

residence in the adjacent air shaft, No. C2. Her mate proved to be 20-188695 which had been banded the previous year, but it is not certain whether or not he was a juvenile at that time. Upon his return in 1953 he was a visitor with the mates in D1 before pairing off with No. -07. They began nest building on June 9, at a time when most other swifts had their nests completed and some had already laid eggs. They produced two juveniles which left the nest, placed 15.1 feet down on the west wall, on August 2, and soon left the home shaft. The parents remained together there and continued to roost side by side at night. Between August 20 and 24 the nest fell from the wall and soon after that the male left. No. -07 continued to roost alone on the old nest site at nighttime. On August 30 she was seen for the last time. Table No. 1 summarizes the main events during the ten years of her known life history.

LITERATURE CITED

- DEXTER, R. W. 1950. Six-year diary of two chimney swifts. *Bird Banding*, **21**: 99-104.
- DEXTER, R. W. 1951a. Diary of five chimney swifts. *Ohio Journ. Sci.*, **51**: 42-46.
- DEXTER, R. W. 1951b. Nesting of the chimney swift. *Cleveland Bird Calendar.*, **47** (2): 9-10.
- DEXTER, R. W. 1952a. Hazardous nesting of the chimney swift. *Auk*, **69**: 289-293.
- DEXTER, R. W. 1952b. Extra-parental cooperation in the nesting of chimney swifts. *Wilson Bull.*, **64**: 133-139.
- RALPH W. DEXTER, *Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.*

Preservation of Birds' Nests with Plastic Spray.—During the course of collecting birds' nests for museums and private collections, we devised a highly satisfactory method of preserving and protecting them by applying several coats of a clear plastic spray from a pressurized container directly to the nests. Several such commercial preparations, sold under various trade names, have given complete satisfaction. The number of applications necessary to preserve the natural appearance of the nests depended on construction and nesting materials. For most medium-sized nests five coats were used. The plastic was applied at intervals of 10 to 15 minutes, allowing each coat to dry separately. Care was taken to saturate the interstices completely with the plastic. For best results, only thoroughly dried nests were sprayed; many plastic materials have a tendency to turn milky if used under conditions of high humidity. Insect pests were controlled with insecticides applied to the nests prior to the initial plastic coating. The nests usually were removed from their locations and dried, but some delicate types were coated *in situ* to avoid possible disturbances. The protection and flexibility of these plastic coatings prevented damage often associated with the handling and shipping of birds' nests.

Among the nests preserved with plastic sprays were: the flimsy, cup-shaped nests of the Puerto Rican Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina trochila*); the nests built of wild cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*), by the Puerto Rican Emerald Humming Bird (*Chlorostilbon maugaeus*); and the curious nest-homes of the Puerto Rican Honey Creeper (*Coereba portoricensis portoricensis*). This method also was used to preserve a nest, woven of green moss and camouflaged with bits of bark, of the rare Puerto Rican Peewee (*Blacicus biancoi*).—J. L. SPENCER and W. C. KENNARD, *Federal Experiment Station, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.*