GENERAL NOTES

Attempted re-use of old nest by Chimney Swift.—Between 1944 and 1961, I have observed 316 nests of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) on the campus of Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. These had been placed in 35 airshafts of four adjacent buildings. Ordinarily one-fourth of the nests fall from the wall by the end of the summer season; one-half of them are gone by the end of the winter season; and only one-fourth remain by the time the swifts return in the third week of April. The remaining nests soon disappear at that time, probably from being touched by the birds. By that time the nests are very brittle, and a slight pressure is enough to knock them from the wall. Only five nests have remained on the wall until a second nesting season was well under way. Three of the nests were constructed beneath a shallow overhang which offered sufficient protection so that the nests did not weather as usual. The other two nests had no protection. An attempt was made to use the old nest in three instances, with complete failure on two occasions, and only partial success on the other.

In 1944, a nest was constructed under a narrow shelf in Shaft M7. This was 22.8 feet down on the west wall. Being protected from the elements by this shelf, the nest remained on the wall through the season of 1948. However, it was never used again. Swifts nesting in this shaft built new ones on the south or east wall. The one under the ledge remained attached to the wall longer than any other during my 18 years of observations.

In 1950, Chimney Swifts made a nest in Shaft G3, 12.5 feet down on the west wall. This remained attached until March 1952, but it was not used a second time. Swifts did not nest in that shaft in 1951. This nest remained on the wall the longest period of time for those exposed to the elements.

In 1957, the nest made the previous year in Shaft E1 remained on the wall. When swifts returned for nesting an attempt was made to use this nest again, but after a few days the nest fell from the wall and a new one was subsequently constructed.

An attempt was also made to re-use the nest which had been constructed in Shaft C3 in 1959. This had been made under a shallow overhang 6.8 feet down on the south wall. Both of the mates in C3 had been observed sitting on the old nest at one time or another, but on 3 June 1960, the old nest fell from the wall. Three days later a new nest was started at the same place on the wall which held the previous one. This was completed in seven days. It was used successfully and remained on the wall until the following summer. The same male returned to this shaft in 1961, but with a new mate; his previous mate failed to return to the campus. One or both of the new pair sat on the old nest at night, and it was somewhat repaired and reinforced to correct winter damage. On 11 June, the first egg was found and three more followed. The pair took turns incubating the four eggs and occasionally both birds sat on the nest at night. On 7 July, the nest fell from the wall. Two naked, pink nestlings and two smashed eggs were found at the bottom of the shaft. The nestlings survived for a short period of time during which the adults continued to attend them. Within a week, however, both nestlings died. The parents remained for awhile, but did not construct a new nest.

Fischer (1958. Bulletin 368, N.Y. State Museum and Science Service) described the re-use of nests by Chimney Swifts, but those he observed were made inside a building where they were protected from the elements. The only nest I have observed actually used for nesting a second season did not hold up long enough for successful nesting the

second year. It is unlikely that this species makes use of old nests which are not protected from the weather.—RALPH W. DEXTER, *Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, 2 April 1962.*

Injured Western Gulls.—While collecting nine specimens of Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*) to demonstrate the sequence of plumage change from the juvenile to that of the adult, we secured two gulls which evidenced odd circumstances involving the bill region. Gull I (Figure), a first year juvenile male, was collected on 30 August 1961, at Arroyo Burro Beach in Santa Barbara County. Upon examination of the specimen, we observed that the gull had a fish hook and line entangled around the head. The fish hook's barb is caught in the roof of the mouth penetrating the right maxillary palatine plate, with the shank of the hook circling the right side of the bill (Figure). The nylon leader is wrapped around the bill in a figure-eight pattern as follows: from the hook eye the line goes over the upper bill, from right to left, then through the mouth, wraps around the lower bill four times, passes over the upper bill again in reverse direction from left to right, into the mouth again, twists around two of the strands of leader already through the mouth 12 times, leaving two of the four strands free, out the left side and completely around the head passing below the eyes and across the nape and back into the mouth again, with a small piece hanging out the left side. The line has caused considerable injury to the sides of both the upper and lower portions of the bill. At the point where the right side of the mandible comes into contact with the arch of the fish hook the horny covering of the bill is fractured and broken away. The tongue was beginning to dry and as might be expected, the gull with its bridle was emaciated and