

pus to nest, but only one of these had previously nested on the campus, and three others were probably yearlings. Three returns had not been recaptured the year before, but without much doubt, they had nested in the two shafts not studied that year. They were found nesting in those shafts in 1957. Two of the three had also nested in those shafts in 1954 and 1955. The last swift seen on campus was one released from a trap on October 1.

In 1958 the returns totaled 51. Distribution by year of banding was as follows: 1947 (1); 1949 (2); 1950 (3); 1951 (4); 1952 (2); 1953 (6); 1954 (4); 1955 (7); 1956 (6); 1957 (16). To date 18 are known to be males, with an equal number of known females. Forty of the returns nested on the campus. In trapping returns, 23 were first recovered in 1958 from the shaft in which they had previously nested. Nine others were first taken that year in a shaft in which they had formerly roosted, while 10 were taken from the shaft in which they had originally been banded. Two visitors with mated pairs of the previous year returned to nest themselves in 1958. Three swifts which returned from the 1957 nesting group did not nest on the campus in 1958, and a visitor of the previous year did not remain on the campus in 1958. One bird was recaptured for the first time since it was banded in 1951; another one for the first time since it was banded in 1952. Three swifts were retaken for the first time since banded in 1955. The last swifts remaining on the campus were seen in the evening of October 9.

In 1959 the returns totaled 55, as follows: 1947 and 1949 (1 each); 1950, 1951, and 1952 (2 each); 1953 (4); 1954 (3); 1955 (6); 1956 (5); 1957 (13); 1958 (16). The oldest bird recovered is at least 13 years of age, which is the oldest known Chimney Swift with a continuous life history record. Known males numbered 16, while known females numbered 17. Forty of the returns nested on the campus. Twenty-seven were first retaken that year in a shaft in which they had nested in 1958. Eight others were first retaken in a shaft where they had formerly roosted, and eight were first taken from the shaft in which they had originally been banded.

Four swifts, three mated birds and one visitor, returned from the 1958 nesting colony but failed to nest on the campus in 1959. One bird was recaptured for the first time since it was banded in 1952; one was taken for the first time since 1956; and another was taken for the third time since it was banded in 1950 (returns in 1955, 1958, 1959). The last two remaining birds on the campus were present in the evening of October 14. These were the swifts with the 13-year-old record (42-188523) and his mate for the past three seasons. These two were the last birds remaining on the campus during the preceding year as well.

Similar analyses for the preceding five years will be found in the following references: *Bird-Banding*, **23**(2): 73-74. 1952; **24**(1): 17-18. 1953; **25**(2): 60-61. 1954; **27**(2): 83-84. 1956.—Ralph W. Dexter, Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

Use of Decoys in Netting Shorebirds—Following several months of near fruitless attempts at catching shorebirds for banding purposes, the authors hit upon the idea of placing decoys near a suspended mist

net in order to attract the birds into the net. This system has proved to be very successful in capturing dowitchers, semipalmated and western sandpipers and dunlins, as well as a few individuals of other shorebird species.

Decoys used are simply profiles cut from plywood or even pasteboard, with a heavy wire rod attached for sticking into the sand. Our coloring of the decoys has been rather sketchy, but this apparently makes little difference to the birds. The decoys are generally set up in a clustered line about three or four feet from a mist net suspended crosswind by sturdy bamboo poles. It has been our experience that the majority of birds come toward the net from the leeward; therefore the decoys are placed to the windward of the net so that the birds strike it as they approach the decoys at a good rate of speed.

The net and decoys are generally set up in a shallow pond or mud flat frequented by the birds. (Attempts at netting with decoys on the open beach have not been so successful.) If birds are numerous, such as at the peak of migration, we have successfully "chipped off" the ends of resting flocks time after time without disturbing the main group. These flushed birds usually circle the pond or flat, then come in to the decoys and are captured. We took about 35 dowitchers in one afternoon by this method. With smaller flocks at rest, it is often necessary to chase them up from alternate resting spots in the hope that they will then settle down with the decoys. In such a case, we have had a flock of 30 or more dowitchers strike the net at one time, with about half of them captured.

When the birds are not at all numerous or have not yet arrived on the "resting" flats from their feeding forays, it is often profitable to set up the decoys and net on the vacant flat, then settle back to await the arrival of shorebirds a few at the time. If birds are not allowed to settle nearby, incoming shorebirds almost invariably come to the decoys, allowing the capture of singles, or of two or three birds at the time. Through an afternoon, a good number of birds may thus be taken in what seems to be an unpromising situation.

We have been unsuccessful so far in attempts at capturing willets and black-bellied plovers by use of decoys. All of these will approach the decoys, but they veer sharply as they near the net. Dowitchers, easily taken by themselves, are almost impossible to catch when they are flocking with willets, as they apparently follow the willets' lead in turning away from the net at the last moment.—Horace Loftin, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, and Storrs Olson, Tallahassee, Florida.

Band Retention—During the past five years we have double-banded seven Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and four Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*). One of the birds, a Bald Eagle, was trapped during migration; the remainder were banded as nestlings. A conventional butt-end band was placed on one leg of each of these birds and a locking-type band on the other leg. The locking bands were of two types formerly issued by the Biological Survey. (A different, and superior, locking band is currently being issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service to some cooperators.)