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**Instances of Disease and Abnormalities in American Kestrels.**—

During the winter 1975-76 we trapped American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) for banding and weighing. During this study we noted some birds that had handicaps caused by disease, injury, or possibly genetic abnormalities. These individuals were as follows:

1. Male with all toes missing on the right foot, and the front middle toe missing on the left foot. This bird appeared healthy although its weight of 97 g was smaller than most other kestrels that we caught. This small bird was caught in southern Alabama and may belong to the subspecies *F. s. paulus* which would explain its small size.
2. Female with right rear talon missing. This bird appeared healthy and weighed 141 g.
3. Female with right rear talon very short and straight. This bird appeared healthy and weighed 125 g.
4. Male with infected foot (bumble foot). The bird was unusually small for a northern Alabama kestrel with a weight of 97 g.

The total number of birds handled was 57. Thus, diseases or abnormalities were noted on about 7% of the kestrels.—DAVID T. ROGERS, JR. AND MARK DAUBER, *Department of Biology, The University of Alabama, University, Alabama 35486*. Received 7 September 1976, accepted 18 October 1976.

**Synopsis of the 1976 Season for Chimney Swifts at Kent State University.**—Following is a brief résumé of banding activities and observations of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) on the campus of Kent State University, Kent, Ohio for the 33rd consecutive year of operation. Chimney Swifts returned to our campus 16 April 1976, one day earlier than the previous first date (the median date is 21 April). By the end of the season, 51 returns were captured which came from the following banding-year classes: 1966 (2), 1968 (1), 1969 (2), 1970 (5), 1971 (7), 1972 (4), 1973 (4), 1974 (9), 1975 (17).

Eventually, 14 pairs, one 3-some and one 4-some, nested in 16 of the air shafts in two adjacent buildings (Kent Hall and the Administration Building). Six pairs were mated the same and nested in the same shaft (A1, D1, M1, M7, N9, Q2) as in the previous year. Another pair remained mated as they were for the previous three years in the same airshaft (J1), but in 1976 they had an all-season visitor with them forming a 3-some. (For location of shafts see Dexter, *Ohio J. Sci.*, **69**, 194, 1969.) Another pair remained the same as in the previous two years, but acquired two seasonal visitors comprising a 4-some in shaft C3 (for study of helpers at the nest, see Dexter, *Wilson Bull.*, **64**, 133-139, 1952.) Only one nesting swift changed its nesting location from the previous year. A bird that nested in shaft A5 during 1972-1975 returned to its former nesting site on 13 May, but soon moved into shaft E1, where it had been a temporary visitor in 1975, and obtained a new mate for that season after its former mate failed to return. Its new mate had nested there during 1971-75, but its mate also failed

to return. For some reason the newly mated pair failed in nesting. On 7 July the four nestlings, developing pin feathers, disappeared from the nest. The bird that had nested in that shaft over the previous five years remained in the shaft, but its new mate disappeared and remained away from the campus until middle September. Two other pairs (in J1, N9) lost their nests presumably from a rain-storm, but they were soon replaced and they completed nesting successfully. Two other pairs lost their eggs when the nest was soaked during a heavy rain-storm on 19 June. One pair (A1) rebuilt a nest in the same shaft, whereas the other pair (B2) replaced an egg in the damaged nest but it failed to hatch. During another heavy rainstorm of 10-11 July, one pair (C3) lost its nest, but the two nestlings were able to cling to the wall, whereas in a second case (K2) where the nest fell at that time, the nestlings fluttered to the bottom of the shaft and survived. (Dexter, *Auk*, 69: 289-293, 1952.)

In one case a single egg was laid which was subsequently broken (infertile?) and the nest (A5) abandoned.

In addition to the returns which remained in residence for nesting, there were six returns that became temporary visitors with nesting groups. One return was found dead shortly after it returned to the campus colony. Nine swifts that returned nested for the first time and three newly banded birds were mated with returning birds. Three returns became visitors with nesting pairs.

On 18 September 1976, a flock of 163 swifts was trapped from shaft E1 where they were gathering for migration. Included were the mates that nested in shafts A1, A5, B2, C3, D1, E1, I1, and K2, as well as a single mate from the pair that nested in shafts E4, J1, and N9. Two non-nesting repeats were included, one of which was a temporary visitor in shafts A5, C3, N9, and S1. There were also two juvenile repeats that were raised in the campus colony. There were 12 returns that did not nest on the campus. Included was one that had not been recaptured since it was banded in 1966, and two others that had not been recaptured since banded in 1971. Newly banded swifts numbered 128.

The last record of a Chimney Swift on the campus was noted on 13 October. The median date is 8 October; latest record was 15 October.

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#### Food Storage and Re-storage in the Red-headed Woodpecker.—

Although food storing by the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) has been studied in Louisiana (MacRoberts, 1975) and Maryland (Kilham, 1958), differences exist in the way the food is stored and re-stored. MacRoberts (1975) noted that food storage behavior in the Acorn Woodpecker (*M. formicivorus*) varies from one part of the species' range to another and stated that further information on food storing in Red-headed Woodpeckers would be of value. During June 1976 I observed Red-headed Woodpeckers storing sunflower seeds obtained from a feeder in a wooded area of Clinton Township, Macomb Co., Michigan. Several aspects of the food storage activities are presented here.

At 1840 on 15 June 1976 an adult Red-headed Woodpecker appeared at the feeder and began a bout of storage activity. Sixteen seeds were taken one at a time and cached under the bark of an oak (*Quercus* sp.) 10 m from the feeder; the average trip to the storage site and back to the feeder lasted 29.3 sec. Then 10 seeds were stored in a shallow knothole in a limb 7 m from the feeder; these trips averaged 15.0 sec, less than at the first site because most seeds were merely dropped into the cavity and required little handling time at the storage site. A Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) that the Red-headed Woodpecker earlier chased from the feeder appeared at the knothole at 1918 and ate two seeds. The Red-headed Woodpecker repelled the Blue Jay and a Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) that arrived at the knothole at 1940 and also ate several seeds. Although Constantz (1974) noted that initial discovery of food stores of the Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) by the Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) was accidental, both robbing species flew directly to the cache and appeared to learn of it by watching the Red-headed Woodpecker store seeds.

Between the two defenses the Red-headed Woodpecker stored 12 seeds in crevices of a dead stub 22 m from the feeder. Trips to the dead stub lasted an average of 44.7 sec and thus consumed more time and energy than trips to store food at the two closer sites. Some seeds stored at the dead stub were "sealed-in"