

and nesting shaft. Eight Swifts were nesting on the campus for the first time so far as known. Fourteen birds which were recaptured before the nesting season began were taken from the air shafts where they later nested, while 11 captured before nest building started later moved into other shafts for nesting. Eight Swifts returned to the campus before nesting began, but did not remain to nest on the campus. Two of these returned to the shafts in which they had nested in 1950, but soon disappeared. Three others appeared again on the campus after nesting was over for the year. Six were not found on the campus until after nesting was completed. One non-breeding bird was a fairly regular visitor with the mated pair in shaft E1 until it perished during an experiment in a respirometer, while another one was an occasional visitor throughout the nesting season with the mates in shaft S1. One bird (42-188553) banded on August 6, 1948, while roosting in shaft E1 with nine other Swifts, was not seen again for two years. It was recaptured on August 19, 1950, from shaft U1 with 13 other birds. It was never captured again on the campus, but was found dying on the sidewalk across from the campus in the early evening of July 2, 1951, by Paul Koval, a university student.—Ralph W. Dexter, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

Unusual Flock Behavior of Tree Swallows.—On September 20, 1951, at about 2 p.m., in Essex, Massachusetts, at a pond about 150 yards long where I was observing other birds, I suddenly heard and saw from 75 to 150 Tree Swallows, *Iridoprocne bicolor* (Vieillot), swerve over the middle of the pond. They were calling loudly, and the rush of their wings was louder than I have ever heard it.

They descended as a group to the level of the water, and apparently scooped up water with their bills. One bird in the group was seen to make two passes before the whole group swooped up as a unit. They circled in a tight circle about 100 feet in diameter and repeated the descent and subsequent ascent. This behavior they repeated six or eight times. After the last pass at the water, the birds flew off, presumably resuming migration, and flew out of sight.

The most striking characteristic of this performance was that the birds at all times flew as an integrated flock, all engaged in the same activity. They were all moving in the same direction, much as a shorebird flock does in flight, except when the individual birds were actually making passes at the water to drink. I find no reference to this behavior in either Bent's life history of this species or Forbush's *Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*, the only reference books I have at hand.—George G. Loring, Prides Crossing, Mass.

Intermittent Trapping of a Chickadee.—As a species, the Black-capped Chickadee, *Penthestes a. atricapillus* (Linnaeus), is rather remarkable for the problems it poses for the ornithologist and particularly the bird-bander. It is commonly regarded as sedentary and, in truth, there is but little evidence available for regular or extensive migrations except toward the limits of its range.

One bird in my files gives instructive data on the way the trapping habits of the species may mislead one. This female was banded as an immature 13 July 1948 with band 48-16208 and was color banded 18 May 1950. Its history is tabulated below.

- 1948—18 July - 2 Nov. Trapped 7 times; longest trapping interval 47 days.
Apparent absence 103 days.
- 1949—13 Feb. - 17 Mar. Trapped twice; trapping interval 32 days.
Apparent absence 157 days.
- 11 Aug. - 19 Nov. Trapped 9 times; longest trapping interval 53 days.
Apparent absence 132 days.
- 1950—1 Apr. - 30 May. Trapped 7 times; longest trapping interval 21 days.
Seen twice in the next 62 days.
- 2 Aug. - 10 Dec. Trapped 37 times; longest trapping interval 14 days.
Seen 14 times in the next 90 days.
- 1951—10 Mar. - 10 June. Trapped 8 times; longest trapping interval 29 days.
Seen 4 times in the next 53 days.
- 2 Aug. - 3 Nov. Trapped 43 times; longest trapping interval 13 days.
Seen 9 times in the next 97 days.

This bird nested less than 50 yards from my traps in 1951. Without positive proof for 1948 and 1949, the evidence favors the conclusion that this bird has