

us approached them slowly, until we were too close to use binoculars. One of the birds was adult, the other a bird of the year. As we watched, the young bird begged repeatedly, and the adult was seen to feed it at least twice, although the nature of the food could not be seen. In a species that nests as far north as does the Lapland Longspur it is certainly unusual for an adult to be still feeding a youngster at this late date, at this latitude. It is also unusual that this feeding activity was occurring in birds that had already molted into winter plumage.—SALLY F. HOYT, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

A Second Egg Tooth in a Mourning Dove?—A Mourning Dove *Zenaidura macroura*, hatched 6 June 1960, possessed a protuberance on the lower bill in a position and in color equivalent to the egg tooth on the upper bill. The size of the abnormal growth is perhaps twice that of the egg tooth. It also may be noted that the lower bill is slightly longer than normal in relation to the upper bill.

The photograph was taken after death at two days of age. The squab was being fed artificially, and its death was not necessarily related to the abnormality.

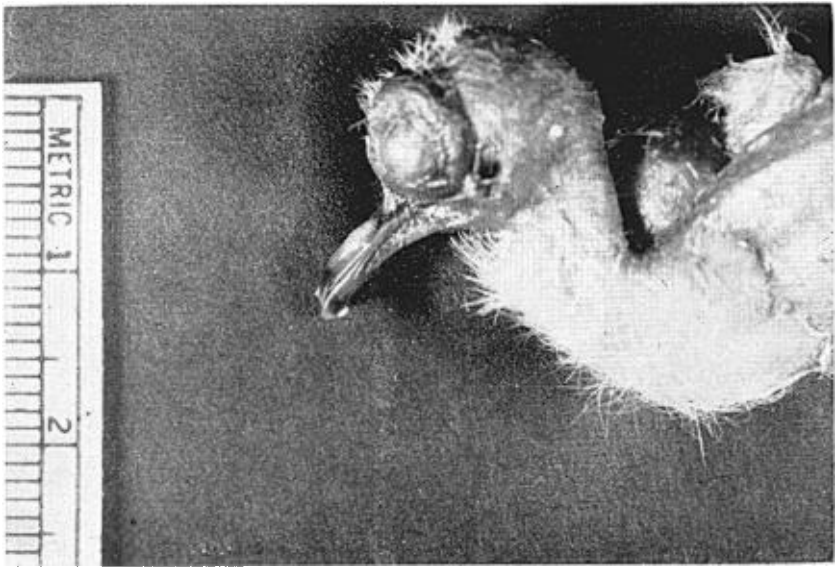


Figure 1. Abnormal growth resembling egg tooth on lower bill of a young Mourning Dove.

A "cold shock" was possible midway through incubation when both parents were frightened by children and left the nest for several hours. The parents were not siblings, otherwise their relationship is unknown.—WILMER J. MILLER, *Department of Microbiology, Serology Laboratory, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, California.*

An Old New York Record for the White Pelican.—On Thursday, 11 December 1788 *The New York Journal and Weekly Register* (p. 2) carried the following item: "A few days ago, a curious and uncommon BIRD was killed at Saratoga and sent, as a rarity, to Albany. The distance from the tip of one wing to the

other when both were extended, was nine feet and two inches; the mouth was large enough to contain, with ease, the head of a boy of ten years of age, and the throat so capacious as to admit the foot or leg of a man boot and all. Doubts were entertained, at first, what it was, but it is now decided to be the large Pelican of the sea coast, as upon examination we are told (by Dr. Mitchell)¹ that it agrees to the character of the *Pelicanus Acquillus* [aquilus] of *Linnaeus* [White Pelican] and the *Onocratalus* of *Brisson*."—CONSTANCE D. SHERMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

Nests of *Empidonomus varius*, *Pitangus lictor*, and *Myiozetetes cayanensis*.—The nest ascribed by Haverschmidt (*Auk*, 74: 240, 1957) to *Pitangus lictor* was undoubtedly that of *Empidonomus varius*. The Penard brothers' (*De Vogels van Guyana*, Vol. 2, 263, 1910) description of the nest of *E. varius* corresponds closely with the one described by Haverschmidt. Their statement that *P. lictor* builds an open nest (*op. cit.*, 246) is incorrect: also the size given for the eggs is small for that species. I am indebted to G. D. Smooker (*in litt.*) for information regarding eggs in the Penard Collection in the Leyden Museum: he states that the eggs attributed to *P. lictor* are certainly not of that species, and on the authority of R. Kreuger that there are no eggs of *Empidonomus varius* in the collection. Beebe (*Tropical Wild Life in British Guiana*, 225, 1917) gives a good first-hand description of the nest of *E. varius*. Haverschmidt's statement that Young's note on *P. lictor* (*Ibis*, 1929, 227) refers to *Myiozetetes cayanensis* is partly correct, but in my opinion the nests and eggs described are those of *P. lictor*, while the descriptions of voice and display apply unmistakably to *M. cayanensis*. That Young confused the two species is also suggested by his omission of *M. cayanensis*, the commoner bird, from his list. In the notes that follow the information given me by Sir Charles F. Belcher, J. D. Macdonald, and G. D. Smooker is gratefully acknowledged.

Empidonomus varius is considerably smaller than *P. lictor*, and is very distinct in spite of broad similarities in plumage, especially the head pattern. It utters a rather harsh *chee-chee-chu*, the final syllable prolonged. I found a nest in a low tree overhanging the Boerasiri canal near the British Guiana coast in June 1927, and later at H.M.P.S., Mazaruni, saw four more occupied nests on outer branches of Citrus bushes. I was with Sir Charles Belcher when he took the clutch of two eggs (Belcher Collection, British Museum [Natural History]) from one of these on 28 January 1932. The eggs are regular ovals, pale buff with warm-brown spots and blotches, and pale, slate-gray shell marks, well distributed but tending to be concentrated at the large end. Macdonald (*in litt.*) found both eggs of Belcher's set to measure 21×15.5 mm., and a clutch from Brazil (Crowley Bequest) 20.8×15.8 , 21×16 mm.; he noted that the latter are slightly more heavily marked. The nests I examined were frail, shallow saucers of dead weed stems, coarse in the foundation, of finer material and smooth inside, and sometimes lined with fine rootlets, rather like doves' nests. They were on horizontal forks near the ends of branches.

G. D. Smooker, who knew *Pitangus lictor* well on the British Guiana coast, found it a rather silent bird, and he heard it utter only a rather plaintive *quirk* without assuming the display postures characteristic of *P. sulphuratus* when mak-

¹ Samuel Latham Mitchell, 1764–1831, studied medicine and law. He was a member of the legislature for several terms, was appointed Professor of Chemistry, Natural History and Philosophy in Columbia College in 1792, and made the first voyage in a steamboat with Fulton in August 1807.