a young cowbird were observed. Hence these records still may not indicate a greater degree of tolerance than usual but only an inability to recognize the foreign egg in nests in extremely dark locations.—DANIEL S. *and* JEAN MCGEEN, *707 Community National Bank, Pontiac, Michigan.*

Egg Teeth and Shell Rupture of the American Woodcock.—The method of hatching and the presence or absence of an egg tooth on the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) was broached by Wetherbee (*Bird-Banding,* 30: 119–121, 1959). A clutch of four partially incubated eggs was contributed to us by Dr. William G. Sheldon. These eggs hatched one week after receipt. All four chicks had egg teeth on both upper and lower jaws. The one on the upper jaw was typical, but the egg tooth of the lower jaw appeared as a rounded, smooth, calcareous deposit only barely raised from the surface of the bill, and was located at the extreme tip of the bill. The teeth were shed between the second and third day after hatching.

The hatchlings' method of breaking out of the shells was unique in our experience, and explained the longitudinal slit on one side of the egg previously described. Instead of lifting off a nicely cut operculum from the obtuse end of the egg, the neonate of this species tended to puncture, with the egg teeth, a relatively large pip hole near the obtuse end of the shell. The tip of the bill then gained purchase on the rim of the hole, and leverage was facilitated for the action of the muscles of the neck. The spinal processes of the cervical and thoracic vertebrae presented a noticeable ridge, which actually dehisced the egg shell longitudinally from a point near the puncture to an equatorial point where the head of the embryo disappeared under the right wing. This method of hatching was abetted by the relatively infriable nature of the woodcock egg shell. Thus, when the embryo convulsed, the shell ripped along the line of contact with the spinal processes, rather than along the internal pip line. The shell seemed to rip, rather than fracture, as with other species.

Wetherbee has hatched eggs of the Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), in which the neonates emerged in a somewhat similar manner. The hatched Willet eggs had two or three longitudinal slits, but these were more spiraled than in the woodcock. Also, an additional opercular piece was more common in the Willet than in the woodcock. [This is a contribution of the Massachusetts Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit supported by the University of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wildlife Management Institute.]—DAVID KENNETH WETHERBEE, *Department of Poultry Science, and* L. M. BARTLETT, *Department of Zoology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.*

Barn Swallows Nesting in the Mouth of a Cave.—On Monday, 3 July 1961, T. Kenneth Ellis, of Hot Springs, Virginia, and I found a dozen or more occupied nests of the Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster,* on the walls of a cave at the Sinks of Gandy in Randolph County, West Virginia, about three km (two miles) north of the Pocahontas County line. Here Gandy Creek flows into a large, domed opening in the hillside, disappearing and coming out again approximately five km (three miles) to the north. The nests are fastened to small ledges in the roof, from three to seven meters (10 to 20 feet) inside the opening. Professor Maurice Brooks tells me that swallows were nesting here when he visited the place some years ago. This seems to be one of the few remaining nesting sites of the primitive type. Abandoned houses and little-used barns are available in sight of the spot.—J. J. MURRAY, *6 Jordan Street, Lexington, Virginia.*