

Atlantic Beach (Richard Cohen)

The netting station here is set up on an 85 x 120 foot plot in a suburban garden located on a barrier beach. Netting began August 1st. Richard and Shirlene Cohen operated the station. Monthly data follow:

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/ 100 net hours	Species
Aug.	31	302	0	--	--	37
Sept.	30	598	0	--	--	63
Oct.	31	834	0	--	--	63

The three month total at the station was the lowest since 1967. No single day catch was over 76 birds. The October total was the lowest since 1965.

The most commonly banded birds at the station were Golden-crowned Kinglet (163); Redstart (143); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (131); Yellowthroat (97); and Brown Creeper (93). Two new records for the station were a Lawrence's Warbler (Male) on August 16th and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow on October 15th. A Clay-colored Sparrow was banded on October 7th.

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Wadsworth Wildlife Sanctuary, Westport, Conn. (Robert Dewire)

The banding station here is located on the 50 acre Wadsworth Wildlife Sanctuary which is owned by the Mid-Fairfield County Youth Museum. This station began operating for the first time this fall. One to three nets were used and were set up most of the time in thickets surrounding a sizeable red maple swamp. Once in a while a net was set up in a pine grove close to a feeding station. A monthly breakdown is indicated below:

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/ 100 Net Hours	Species
Aug.	19	208	0	69	65.8	29
Sept.	18	254	0	45	53.3	45
Oct.	16	379	0	11	78.9	44

Most numerous banded birds were White-throated Sparrow (63); Catbird (58); Blue Jay (56); Black-capped Chickadee (51); and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (44). Best birds caught were a Red-bellied Woodpecker on Oct. 20 and a Carolina Wren on Aug. 26.

Since this is the first year of operation at this station it is hard to draw any conclusions based on the banding data. The station is about 4 miles inland from Long Island Sound which could easily result in differences in migrating bird populations from those stations right on the coast. Probably the most interesting thing to be noticed from the totals this year was the fact that there was no one species that was far more abundant than all the others. Next year we will increase the number of nets used and have permanent net lanes to standardize data in years to come.

(Also see page 147.Ed)

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A FLIP NETTING TECHNIQUE FOR CAPTURING SWIFTS AND SWALLOWS
By Charles T. Collins

In the course of field studies of swifts in Trinidad over several years, I had often observed, but never caught, individuals of the Fork-tailed Palm Swift (Reinarda squamata). Thus it was with considerable interest that during a visit there in 1966 I was told by my friend and fellow EBBA member, Dr. C. Brooke Worth, that he had just seen many of these swifts foraging low over an open pasture a few miles away. This situation held much greater promise for their capture in mist nets than their usual mode of foraging amidst the palms or over wet savannas. The two of us quickly returned to the field where the swifts had been seen and with Brooke's help I set up a couple of mist nets. Any experienced mist-netter could predict the results; the swifts clearly saw our nets standing out in the open pasture and darted all around them but never into them. Having given up in despair we were in the process of taking down the nets when we noticed the swifts darting between us only waist high above the ground. The collapsed net, still stretched in a line between us, bothered them not at all. This situation brought to mind an article I had seen some time before (Hallett and Brown, 1964). In it was described a technique of swinging a net up from ground level into the path of low flying swallows, followed by a rolling forward of the net to loop it over and capture the bird even if it were not tangled in the net. Modifying this one-man technique a bit, we quickly restrung one mist net on the poles and then, with both of us kneeling and holding opposite ends, the net was stretched horizontally a few inches above the ground. From this position, on an agreed upon command from one member of the team, the net was quickly raised into a vertical position, and the motion continued so as to flip it over onto the ground. If done quickly and smoothly, an approaching bird usually became entangled in the net and those few that bounced off were trapped beneath it on the ground. In very short order we were able to capture a sample of the swifts for weighing and an examination of molt pattern. The rate of successful capture was surprisingly high!

