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Tail Molt of the Saw-whet Owl.—The sequence of tail molt of birds, especially owls, is not well known. Since Mayr and Mayr in their study of the tail molt of small owls (*Auk,* 71: 172-178, 1954) did not examine a molting specimen of either *Aegolius* or *Micrathene,* the following observations of the molt of a captive Saw-whet Owl *(Aegolius acadicus)* seem relevant.

The bird, an adult female, was caught by hand on 12 November 1960 near Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan, and was maintained indoors at The University of Michigan Museum of Zoology until late spring 1961. During this time studies of metabolism and molt were conducted. The Saw-whet Owl is recorded as having one full molt in the fall (Bent, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull., 170: 233, 1938), but my bird began its molt in late February and finished in early May. This unusual timing is probably a result of captivity and long artificial day lengths. The tail was lost in one week about halfway through the period of molt. The bird appeared tailless for about three weeks, after which time the new tail feathers were as long as the unmolted under tail coverts. Examination of the feathers that were lost and the incoming feathers indicated that the tail molt proceeded inward, with the two innermost rectrices being lost last. The rest of the body molt closely followed the sequence outlined for young Screech Owls *(Otus asio)* by Kelso (Biological Leaflet 50, 1950).

This essentially simultaneous molt of the tail in *Aegolius* was predicted by Mayr and Mayr *(loc. cit.)* because tail molt "tends to be simultaneous in all small [owls]." They suggest that simultaneous tail molt may be the result of "relaxation of selection" for gradual tail molt, which "is presumably based on a more complex physiological mechanism." Presumably the disadvantages of loss of maneuverability caused by taillessness are more than offset by the selective advantages of a decrease in the duration of tail molt.—CHARLES T. COLLINS, *The University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

A Curtailed Postjuvenal Molt in the Steller Jay.—A first-year male of the Steller Jay *(Cyanocitta stelleri)* obtained by Ward C. Russell near Santa Cruz, California, on 26 April 1961, is of interest because it shows retention of juvenal feathers to a degree unlike that of first-year birds of the local population and