

As we sat perfectly still in the canoe, both participants in this little wilderness drama seemed entirely unaware, or at least unmindful of, our presence. Five or six times the Hawk renewed its attempts at a meal on the Kingfisher, and each time was skilfully foiled. So long as there was water below, the Kingfisher evidently was master of the situation. What finally discouraged the Hawk I cannot say. Perhaps it became suspicious of the canoe with its occupants. At any rate, after the last fruitless attempt it rose and disappeared in the fog, while the Kingfisher, alighting on a perch at the water's edge, with bristling crest and many a hitch and jerk, as if to reassure itself of its own personal solidarity, burst forth in a rattle loud and ringing with triumph if not actually vibrant with inexpressible scorn.—CHARLES EUGENE JOHNSON, *State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y.*

[Just as this note goes to press, a precisely similar experience was related to me by Mr. Francis J. Stokes, of Philadelphia, who observed the birds on a river in the northern part of New Brunswick in August, 1925. He was not sure of the species of Hawk. The Kingfisher dove and as the spray splashed up the Hawk rose slightly and its momentum carried it on, while the emerging Kingfisher, reversing himself in some way, flew back in the opposite direction. The operation was repeated eight to twelve times.—Ed.]

Northern Pileated Woodpecker, Cummington, Mass.—The Pileated Woodpecker, is an exceedingly rare bird in the New England States and it was an exciting moment when I first saw this bird, on May 30, 1925. The bird was first seen in a large and almost impenetrable bog filled with dead trees and overgrown with creepers and brambles and is some fifteen acres in extent. The conditions for the Pileated Woodpecker in this swamp are exceptionally favorable. On May 30 one bird was seen in flight, on June 1 two birds were seen, perched Woodpecker fashion, on a dead tree. I approached the birds within about forty feet; they seemed not to be aware of my presence. The female bird is distinguishable by a smaller amount of red on head and crest also by her more olive forehead. On June 2, I heard the Flicker-like call note and the slow heavy tapping of this Woodpecker. I see no reason for doubting the existence of a nest and I will try my best to find it.—VICTOR H. ROSEN, *Cummington, Mass.*

Strange Nesting-site of the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*).—It is a matter of common knowledge that Chimney Swifts built their nests in caves, hollow trees, and similar sheltered situations, before they had access to man-made chimneys. Not until recently, however, have I had opportunity to observe nests built elsewhere than in a chimney, and in the present case the birds seem to have voluntarily chosen not to use chimneys, since several were available. At Conrad (locally known only as Hull's Station), Potter County, on May 18, 1925, one such nest was found in an old, open stable, three in adjoining implement sheds, and one

in a rather well built garage, all these buildings being within a few hundred yards of each other. These nests had all been built during a previous year, and three nests at least had been occupied for several seasons.

On the morning of May 19 (shortly after the birds had returned from the south, according to the natives), when we opened the door of the garage a pair of Swifts were found clinging, side by side, one or two inches below the nest, to the board upon which the nest was fastened. The structure was plastered to the board about seven inches below the ridge-pole of the roof, on the end of the building, and not on the underside of the roof. The nest stuck securely to the flat surface of the board, and there was no corner or projection which had aided the birds. According to the owner of the garage this nest had been observed for the past seven years or more, without its having fallen or being rebuilt, and certain it is that there was a great mass of excrement, over three inches thick, on a projecting shelf a few feet below the nest. The birds entered the garage not through the door but by an irregular hole in one side. In the other buildings where the birds were nesting, abundant apertures permitted the birds easily to come and go as they pleased, with the Barn Swallows.

At first I was amazed that the Swifts should choose such sites with several chimneys close at hand. My present opinion is, however, that these chimneys were so often filled with smoke in this wild mountain valley where the cool nights and constant cooking demanded fires, that the Swifts were perhaps obliged to seek nesting sites elsewhere. One thing was noticeable: that in every case as dark a spot as possible was chosen in which to place the nest.

Close examination of the nests showed that already a new coating of saliva had hardened about the rim, corners, and fastening portions of the nest, and the old saliva which had held the structure up was completely covered and added to above, but not below the nests. No new twigs had been added so far as I could see. There were no eggs in any of the nests, and on the chill mornings the birds were rather sluggish in movement.
—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*

Unusual Occurrence of the Chimney Swift.—On June 23, 1925, I was returning to Charleston, S. C., from New York, via the Clyde Steamship Line, and late in the afternoon of the date mentioned above, while off the Delaware coast, I was surprised to see a Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) flying about the ship. The bird did not appear to be tired in the slightest, but continued circling and swooping about the ship for at least twenty minutes, sometimes coming as close to the rail as fifteen or twenty feet. The ship's position was about 25 miles off-shore, and of course, well out of sight of land.

Several of the passengers noted it, and remarked on the presence of a bat (!) so far out at sea. After flying about, and pursuing the usual tactics of a Swift after its supper of insects, it disappeared in a westerly direction. I have made like voyages in the past, and am naturally always