

section of New England by way of the Hudson Valley. We have reports from the Connecticut Valley as far north as St. Johnsbury and perhaps Lunenburg in Vermont; the birds have followed its tributary the Millers River to Orange, Athol, and Winchendon in Massachusetts; and perhaps the visitors to the Merrimack watershed have reached that area by following a Connecticut-Millers River-Squamacook-Nashua River route.

The almost complete absence of reports of the Rough-winged Swallow from southeastern Massachusetts is significant and lends force to the hypothesis that this species follows river valleys in migration. The region south and east of the Charles River, which exhibits many traces of the Carolinian fauna and flora, has brought me but three reports of this bird, all stragglers during the migration period.

A more systematic search for nesting-places of this species might bring us much valuable data. The nesting-holes are often large enough for the young to be easily reached for banding, and the adults can be captured by slipping a small landing-net such as most anglers own, over the entrance to the nest when the young birds are being fed. The bird shows a catholic taste in selecting nesting-places, however, as it sometimes apparently excavates its own burrow, but it more often uses that of a Kingfisher or a Bank Swallow, a cranny in a ledge, or a crevice in the foundations of a bridge or factory, and it even at times uses an open tile drain in a river-bank.

Cohasset, Massachusetts.

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## TWO ADDITIONAL FOOT DISEASES ON BIRDS

By T. E. MUSSELMAN, A.M.

### A FOOT MANGE ON CATBIRD No. 441180

On July 29, 1928, I captured a transient Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) which had not formerly included my yard in its normal feeding-area. Seldom have I seen a bird so severely afflicted. I was forced to use a band a size and a half larger than is normally required for a Catbird because of huge scabs. Both legs were badly diseased up to the tarsal joint. Heavy cellular proliferation resulting in grayish crusts and knots nearly doubled the size of the bird's legs. (See accompanying plates.) So burdensome were the incrustations that the bird

could fly only with great effort and walking was practically an impossibility.

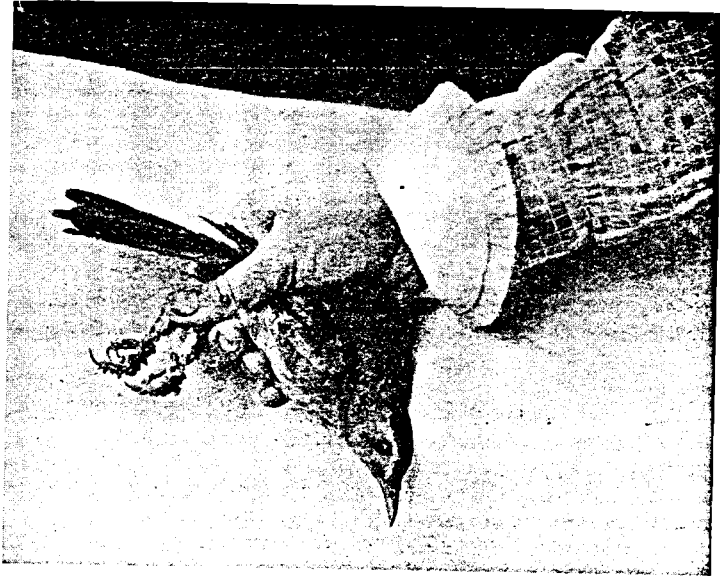
Its entire health condition was correspondingly poor, as its feathers were disheveled, and the region about the vent was practically devoid of feathers. This may have been the result of summer moult, but I believe it was the result of the general distress in which the bird found itself. General cachexia, furthermore, manifested itself by diarrhea, the discharge being a bloody flux. Of course this may have resulted from a direct infection of the intestinal tract, the leg infection being in no way responsible. However, in domestic chickens, birds which have been badly infected with scaly-leg (which seems very similar to the infection in the present bird) have sometimes been observed to lose feathers, the final breakdown in health being ushered in by a bloody diarrheic condition. I treated the entire infected area with mercurochrome, following with a general massage of the warty surface with vaseline. Small sections of the crusts responded to the softening process and fell. I had hoped that Catbird No. 441180 would repeat, thus allowing me to make daily examinations, but my observations were limited to the one short visit. No positive identification of the disease could be made, yet the pictures and history of this case are here presented in the hope that they may be of some service to some other bird-bander who may have a similarly infected bird visit his traps regularly until the life-cycle and identification of the disease can be positively determined.

#### NEW FOOT DISEASES ON CHIMNEY SWIFTS

During the last five years I have banded several thousand Chimney Swifts. Few birds are so infected with body lice, but until this year I have found no trace of foot trouble.

On Sunday, September 1, 1929, I captured 546 swifts from one chimney. From fifteen to twenty had infected toes. The first victim I examined had gray tissue-paper-like scales along the tarsus, which, when removed, left a flesh-colored pink under surface. The toes were likewise pink and in several cases swollen to about twice their normal size. In one case the swelling extended well up on the tarsus. There were no scabs or blood-spots, and evidently the infection is not serious, for the birds seemed in good health and in no case was there any foot deformity such as lost nails or missing toes. Information from other banders enlarging on my observations will be appreciated.

Quincy, Illinois.



CATBIRD WITH DISEASED FEET



CATBIRD'S FEET SHOWING INCRUSTATIONS