In the spring of 1971, in the course of banding studies of spring migrants in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County, California, this technique was again used with the same effectiveness. Most of the birds captured at this locality were taken in fixed position sets of mist nets (a full description of this area and the birds taken in the 1970 operation of this station is contained in Collins and Bradley, 1971a, 1971b). On several days when the weather was cool and windy, large numbers of swallows and swifts were observed foraging low over the water of a nearby pond. Their foraging flights also carried them low over an open grassy portion of the shoreline. Recalling the initial success with "flip netting" I tried it out again. With the help of various members of the banding team, a standard 12 meter net was erected and operated as mentioned before. In the space of about an hour we captured 5 Vaux's Swifts (Chaetura vauxi), 5 Violet-green

Swallows (*Tachycineta thalassina*), 3 Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*), 3 Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*), and 3 Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*). One of the Barn Swallows proved to be a foreign recovery, having been banded in Northern California in the spring of 1966 by Alan Craig. Also, one of the swifts was found to have a cactus spine stuck in its breast, perhaps a result of a collision during a low level foraging flight (Collins, M.S.). This "flip netting" technique was employed with equal effectiveness on several other days when the birds were again foraging in a suitable manner; a total of 37 swifts and 31 swallows were captured. None of those captured in this manner were likely to have been taken in any of the regularly set vertical mist nets. Also, despite the seeming violence of this technique none of the birds captured showed any signs of injury.

This "flip netting" technique is easy to use and could, I believe, be utilized by other banders in situations where these or other species of birds are flying low over open ground where fixed nets would be readily seen and avoided. Besides being an exciting alternative to long hours of net watching, it may open the doors to the study of additional species otherwise ignored due to difficulties encountered in capturing them.

LITERATURE CITED

- Collins, C. T. and R. A. Bradley
 1971a. Analysis of body weights of spring migrants in Southern California. *Western Bird Bander*, 46: 38-40.
 1971b. Analysis of body weights of spring migrants in Southern California; Part 2. *Western Bird Bander*, 46: in press.
- Hallett, A. F. and A. R. Brown.
 1964. A method of trapping European Swallows. *Ostrich*, 35: 293-296.

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REGROWTH OF BROKEN UPPER MANDIBLE OF A FEMALE DOWNY WOODPECKER By Ernie Hoover

On 31 May 1971, while examining a female Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*), originally banded at my station on 20 July 1968 (Band No. 107-165506) I noticed that the upper mandible was partly broken off and the exposed culmen of the remaining section measured 9 mm. Checking back on my notes, I found that I had trapped this bird previously on 25 April 1971. At that time, the upper mandible was normal, so the break must have occurred after this date. On 13 June 1971, I retrapped this bird again. The upper mandible was beginning to heal. It measured 10mm and had a stub-like appearance.

Subsequently, I retrapped this bird on 19 June when the upper mandible measured 14mm, and on 17 July, it measured 16mm. On 7 August, there was a change in the direction of growth; the upper mandible now curved to the left from the point of the original break. The curved portion measured 7mm, the whole bill was 16mm long.

On 23 August, the bill still curved to the left; however, the left side of the bill from the original break point was broken off, leaving only the right side of the bill intact. The tip of the remaining part of the bill was normal on this date and did not have the stub-like appearance it had during the healing process. At this point, the upper mandible measured 19mm and the length of the lower mandible was 16mm.

I do not know what caused this deformity in the bill. Apparently the bird was able to live with this condition during the time it came to feed at my feeder. Further investigation will be needed to determine if the bird is able to survive the winter.

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RECOVERY REPORT and FOREIGN RETRAP EXCHANGE

In order to conserve space and make the recovery listings more readable, we have adopted the internationally used symbols. This clarification will be repeated annually.

Symbols used

- o banded in nest (adult or local)
- * trapped and banded
- + found dead, or killed/shot by man
- () caught, band removed, and released
- V caught and released (with band)

- ? manner of recovery unknown
- c (new symbol)- recovery was verified with Banding Lab.
- (also, age class codes used, as specified in MTAB - 7)