

the temperature about 37°F. The Prairie Chickens began flying in at approximately 5:00 a.m., and immediately started booming and displaying. There were eight males and one female on the ground.

At 6:00 a.m. I heard a pheasant crow about one-quarter mile south of the blind. At 6:25 a.m. the pheasant was crowing 75 yards south of the blind. During the next five minutes, the pheasant walked into the midst of the displaying Prairie Chickens. Suddenly, it ran toward one of the males, which flew off about 50 yards. The pheasant flew after it immediately. The Prairie Chicken again took flight, with the pheasant still in pursuit. The pheasant alighted about one-quarter mile away, but the Prairie Chicken flew a few hundred yards farther. For a few minutes, the pheasant crows in this area; then started slowly walking back toward the booming ground. At 6:45 a.m., the Prairie Chicken returned to the booming ground; a few minutes later the pheasant was back among the Prairie Chickens. The pheasant then ran after another male Prairie Chicken, which ran a short distance and then flew off. The pheasant flew after him for about 25 yards, alighted, and again returned to the booming ground.

Finally, a third Prairie Chicken was singled out, and the performance was repeated, after which the pheasant walked off about 30 yards, and at 7:00 a.m., flew toward the point from which it was originally heard.

One might theorize that the cock pheasant was merely intent on driving away possible rivals for his harem. On the other hand, he might have mistaken these relatively drab birds for female pheasants, after being attracted to the area by the dancing activity. In either case, if a receptive female had been "selected," the hen might possibly have submitted to copulation and *Phasianus-Tympanuchus* hybrids could have resulted.—ELSWORTH M. HARGER, *Michigan Department of Conservation, The Heights, Michigan, June 3, 1955.*

Altitudinal records for Chimney Swifts.—Mr. Paul Farren, a former student of mine who pilots airplanes in attending to his work as a geophysicist, has given me records of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) seen at high altitudes. The records are especially interesting because they are accompanied by precise meteorological data. The first of these records was so unusual in Mr. Farren's experience that he called to tell me about it. I asked him to keep me informed of other such observations; but it was more than three years before he reported to me again. At this time he wrote: "I average 3,500 miles per month air travel and frequently fly in the vicinity of 7,000 feet; so you can readily estimate how many miles I have traveled between sightings of these birds." Data on the three observations follow:

1. April 30, 1951, at 2:30 p.m., over Lufkin, Texas; altitude 7,300 feet; ground 325 feet above sea level. Two Chimney Swifts seen together, and then one about 10 miles farther on. A south to southeast wind blowing 25 to 30 m.p.h. at the ground and at the altitude of the plane; ground temperature 75°F.; a strong cold front about 150 to 200 miles to the west; light scattered clouds with bases at 4,000 feet and tops at 6,000 feet. The birds were flying above the clouds. Mr. Farren said: "I had never before seen birds at such a height."

2. May 18, 1954, at 4:30 p.m., over Refugio, Texas; altitude 7,000 feet; ground 80 feet above sea level. A single Chimney Swift "which struggled with considerable alarm and finally avoided my plane." Southeast wind 15 to 20 m.p.h. at the surface; variable winds 7 to 10 m.p.h. at the altitude of the plane; ground temperature 83°F.; squall line from the northwest about 50 miles distant, and a cold front coming in from the north, with rainy weather; an overcast of stratus clouds at 8,000 to 12,000 feet.

3. August 30, 1954, at 3:35 p.m., over Ames, Liberty County, Texas; altitude 6,500 feet; ground about 50 feet above sea level. One Chimney Swift "flying south in a frantic hurry." Temperature at the surface 102°F.; a cold front, preceded by a squall line, about 50 miles to the north. "Smooth, warm air, 25 miles south of a squall line of considerable turbulence."

All the circumstances of these three unusual observations suggest that, in each case, a cold front was beginning to drive a wedge of cold air under the warm air mass of southern Texas; that the warm air, in typical fashion, was riding high up the slope of the cold front; and that the Chimney Swifts were riding with the warm air. A little earlier, the warm air and the birds would have been at a lower altitude; a little later, the warm air would have cooled off, and the birds would have descended to more normal levels. Mr. Farren happened to see them at just the right moment.—GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, June 20, 1955.*

Nesting of the Mountain Bluebird in Cleveland County, Oklahoma.—During the fall and winter of 1950 and the spring of 1951, large numbers of Mountain Bluebirds, *Sialia curruoides*, were seen in many counties of western, central, and east-central Oklahoma. They were first seen in early November and were seen continually until June. (November 3, 1950, is the earliest recorded date of which I am aware, and June 4, 1951, is the latest.) The species was regularly reported by both amateur and professional ornithologists, including M. Dale Arvey of the University of Oklahoma and Fred M. Baumgartner of Oklahoma A. and M. College. According to my observations they were generally more abundant than the Eastern Bluebird as late as early May, and in some areas occurred in flocks of several hundred birds.

Nice (1931. *Publ. Univ. Okla. Biol. Surv.*, 3[1]:145) declared the Mountain Bluebird to be a "common fall and winter visitant" in the "northeastern corner of Cimarron County" and a summer resident in that area. This is apparently a misstatement, since her earlier report (Nice and Nice, 1924. *Univ. Okla. Stud.*, no. 286:101) mentioned nesting in *northwestern* Cimarron County, and her source of information for the nesting record (Tate, 1925. *Proc. Okla. Acad. Sci.*, 4:32) stated that for two summers (1922, 1923) several Mountain Bluebirds nested in *northwestern* Cimarron County.

On April 21, 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cooksey located what they believed to be the nest of the Mountain Bluebird on the University of Oklahoma's South Campus (now a U. S. Navy Base) at Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma. They reported their discovery to me. They had seen a pair of birds going in and out of a hole in a small frame building, the *male* carrying nesting material. The building was unused at this time. The hole, about nine feet above the ground, was above the ceiling, so the nest could not be observed from the inside; however, it could be seen from the outside with the aid of a mirror and flashlight, and it could be touched by poking a finger through the hole in the building.

During almost daily observations throughout the next month, the pair was seen regularly in the immediately vicinity of the nest. They exhibited the typical nervous behavior of nesting birds, and were seen to copulate. On May 27, both birds were observed carrying food (insects) into the nest, and the female removed fecal sacs.

Two well-feathered young were visible in the nest on June 2. On June 4 at least one young was still in the nest. I did not visit the nest after this date.

To my knowledge, the species was not recorded east of the panhandle from June, 1951 to March, 1953, when it was seen in considerable numbers in Comanche County.