

open zone. Most other parts of the bog contained either very small, widely spaced tamaracks associated with poison sumac, or large trees (30 to 40 feet tall) with an almost impenetrable understory of high-bush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) and poison sumac. The red pine planting (area A) differed in structure from areas B and D in its lack of a shrub layer, the presence of foliage, and the presence of dense branches extending down to the ground. The trees, 11 to 24 feet high, occurred in small clumps, separated by areas of grass. An adjacent stand of closely planted, taller red pines was never utilized by Saw-whet Owls to our knowledge.

Of the 82 acres of tamarack bog available, only two small sections (B and D) consistently harbored Saw-whet Owls. These areas were characterized by rather small trees and a relatively open zone allowing easy access or escape by flight below the tops of the trees. An easy approach or escape was also possible in the red pine plantation. The choice of small trees, vines, or bushes for winter roosting has been repeatedly mentioned in the literature. Perhaps selection has favored birds using small roost trees through their consequent isolation from the larger owls and hawks.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD AND RICHARD L. ZUST, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, October 23, 1957.*

**Sex ratios of wintering scaups in Long Island Sound.**—A study of scaup ducks wintering in the Connecticut waters of Long Island Sound was conducted during the winters of 1952-53 and 1953-54. Whenever possible during the study, sex ratios of observed birds were recorded. Additional scaup sex ratio data were also obtained from hunter bags and trapped birds in Connecticut from 1952 to 1954, and from hunter bags in Rhode Island during the 1954-55 season.

The data were obtained with funds supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game under Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Project W-7-R and The Rhode Island Division of Fish and Game under Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Project W-18-R. The sex ratios for the birds taken in Long Island were supplied by Donald Foley of the New York Conservation Department.

Both the Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) and the Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) occur in southern New England, but, since most of the sex ratio data were obtained by field observations which precluded any positive identification of the species, the data cannot be applied to the particular species. However, hunter bag checks indicate that the wintering scaup population in the area concerned consists of 80 to 90 per cent Greater Scaup.

A total of 10,460 birds were sexed by field observation. However, due to the fact that male scaup are often still in immature plumage during the fall, only 9,611 birds observed from January to spring were considered to give a reliable sex ratio. Table 1 summarizes the field observations.

In addition to the field observations, a sample of 113 Greater Scaup collected during the months of October, November, and December in Connecticut had a sex ratio of 109 males to 100 females, and 57 Greater Scaup trapped or collected during January and February in Connecticut showed a ratio of 111 males to 100 females. During the 1954-55 season 62 winter-killed Greater Scaup inspected in Rhode Island indicated a sex ratio of 130 males for every 100 females. Two hundred and eighty-nine Greater Scaup examined on Long Island from 1949 to 1956 showed a ratio of 175 males to 100 females, but 96 Lesser Scaup checked in the same area had a sex ratio of 50 males to 100 females.

Munro (1941. *Canad. Jour. Res.*, Sect. D., 19:113-138) reported that males dominated in wintering flocks of Greater Scaup in British Columbia at ratios of six or seven males to every female. Munro (*op. cit.*) also stated that spring populations of Lesser Scaup

TABLE 1  
SEX RATIOS OF SCAUP OBSERVED IN THE FIELD

Month and Year	Number of Birds Sexed	Males : Females		Sex Ratio Male : Female
January 1953	476	355	121	290 : 100
February 1953	2015	1111	904	120 : 100
March 1953	2149	1369	780	180 : 100
April 1953	934	466	468	100 : 100
May 1953	155	97	58	170 : 100
June 1953	4	3	1	300 : 100
July 1953	4	4	0	400 : 0
Total 1953	5737	3405	2332	146 : 100
January 1954	496	319	177	180 : 100
February 1954	2323	1331	992	130 : 100
March 1954	602	363	239	150 : 100
April 1954	453	217	236	92 : 100
Total 1954	3874	2230	1644	136 : 100

in British Columbia had sex ratios of four or five males to every female, and that on the nesting grounds the non-breeding birds, chiefly yearlings, showed an excess of males that was greater than the ratio stated above. Low (1945. *Ecol. Monogr.*, 15:35-69) reported that spring populations of Redheads in Iowa had a sex ratio of 142 males for every 100 females. Sowls (1955. "Prairie Ducks," pp. 162-164), working at the Delta Marsh in Manitoba, recorded spring flights of Lesser Scaup in which the males outnumbered the females 2 to 1, and Furniss (1935. *Wilson Bull.*, 47:277-278) also reported a preponderance of males in spring flights of Lesser Scaup in Saskatchewan, with a ratio of 160 males for every female. However, Sowls (*op. cit.*) did not find this male-dominated ratio in the fall flights of Lesser Scaup. Hochbaum (1944. "The Canvasback on a Prairie Marsh," pp. 149-153) presents an excellent discussion on the possible reasons for the one-sided sex ratios in waterfowl, particularly the diving ducks.—JOHN M. CRONAN, *Rhode Island Division Fish and Game, Providence 3, Rhode Island, November 1, 1957.*

**Chimney Swift nesting in an abandoned Pileated Woodpecker hole.**—On June 29, 1956, while making a routine investigation of an abandoned nesting hole of a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), I was startled by the appearance of a Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) at its entrance. Subsequent visits throughout the summer indicated that a pair of these birds was using the tree as a nest site. At least one young was successfully fledged in 1956. The nest site was used again in 1957.

The hole was located about 20 feet up in a very old, though still living, yellow birch (*Betula lutea*). There were several holes in the tree, but the one facing out toward the trail was apparently the only one used by the swifts.

It is not a common occurrence to find swift nests in the wild, but it seems even more unusual to find them using a hollow tree where the opening is to the side and not above.—P. B. HOFSLUND, *Biology Department, University of Minnesota, Duluth, Minnesota, November 1, 1957.*