

Bois-Neuf, a small brackish lagoon south of St. Marc, Haiti, and collected the female. The condition of its ovary indicated proximity to the breeding season. On May 5, 1928, I collected a male of the same species on a white sandy salt flat near Cabo Rojo Lighthouse, the extreme southwestern tip of Porto Rico. Its testes were much enlarged. I have not been able to find any published record of the occurrence of this species in either Haiti or Porto Rico.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *College of Agriculture, University of Porto Rico, Mayagüez, Porto Rico.*

Woodcock Carrying Young.—There are many references in American literature to the habit of the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) carrying young between its thighs or tarsi; few to the use of the feet for this purpose. It has required personal observation to overcome my belief that "from the nature of things" the Woodcock would not use its feet for transportation. On the morning of June 1, 1928, I was in the bottom lands of the Wisconsin River at Boscobel. While walking through a strip of large timber growing in sand, bare of all cover except patches of dried leaves, a Woodcock flushed at a distance of a few feet. Clashed between the toes was a young bird about one and one-half inches long. The leaves from which the old bird arose contained numerous small spots of excrement, but no additional young were discovered.

I have taken some pains to review the early literature. It is interesting to know that the use of the feet has been known in Europe for nearly a century and that this habit has always strained belief. Chapter XXVIII of 'Wild Sports and Natural History of the Highlands' by Charles St. John (first edition 1846) contains the following: "I have, however, ascertained that the old bird lifts her young in her feet, and carries them one by one to their feeding-grounds. Considering the apparent improbability of this curious act of the Woodcock, and the unfitness of its feet and claws for carrying or holding any substance whatever, I should be unwilling to relate it on my own unsupported evidence; but it has been lately corroborated by the observations of several intelligent foresters and others, who are in the habit of passing through the woods during March and April."—A. W. SCHORGER, *2021 Kendall Ave., Madison, Wisconsin.*

Woodcock Wintering in Massachusetts.—An old sportsman friend of mine, Mr. Fred Moore, told me today (December 10, 1928) that he had flushed a large Woodcock on the preceding day on his farm at Sereganset, Mass., where there was a spring of water and springy ground. His statement is perfectly reliable as he has shot hundreds of Woodcock.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Early Record of the Passenger Pigeon.—In Llewellen Powys' 'Voyages of Henry Hudson' it is stated that on the fourth and last voyage of the "Half Moon" Hudson reached the mouth of the Hudson River early in September 1609 and on September 17, anchored off a point where is now the site of Kingston, N. Y. On the next day an Indian chief came out in a canoe and the Journal continues:

"We went ashore with the savage . . . On our coming into the house two mats were spread out, to sit upon, and immediately some food was spread, served in well made redwood bowls. Two men were also dispatched at once with bows and arrows in quest of game, who soon after brought in a pair of pigeons which they had shot."—W. B. MERSHON, *Saginaw, Mich.*

Some Weights of Mourning Doves in Captivity.—In an article in 'The Auk' of July, 1928, on "A Method to Determine the Weight of Food Digested Daily by Birds" Mr. Wm. B. Taber, Jr., describes his procedure of trapping wild birds late in the afternoon and weighing them then and on the following morning; from the differences in these weights he calculates the 24 hour rate of loss and considers that this "must be equivalent to the daily food consumption," i. e. "dry matter and water." In 1919 in Norman, Oklahoma, I had in captivity two young male Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*); and the results of some feeding tests with these birds may be of interest in connection with Mr. Taber's paper.

The older bird, "F," was given to us September 25, when about two months old; "D," was taken from the nest October 1, at the age of about nine days. They were kept in a large room with open windows and remained in good health, but of course took much less exercise than if they had been at liberty. On test days each bird was weighed before its breakfast and after its last meal at night. A generous amount of the different kinds of food was always supplied.

From November 16 to 25, "F's" morning weights varied from 97.2 to 99.7, averaging 98.4 gr., his evening weights varied between 106.5 and 109.6, averaging 108 gr. Multiplying his nightly loss by two we find that his 24 hour loss varied between 15.3 and 23.7% of his morning weight, averaging 19.2%. From December 28 to January 3 his morning weights varied between 103.8 and 105.7, averaging 104.8 gr., his evening weights varied between 112.7 and 115.4, averaging 114.3 gr. His average 24 hour loss was 17.1% of his morning weight.

From November 17 to 23, "D," varied between 97.5 and 101.5 gr., averaging 99.3 in the morning, and between 105.5 and 108.7, averaging 107 gr., in the evening. His daily loss varied between 12.6 and 19.5% of his morning weight, averaging 16.5%. From December 28 to 31 his morning weights varied between 97.5 and 99 gr. averaging 98.4; his evening weights between 106.5 and 108, averaging 107.3 gr., while the 24 hour loss averaged 18.9%.

It is not clear why such large variations in nightly loss should occur under uniform conditions. The high and low rates of loss appeared to occur at random; they certainly did not coincide with the two birds. The average 24 hour loss of these captives is not far different from that of Mr. Taber's 22 wild Mourning Doves—16.1%; his maximum was 24.1—a little higher than any of mine, while his minimum was decidedly lower than any of mine—7.8%. He states that "the daily food consumption of 13