

attached to the side of the palm frond, while in *Panyptila* and *Reinarda* it is attached to structures built by the swifts themselves—a transposition of the eggs support. Apparently the only described nest of the closely allied, but much larger, Great Swallow-tailed or San Geronimo Swift (*Panyptila sancti-hieronymi*), of the Central American highlands, is one taken in Guatemala pictured by Salvin (1863: 191-192). That nest, stated to be two feet two inches long and six inches in diameter (about 660 x 150 mm), was hung from an overhanging rock ledge. It much resembles those of *P. cayennensis*, except for having a false entrance on the side—a feature I have never observed or seen reported as to *cayennensis*.

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An Albino Purple Martin.—Scattered through ornithological literature there are occasional references to partial or complete albinos. An examination of the volumes of 'The Auk' for the past 50 years has brought to light items regarding albinism in no less than 20 species of North American birds as well as a review of a paper (El Honero, 6: 493-496, 1937), dealing with partial albinism in Argentine birds. Robins and English Sparrows are most frequently recorded, but the list includes also, such birds as Fish Crows, Pipits, Barn Swallows, and others. I have been unable to find a record of an albino Purple Martin, *Progne subis* (Linnaeus).

The writer is indebted to Mr. L. H. Zehmer, Vice-President of the Bank of Virginia at Norfolk, Virginia for details of the following account.

A bird of this species was raised in a martin house at the home of James R. Shepherd, 637 Connecticut Avenue, Norfolk. When nearly fledged, it fell from the nest, thus presenting a perfect opportunity for examination. The plumage was snow white without a blemish of any kind, and the eyes were pink. As its nest compartment was known, the bird was returned to it where the parents were observed to resume their care. It eventually flew from the house together with the other youngsters. For a period of two weeks, the albino, the other young birds, and their parents regularly returned to the house, and it was observed that the albino always roosted in the compartment in which it had been reared. Aside from its complete lack of pigmentation, it appeared to be a normal, healthy bird. Nevertheless, as it was coming in one evening, it collided with a branch of a tree and fell, landing on the branches of a very small pine. As the bird appeared to be merely stunned, it was picked up with the idea of keeping it overnight and releasing it in the morning, but it died during the night. Mr. Zehmer reports that the bird was fully grown, the folded wings extending well beyond the tail. He adds that a thorough examination seemed to indicate that it had died of starvation or some "stomach disorder." It seems likely that defective vision, resulting from the albinism, may have prevented the bird from capturing a supply of insects adequate to its needs. FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

Absence of Natal Down in the White-eyed Vireo.—In the course of taking a breeding-bird census in a floodplain forest in the Savannah River Plant area, Aiken County, South Carolina, I found two nests of the White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), each with three eggs, on May 28 and June 19, 1957. At both nests the nestlings were observed carefully (being taken in hand), shortly after hatching and again after the pinfeathers had begun to appear. I was unable to detect any trace of natal down on these young White-eyes. According to Wetherbee's extensive study (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 113, article 5: 339-436, 1957), tufts of natal down in members of the Vireonidae "are relatively sparse and fragile. In the subgenus *Vireo*, *V. bellii* is apparently without down, yet *huttoni* has down. . . ." (p. 418). The fact that *V. griseus* has naked hatchlings suggests that absence of natal down in the subgenus *Vireo* might be the rule rather than the exception. For two species in this subgenus, *V. atricapilla* and *V. vicinior*, information on this matter is still lacking (*ibid.*: 380). As Wetherbee has indicated, other North American vireos belonging to the subgenera *Lanivireo* and *Vireosylva* are characterized by natal plumage, although in *V. flavoviridis*, at least, the down is so short and sparse that it could easily be overlooked (Skutch, in Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 197: 327, 1950). It should be stressed that my examples of *Vireo griseus* came from a southern region and that it remains to be seen whether this species lacks natal down in more northerly parts of its range.—ROBERT A. NORRIS, (*University of Georgia Ecological Studies, AEC Savannah River Plant Area, Aiken, South Carolina.*

Hooded Oriole Nesting under Eaves of House.—On June 7, 1956, I observed a female Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*), bringing nesting material to the eaves of a screened porch of a house on the John Sala ranch, about 12 miles north of Tombstone, Cochise County, Arizona. The elevation at the ranch house is 5190 feet. At some previous time a rose bush had grown close to the house, and a long stalk of the plant had become attached to the underpart of the eaves. Later this stalk had been cut off, leaving a short length attached to the eaves. There was also a