

**Eskimo Curlew and Whimbrel collected in Newfoundland Labrador.**—On August 29, 1932, Ernest Doane collected a female Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) at Battle Harbour, Labrador, from a small flock of curlews scattered about the barrens eating berries. When Doane approached within "long gun-shot range," all but two of the flock took wing. Having collected one of the remaining two, Doane realized that both were Eskimo Curlews. He was sure, however, that the other birds in the flock were Hudsonian Curlews (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*). Doane wrote me that the bird he collected was very fat—unlike Hudsonian Curlews, which "never are." It is noteworthy that Murphy (1933. *Auk*, 50:101) reported a very convincing "probable record" of four Eskimo Curlews seen on Montauk Point, Long Island, just two weeks later than Doane's Labrador record. The last previously reported specimen of the Eskimo Curlew is apparently that taken April 17, 1915, near Norfolk, Nebraska (Swenk, 1916. *Smiths. Rept.* for 1915:338).

At Red Bay (Straits of Belle Isle), Labrador, Doane collected a male Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*) on May 14, 1932. Doane wrote that a single strange curlew had been reported to him about April 27 but he had discounted the report at first. Then others reported it, and finally Enos Yetman shot the bird for him on May 14. Doane recognized it as a Whimbrel and made special note of the fact that it was not unusually thin (as a stray might be expected to be) and that the testes were slightly enlarged. This specimen measures as follows: wing, 238 mm. (arc); tail, 103 mm.; culmen, 77 mm. It seems, therefore, to be typical *phaeopus*. Salomonsen (1935. *Dansk Orn. Foren.*, 29:112–113) gives the wing measurement of the male of the somewhat larger subspecies, *islandicus* (recorded a number of times in Greenland), as 240 to 260 mm. There seem to be but three previous records for any form of Whimbrel in North America exclusive of Greenland: off Sable Island, Nova Scotia, May 23, 1906; Great South Bay, Long Island, New York, September 4, 1912; Barrow, Alaska, June 10, 1938.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor.*

**Notes on care and development of young Chimney Swifts.**—I had an unusual opportunity to observe nesting Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) on July 5, 1948, when we discovered a nest with four eggs in a chimney, directly opposite the flue opening, in the kitchen of our home near Columbia, Missouri. Since the flue was at eye-level, it was easy to make daily observations of the nest.

We partly closed the flue-opening with paper, leaving an aperture for observation purposes. The adult birds flushed readily, and care was necessary to avoid disturbing them. On the morning of July 17, all four eggs were hatched. The parent birds were more reluctant to leave the nest the last three days of incubation and the first few days after the hatch than they had been previously.

At hatching the young appeared to be completely naked and blind. They were brooded almost continuously until the sixth day, at which time the primaries were unsheathed. From the sixth to the tenth day after hatching, the young were brooded part of the time each day but not continuously. After the tenth day the young were not brooded during the day. By this time the tail and dorsal feathers were unsheathed, and the young were quite black, except one, which was smaller than the other three and still naked. This "runt" survived and left the nest with the others, but was about one week behind his nest-mates in early development. On and after the eighth day, the young preened considerably. The young left the nest on August 5, but remained in the chimney for several days thereafter. The exact time of their first flight could not be determined, but it was on or before the twenty-fourth day. All four were seen in the chimney on the twenty-first day after hatching.

During the first three days after hatching, cool rainy weather persisted, and the parent birds took turns feeding and brooding the young. While one brooded, the other foraged. When coming to the nest, the adult would alight and cling to the chimney wall at one side of and below the nest. The other would then fly out of the chimney, and the first bird would climb up to the edge of the nest and feed one or, more often, two of the young, then take its turn at brooding. A point of interest was that when the young begged for food they hung their heads over the edge of the nest and down, instead of holding them up as is the case with many tree- and ground-nesting birds.

Intervals between feedings varied from 6 to 20 minutes. On only one occasion was the food item observed. This was a medium-sized horsefly, which the young had difficulty in grasping and swallowing.—MAURICE F. BAKER, *Missouri Conservation Commission, Columbia, Missouri.*

**Alternate care of two nests by a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.**—An example of the alternate care of two nests by a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) was observed in Bloomfield Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, in July 1947.

Mrs. G. N. Sieger and her daughter, Betty, in whose garden the nests were found, made the initial discoveries, as well as a major part (110 hours) of the subsequent observations. My own observations were confined to five periods (June 20; July 13, 20, 27; August 2) totalling about 15 hours.

The first nest, discovered June 20, was saddled over an elm branch and fastened to an upright twig, 12 feet above the ground and 10 feet from the main trunk. This nest measured outside one inch in height by one and a quarter inches in diameter and three quarters of an inch in inside diameter; it contained no more than half the amount of material usually used in a completed nest and appeared to have been built hastily. There was one egg in the nest.

From June 20-22, the female was observed on the nest and about the nest site, but from June 23 through July 3, she was not seen on the nest during several periods of watching. From July 4 through 7, she was seen on and around the nest several times a day. No observations were made of the contents of the nest after June 20 until July 8, when Miss Sieger reported a nestling several days old.

On July 10, Mrs. Sieger discovered an apparently completed second nest three feet, nine inches down the same branch from the first. This was securely saddled on a live twig and well fastened to the larger branch with spider silk. This nest, measuring, outside, two inches in height by one and three-quarters inches in diameter and three quarters of an inch in inside diameter, contained at least double the amount of material used in the first and was heavily camouflaged with lichens.

During the afternoon of July 12, Mrs. Sieger several times observed the female alternately sitting on the lower nest and feeding the young in the upper nest. The interior of the second nest was not examined until the morning of July 13, when there were two eggs. During three and a half hours of observations on this date, the female was gathering food in the nearby flower garden, feeding the nearly full-sized young, sitting on the eggs in the lower nest, and chasing House Wrens, Robins, and Catbirds from the nest tree.

On July 14-15 a number of observations were made. The female spent her time gathering food, feeding the young, and incubating. About 7:30 p.m. on July 15, the young was exercising its wings on the edge of the nest in a manner which resembled flight. The next morning it apparently had left the nest and was not seen afterward.

The female continued incubating the eggs in the second nest. One egg hatched on the morning of July 25, the other during the late afternoon of July 26. Both