

not make clear whether the bird was shot, found dead, or captured alive.

Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 164), who expressed belief that the Black Rail might breed in Oklahoma, mentioned two sightings by E. W. Craven, each of a single bird at the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge in Johnston County, southeastern Oklahoma — one on 11 October 1951, the other on 16 September 1957.

Records mentioned recently by Sutton (1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, p. 13) need clarification. On 4 May 1971, Mildred Hatch of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, observed an adult Black Rail for about five minutes along the Eagle Roost Nature Trail at Puterbaugh Pond on the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Alfalfa County, north-central Oklahoma. On 19 August 1971, Philip Clover, a refuge employee, captured a young Black Rail while disking the cattails after Puterbaugh Pond had been drained. This bird was photographed and released. On 29 August 1973, I saw what appeared to me to be an adult Black Rail on the dike between Puterbaugh Pond and Mink Run Pond on the refuge.

The photograph taken on 19 August 1971 was sent to the U.S. National Museum where such authorities as Storrs S. Olson, Richard C. Banks, and John S. Weske agreed that the bird in the picture could not have been anything but a Black Rail. *Laterallus jamaicensis* may now be considered a breeding bird of Oklahoma. It is to be looked for in marshy areas.

On 22 September 1973, William Bartush (1975, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 8: 28), saw a Black Rail along the shore of Lake McMurry in southeastern Noble County, north-central Oklahoma. Sutton (1974, *loc. cit.*) erred in citing this as a Payne County record.

SALT PLAINS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, JET, OKLAHOMA 73749, 4 AUGUST 1975.

A CHIMNEY SWIFT NEST IN A GARAGE

BY GARY R. ZAHM

Nowadays most Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) that nest in Oklahoma probably do so in chimneys. Some, however, nest regularly in "old wells" in Marshall County, south-central Oklahoma, and in 1964 one pair nested in a hollow maple along a busy street in Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 279). In 1971 a pair nested about 8 feet from the floor on the wall of an unused part of my two-car garage on the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge in Johnston County, southeastern Oklahoma. I observed these birds daily from early May until late summer, at which time they and their brood left, presumably for some large chimney or other roosting place at which a premigratory flock was gathering.

I do not know just when the two swifts started to roost in the garage, but I

often saw them clinging to the wall at night before the nest was started. Nest-building continued for several days in mid-May. Both the male and female gathered and brought in material. The nest was at the very spot the pair had occupied when roosting. After the first egg was laid the birds continued to add material to the nest for at least two days. This struck me as odd, but in his monographic paper on "The breeding behavior of the Chimney Swift," R. B. Fischer (1958, New York State Mus. and Sci. Serv. Bull. 368, Univ. State of New York, Albany, p. 79) states that egg-laying "begins when the . . . nest is approximately half finished." The completed clutch was of four eggs, but I did not visit the nest often enough to be sure just when these were laid or when incubation began. The sexes shared the duties of incubation, which seemed to be almost continuous. Each night during the incubation period one bird was on the nest, facing the wall, the other clinging to the wall close against the nest, but I had no way of knowing which sex was covering the eggs. During the day the incubating bird tolerated all sorts of noise and activity in the garage, but whenever I approached to within a few feet, it stretched its neck upward and "froze" in this position until I withdrew.

One egg hatched on or about 8 June, the other three within the following 48 hours. The young, though naked at first, were covered with spiny-looking



Young Chimney Swifts clinging to the wall of a garage on the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge in Johnston County, southeastern Oklahoma. Photographed on 4 July 1971 by Gary R. Zahm.

pin-feathers within about two weeks. At first their food cries were not noticeable, but within a few days the brood became vociferous when begging. Now any disturbance in the garage started an uproar of hunger cries that sometimes lasted a full minute or more. During their first week (perhaps longer) the young were brooded at night by one of the parents. At no time did the nest become soiled by droppings.

When they were fairly well feathered the young swifts left the nest — not to fly, but to cling to the wall. First only one climbed out, then the other three, all three at about the same time. For a day or so they clambered about, out of the nest part of the time, then back in it. During the last week of June they ventured well away from the nest, always clinging to the wall. On several occasions I found one or more of them fully 7 feet below the nest, only inches from the floor.

The smallest of the brood I found dead on the floor when it was about three weeks old. The others continued to develop rapidly. As I watched from day to day, I could see that their primary wing feathers were growing longer. As the birds matured they wandered less from the nest and from each other. During the first four days of July they crowded together so closely that they sometimes looked like a single bird with three heads.

When about a month old, the young swifts exercised their wings a great deal. Presently they were flying. I did not witness their first flight. Indeed, I now suspect that they had been flying for some time — and returning to the garage to roost each night — before I even knew they could fly. One of the brood killed itself flying into a telephone wire not far from the garage. The other two and their parents roosted together in the garage night after night for a week or so before they departed for good.

Swifts did not nest in the garage in the summer of 1972.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, SAN ANTONIO, NEW MEXICO
87832, 10 MARCH 1973.

A HUMMINGBIRD NEST IN GHOST HOLLOW

BY MILDRED RICKSTREW

Finding the nest of a hummingbird in Ghost Hollow, just northeast of Ripley, Payne County, north-central Oklahoma, was pure luck. The hollow is a favorite birding spot for my sister (Margaret Williamson) and me, but we seldom have seen a hummingbird there.

On 16 May 1973, while I was standing motionless hoping to observe a Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) go to its nest on the opposite bank (see Rickstrew, 1975, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 8:3-5), a female hummingbird — presumably a Ruby-throat (*Archilochus colubris*) — settled on a tiny, lichen-covered nest, about the size of a walnut, directly in front of me. The nest was in a small bur oak that stood beside the road and hung over the creek; it was