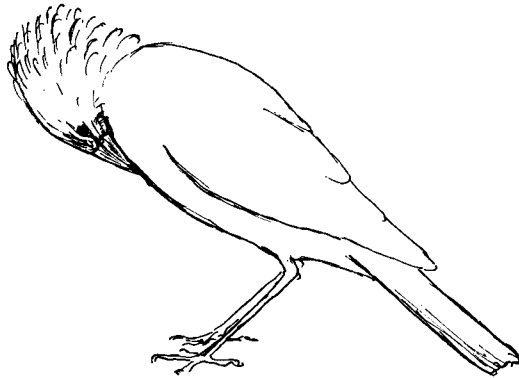


Finch, what appeared to be a twig. Due to the lack of fear of humans in Galápagos birds, I was able to approach within five feet of the bird, which proved to be a Warbler Finch (*Certhidea olivacea*). At close range the "twig" proved to be either a three-inch leaf petiole or a flower stem. The bird used the "petiole" about four times in an attempt to probe into a crevice in the bark. Unfortunately, the "petiole" merely bent without being effective. Finally, the finch paused a moment, and then, with a decisive jerk of the head, tossed the "stem" to the ground. It then went on searching for food in typical *Certhidea* fashion. Possibly increased observation of the behavior of the Galápagos finches may show that the use of a tool, while less developed in the other species of Darwin's finches than in *Camarhynchus pallidus*, is fairly widespread in the group.—MARGARET H. HUNDLEY, *Florida Audubon Society, Maitland, Florida.*

Interspecific preening display by the Rice Grackle, *Psomocolax oryzivorus*.

—Selander and La Rue (*Auk*, 78: 473-504, 1961) have described the interspecific preening display of the Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*, and the Red-eyed Cowbird, *Tangavius aeneus*. On 11 August 1962, a similar display was witnessed from a solitary male of the tropical American Rice Grackle, *Psomocolax oryzivorus*, in the gardens of the Zoological Society of London. When the bird was first seen it appeared to be soliciting preening from a pair of small African Blackhead Plovers, *Sarcioophorus tectus*, which paid no obvious attention to it at any time in the period



of observation. The plovers were indulging in sporadic preening while resting. The grackle stood a few inches from one of the plovers, in front of it and to one side, maintaining a rigid posture with the body and tail slanted at about 45° and all the contour feathers sleeked close to the body, giving it a very slender appearance (see sketch, from one made on the spot, the plover being a little taller). The bill was tucked in until it touched the breast, the head being bent sharply downwards while all the feathers of the nape region were erected and fluffed-out. In this position these feathers seemed to form a distinct squarish ruff. Several times when the plover was preening the grackle relaxed its position, took a few shuffling steps forwards and resumed the intense, rigid posture again. When the plover ceased preening and moved a little farther away, the grackle relaxed and assumed its normal slender-headed appearance.

The posture appears to resemble the courtship display described by Friedmann (*The cowbirds*. Springfield, Illinois, Charles C. Thomas, 1929. See p. 324.) but differs in the lack of erection of the body feathers, and thus agrees more closely with the preening displays described and illustrated by Selander and La Rue.—C. J. O. HARRISON, *Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History), London*.

Another albinistic Blue Jay.—Imperfect albinism in a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) from near Milford, New York, was recorded by John Whitaker (*Auk*, 77: 84–85, 1960), who was unable to locate other records of albinistic Blue Jays or of other blue birds. It therefore seems desirable to place on record the occurrence of an imperfectly albinistic Blue Jay at Viroqua, Vernon County, Wisconsin. This bird was seen irregularly in my yard as follows: 27 October 1959 through late February, 1960; part of November, 1960; 11 March to 4 September 1961. During the latter period the bird appeared to be mated to a normal Blue Jay. The coloration corresponded with the description of the New York bird: the parts normally black were dull brownish; head, neck, and breast white or dusky; barring on wings and tail faint; bill, legs, and feet dull, light gray; eyes dark.—MARGARETTE E. MORSE, *Viroqua, Wisconsin*.

Reproductive condition of feral pigeons in winter.—Breeding in winter by feral pigeons (*Columba livia*) is frequently noticed but rarely recorded quantitatively. An opportunity arose to examine numbers of pigeons during the winter of 1961–1962 at State College, Pennsylvania, at latitude 40°48'N. The winters are cold. Mean temperatures for December, January, and February were 29.3°, 25.7°, and 26.2°F (−1.5°, −3.5°, and −3.2°C), respectively. The minima were 8°, 0°, and −2°F (−13.3°, −17.7°, and −18.8°C) respectively. This note merely records that fecund individuals occurred constantly during this period. From 14 October to 24 February, 47 males were examined. All large (more than 260 g) birds had testes displaying spermatogenesis, but 8 of 11 smaller birds had inactive testes. Similarly, the females had ovaries producing ova throughout the winter. Only 10 of 82 had apparently inactive ovaries. Several females had eggs in the oviduct. These results show that a high percentage of feral pigeons can breed all winter in a cold climate of short days. Similar results were found for a more southern place, Baltimore, Maryland (Schein, *Auk*, 71: 318–320, 1954). This note was authorized for publication on 15 August 1962 as paper no. 2695 in the journal series of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station.—RALPH DUNMORE AND DAVID E. DAVIS, *Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania*.

A Cinnamon Teal specimen from Alabama.—Although Imhof (*Auk*, 75: 355, 1958) mentions a specimen of the Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) from Alabama, he states (pers. comm.) that subsequent examination of this specimen at the U. S. National Museum reveals that it is a female Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) with heavily stained plumage. It appears, therefore, that the following particulars refer to the first specimen of a Cinnamon Teal from Alabama.

On 11 December 1961, David C. Hulse shot a male in the backwaters of Wheeler Reservoir near the mouth of the Elk River, Limestone County. Personnel of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge air-expressed this specimen to the U. S. National Museum where its identification was verified by Richard H. Manville. It is now number 478816 in the collection of that museum.—THOMAS Z. ATKESON, JR., *P. O. Box 1643, Decatur, Alabama*.