

of Burdett, NY, provided the following information on birds, in each case infected in one eye, using a four-stage scale of symptoms from stage 0 = normal to stage 3 = eye nearly hidden by severe swelling:

House Finch - HY M banded 16 Oct 2000, stage 1; recaptured 1 May 2002, stage 0.

American Goldfinch - ASY M banded 2 May 2001, stage 2.5; recaptured 4 May 2002, stage 0, some scar tissue.

American Goldfinch - HY F banded 24 Sep 2002, stage 1; recaptured 18 Oct 2002, stage 0.

In the last case, recovery from stage 1 occurred some time within the 24-day interval between captures; however, the bird's condition prior to 24 Sep was not known. In all cases reported here, these birds appeared free of symptoms, but in no case was any one of them tested to confirm they were free of the disease; thus, their status as potential carriers was not known.

However, in the case of the Jenny Lake breeding female, there is some hope offered that an infected bird may recover from the symptoms and resume breeding a year later. The presence of the infection is not an automatic death sentence to the afflicted, but their potential carrier status is not known from these observations.

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Possible Band-Induced Mortality in a Nesting Chimney Swift

The Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) is subject to a host of dangers associated with its aerial lifestyle, long distance migrations, and dependence on fluctuating insect populations (Cink and Collins 2002). Some mortality is known to occur because of its habits of roosting and nesting in chimneys. Heavy rains during thunderstorms, for example, can loosen nests from the wall of a chimney, causing eggs or young to fall (Dexter 1969); occasionally some individuals die from suffocation as soot is dislodged in a chimney or as gas is produced from fires under roosts (Tyler 1940). This note documents the apparently rare death of a Chimney Swift whose leg band became wedged between the bricks of a chimney.

Workmen discovered a banded dead Chimney Swift (band 110-187134) in a chimney of a farmhouse being remodeled 3.1 km (1.9 mi) west of Baldwin City, Douglas Co., in northeastern Kansas, on 26 Jul 1982. The swift was held fast by its band between two bricks in a vertical crack about 2 m from the chimney top. The workmen indicated the leg (tarsus) was oriented with its toes (distal end) up, which possibly meant the bird was moving upwards when trapped. They saw no nest in the chimney but indicated that several old nests were found in the clean-out at the bottom. I found a single, small (5 cm length) saliva-coated twig cemented to the bird's breast feathers. Since there

was no evidence of a nest (nor of the characteristic discolored semicircle marking the attachment place of a former nest—Fischer 1958) on the bricks above the bird from which this twig may have fallen, it seems likely that the bird was engaged in nest-building at the time it was trapped. The possibility of catching a leg between bricks seems more plausible as the swift perched on the wall rather than flying by the site of entrapment. The body was too dehydrated to determine its sex; both sexes are known to be involved in nest construction.

This Chimney Swift was originally banded on 15 Sep 1977 from a staging roost of several hundred swifts using a large chimney at the Baldwin Junior High (3.4 km ESE of the nesting chimney). It was then molting its outer primaries and recorded as an AHY-U (Johnston 1958). Given that many of the banded breeding Chimney Swifts in Baldwin City and surrounding farmsteads used this chimney for staging before the fall migration, it is quite likely that this bird had nested in the area at least the previous summer. This would mean it was at least six years old at death and possibly seven years old, since the majority of birds breed for the first time during their second summer. However, the highly mummified condition of the body (even with the plumage in good shape) might be an indication that it died in an earlier nesting season.

Such entrapment by a band must be a rare event for a Chimney Swift. The recommended 1B band measures 4.5 mm in outside diameter, which easily slides through the average 10 mm mortared cleft between bricks in a chimney. The fact that this chimney was nearly 80 years old and that the powdered, crumbling mortar and shifted bricks were the reasons for its removal, surely contributed to conditions that increased risks for catching the band. Conversations and correspondence with other swift banders and a review of the literature suggest that this is the first reported case of such mortality.

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Recommended Band Size for Spotted Towhees: A Suggested Revision

Based on recent observations, I propose that Spotted Towhees (*Pipilo maculatus*) be assigned a band size based on sex and wing length. During my fall banding operations near San Jose, CA, I frequently capture Spotted Towhees. I use an AFO leg gauge on almost all birds captured to determine the proper band size for each individual. The first recommended band size (Pyle 1997) for this species, 1A, is too small for some individuals, and the second recommended size, 2, is a better fit. Conversely, the size 2 band is too big for certain birds and size 1A a better fit. After reviewing my data, I noticed that the wing length of the bird was a good indicator of which size would probably fit best. The birds with shorter wings generally took the smaller band size while the birds with longer wings took the larger band size. There was an area of overlap in wing length in which individuals could use either band size.

In addition to wing length, I noticed that the sex of the bird frequently indicated which size would be preferable. Spotted Towhees in adult plumage show moderate sexual dichromatism (Greenlaw