

On 5 June 1973 two young bluebirds fledged from a nest at Stony Creek Park near Washington, Michigan. Both young, one of each sex, were color-banded, as were the adults that soon began a second nest at the same site. The young remained in the general area of the nest, and on 4 August three fledglings (all color-banded males) left the second nest. All five young from both broods and the parents were seen together on 9 and 21 September as part of a group of 25 bluebirds that fed near the former nest. On 22 September most of the flock disappeared, apparently leaving for the wintering grounds. This departing group included both fledglings from the first brood and one from the second brood, as well as all but three of the other 18 flock members. The breeding pair and two young from the second brood remained.

One of the two remaining juveniles was last seen on 6 October. The other young bird remained with its parents throughout the winter (the majority of bluebirds at this latitude are migratory). During the winter the family group was often seen together. The birds were rarely more than 25 to 100 meters apart. Agonistic encounters were infrequent. Bathing, preening, feeding, visiting fruit stands (invariably *Rhus typhina*), and flying long distances were typically accomplished in unison. All three birds appeared to roost intermittently in a nesting box located one-fourth mile north of the original nest site.

The family group was last seen together on 31 March 1974, the date on which the adult male and female commenced nesting at the original site. The young male continued to occupy the area around the roost site, which he occupied alone on 5 April. Once he was aggressively repelled by the older male when he approached the adults' nest. He left the roost area on 6 April, but was again observed on 11 April approximately one mile south of his birthplace. In the interim he had obtained a mate, and the pair immediately began nesting in the new location.

Whereas it is interesting to note the unusual longevity of the family bond in this instance, the exact timing of its severance (at the onset of nest-building by the adults) and the behavior of the young male after it was apparently repelled by its male parent is equally noteworthy.—BENEDICT C. PINKOWSKI, 60510 Campground, Washington, Mich. 48094. Received 5 May 1974, accepted 6 August 1974.

Recovery of a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.—Banders look forward to the day when one of their birds will be recovered or reported at some distant location. This gives meaning and pleasure to the hours spent mist-netting and banding. For me, such a moment occurred in 1972 when one of 167 banded Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusillus*) was recovered. Band number 800-24307 was placed on this bird at the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area in central Kansas on 6 May 1972. It was reported at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska on 30 June 1972 where the bird was breeding. The bird was captured by Dr. Wayne C. Hanson during an ecological study of the birds and mammals in the vicinity of the Alaskan Arctic Gas Study Company experimental natural gas pipeline test facility six miles south of Prudhoe Bay.

The banded Semipalmated Sandpiper arrived at Prudhoe Bay approximately one month after it was banded (2 or 3 June 1972). The banded bird's mate was caught and banded at the nest on 24 June and the earlier banded bird was caught at the nest on 30 June. To facilitate observation the birds were color-marked with red/white celluloid leg rings. Both adults and their chicks were observed on the 3rd and 5th days after hatching and within 90 to 150 meters of the nest. Semipalmated Sandpiper parents promptly moved their chicks to the vicinity of the larger thaw-ponds in the area to escape human activity and the predation of Arctic Foxes (*Alopex lagopus*) and Pomarine Jaegers (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). Care was taken by project personnel not to excite or disperse the birds studied. The observations were terminated when the family groups moved beyond the study area.

This recovery is one of nine recoveries of Semipalmated Sandpipers banded at the Cheyenne Bottoms WMA since the beginning of the shorebird banding program in 1967. Four of them were recovered in Guyana, and one each from Brazil, Surinam, Dominican Republic, and New Jersey. Two foreign-banded Semipalmated Sandpipers have been mist-netted during banding operations at the Cheyenne Bottoms; both were banded at Barrow, Alaska. A Semipalmated

Sandpiper was retrapped by Dr. Hanson at Prudhoe Bay, one that had been banded the year before (1971) by a team from the University of Alaska. The bird was caught within 500 meters of its 1971 nesting site. The band carried by this bird was badly corroded, even though it had only been worn for one year. The corroded band was replaced with a new band. The same problem of corroded bands has been encountered on shorebirds that returned to the Cheyenne Bottoms banding station. To help alleviate this problem, the shorebirds were banded above the tarsus instead of on the tarsus to reduce contacts with corrosive material, such as seawater. Some bands were so unrecognizable that only a mass of oxidized metal remained.

I thank Dr. Hanson and Battelle-Columbus Laboratories, contractors for the Alaskan Arctic Gas Study Company, for permission to use the information regarding this report.—E. F. MARTINEZ, 5851 Hemlock, Great Bend, Kansas 67530. Received 1 July 1974, accepted 6 August 1974.

Unusually large numbers of Chimney Swifts at a nest.—Over the past 31 years studies have been made on the nesting groups that occupy air shafts on the campus of Kent State University, Kent, Ohio (*Ohio J. Sci.*, **69**: 193-213, 1969). A single nest is constructed in each occupied air shaft of our older buildings. The average number of pairs of swifts has been 13 and, in addition, an average of 2.5 threesomes and an occasional foursome has occurred each year since 1944. In the summer of 1974 I found for the first time one group of five and one group of five to six Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) together at one nest.

In air shaft H1 a male swift no. 71-18473 that nested in the shaft in 1973 was mated to female no. 71-32594 that was nesting for the first time. With this pair were three visitors banded with nos. 73-26435 through -37. Probably these were first-year birds and joined the colony that season. At the time of banding four eggs were in the nest. Because of the disturbance of banding, only one of the visitors remained with the pair for the remainder of the nesting season. During the heavy thunderstorm of 14-15 July 1974 the nest in this shaft, along with two others, was washed off the wall. Two or three nestlings survived the fall.

In shaft S1 Chimney Swift no. 31-197243, which had nested in that shaft since 1970, came to nest there with a new mate (71-32522), which had roosted in that shaft the previous year. Three or four visitors lived with them at various times during the nesting season, becoming the largest nesting group ever observed during the course of my studies. One of these was a permanent visitor no. 73-26434, that remained with the mates throughout the summer. This bird had been banded from shaft S1 in 1973, but it could not be proved that it was raised in that shaft. On 22 June 1974 two additional visitors were found to be a repeat from shaft E1 where this bird (73-26440) had also been a visitor, and an unbanded bird, probably immature, that was then banded with no. 73-26441. On 5 July 1974 the mates and the permanent visitor and the repeat from shaft E1 were joined by another repeat (73-26442) from shaft Q2 where it had been a temporary visitor, and a swift (71-32570) captured as a return. This was the largest group observed to occupy a shaft while nesting was in progress. At that time four nestlings were in the nest. On 9 July 1974 the nesting group consisted of those birds trapped on 22 June 1974, and the five remained together for the remainder of the nesting season.

During 20-21 Sept. 1974, these two air shafts were inhabited by roosting flocks. In shaft H1 there were 18 swifts including the H1 mates, one of their visitors (73-26437), the mates from shafts H5 and N9, one of the breeding birds from four other shafts, a temporary visitor from shaft S1 (73-26441), and six unbanded birds. In shaft S1 there were 57 swifts including the six - some as originally trapped on 5 July 1974 while nesting was in progress, five other repeats from the campus colony (including one of the visitors from H1 (73-26436)), six returns not found on the campus during the nesting period, and 40 unbanded birds.—RALPH W. DEXTER, *Dept. Biol. Sci., Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 44242*. Received 31 July 1974, accepted 20 August 1974.