

CHIMNEY SWIFTS GATHERING TWIGS. —At Nipawin, Sask., the swifts arrived a little later than usual this spring, the first pair being noted on June 7th; on the 8th two pair were racing back and forth over town all day. The weather turned colder and the birds were not noted again until June 12th, when one pair showed up, and were seen investigating chimneys in the business block.

On June 26th I saw a pair circling around several small dead poplars, apparently gathering twigs. On June 27th I hid in the thick undergrowth beneath these dead trees, and was fortunate enough to see the manner in which these twigs were gathered. First the birds flew at half speed approaching the trees, then with but a momentary wavering about the tops, passed on and circled several times in the vicinity. This was repeated about a dozen times. Finally both birds came sailing

in on set wings, a little lower than the top-most branches. When within a few feet of a branch they suddenly lurched upwards, snapping off a horizontal twig with their feet, then speeding away in full flight. This performance was repeated four times in three-quarters of an hour, and that ended their activities for the two hours that I watched.

The twig chosen in each case was a short, horizontal off-shoot of the main branch, an off-shoot that would break off rather than bend. Being little more than ten feet from the twigs taken, I am certain that the beak played no part in the gathering. This pair was building in the open fireplace chimney of S. A. Fralieg, about 100 yards distant from the dead trees. On July 2nd the nest, fully completed, contained one egg. The Fralieg family were unaware of the presence of the Swifts until I asked permission to investigate the chimney. — M. G. STREET, NIPAWIN, SASK.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT IN NEW BRUNSWICK —Credit for the first record of the Yellow-Breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) in the Maritime Provinces must go to Allan Moses of North Head, Grand Manan. This specimen, a male, was found December 1, 1941, and had been dead about a week. It is now in the Moses Museum in Grand Manan. Mr. Moses also saw a Yellow-Breasted Chat a year previously, in 1940, but this one was not collected.

On December 11, 1942, another male Yellow-Breasted Chat was picked up dead by a school-child in St. Andrews, the most southwesterly point on the mainland of New Brunswick, and about twenty-five miles north of Grand Manan Island. This specimen was sent to the New Brunswick Museum for identification, and, although it was said to have been quite fresh, it was so badly putrified when we received it, that the skin could not be preserved. There need be no doubt concerning its identity, as it conformed in every detail to the published descriptions of E. H. Forbush and other

authors, and was also compared with specimens already in the Museum collection. Moreover, the writer became quite familiar with this species during two years' residence in central Ohio, even accompanying members of the staff of the Ohio State Museum, Columbus on a trip into southern Ohio, one of the purposes of which was to obtain this species for that Museum's collection.

Knight (*Birds of Maine*, 1908) gives only three summer records of this species in York and Cumberland Counties of southern Maine, so that these winter records in New Brunswick are all the more difficult to explain.

When the St. Andrew specimen was found a light snow was falling, although the ground had been bare for some time, and the temperature was 33° F. There were no southerly gales which might have brought the Chat north at this period—north and north-west winds having prevailed for a week or more.—W. A. SQUIRES, NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM, ST. JOHN, N. B.



Squires, W. Austin. 1944. "Yellow-Breasted Chat in New Brunswick." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 58(1), 24-24. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.340696>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89104>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.340696>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/340696>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.