 feet long, the idea being to scoop the birds off the chimney wall. But as the device was lowered, the swifts fluttered deeper and deeper into the chimney, until they were almost in the fireplace of the unoccupied house.

Further thought yielded a solution which has never failed. On either side and just under the lip of a tall coffee or fruit juice can two holes are punched—one on either side. The ends of a piece of string 4 feet long are tied to each hole.