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F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Wolfskuilstraat 16, Ommen, Holland.*

Black-whiskered Vireo in Surinam.—On 17 December 1967 I collected near Phedra on the Surinam River, Surinam, a juvenile female Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*). It weighed 24.8 g and the gizzard contained a number of seeds of *Bixa orellana* and insects (Coleoptera). The specimen is preserved in the Leiden Museum; G. F. Mees assigned it to the nominate race *altiloquus*. Neither Meyer de Schauensee (The species of birds of South America and their distribution, Narberth, Pennsylvania, Livingston Publishing Co., 1966) nor Blake (*in* Check-list of birds of the world, vol. 14 (R. A. Paynter, Jr., Ed.), Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mus. Comp. Zool., 1968) include Surinam within the winter range of this bird. I am indebted to G. F. Mees for his help and to D. C. Geyskes for identifying the gizzard contents.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Wolfskuilstraat 16, Ommen, Holland.*

The Black-crowned Night Heron as a predator of tern chicks.—In the course of a study of the terns nesting on Great Gull Island, Suffolk County, New York, during the summers of 1967 and 1968, many banded chicks of both the Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*, and the Roseate Tern, *S. dougallii*, disappeared within a few days of hatching when they were still too small to have wandered far. This was particularly noticeable in 1968, when at least 33 chicks less than 3 days old disappeared from study plots encircled by low wire fencing. No mammalian predators inhabit Great Gull Island and no avian predators are resident there. An occasional Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius*, passed over the island and small numbers of Herring Gulls, *Larus argentatus*, and Great Black-backed Gulls, *L. marinus*, were often present on off-shore rocks and pilings. Redwinged Blackbirds, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, which nest on the island occasionally destroyed some tern eggs (Pessino, 1968). Detailed information about this tern colony and the studies in progress is presented by Cooper et al., 1970.

The consensus of the several investigators studying this colony was that these losses might be the result of predation by Black-crowned Night Herons, *Nycticorax nycticorax*. Night herons were heard flying over Great Gull Island almost nightly, although they did not nest there and only occasionally roosted on the island. The intense mobbing reaction of both species of terns directed at any night heron flushed from a diurnal roost on the island supported the view that they were chick-predators. On such occasions a closely bunched flock of 60-70 terns immediately swirled about the heron as long as it was in flight or in sight, with some individuals continually diving at it. The reaction was comparable in intensity to that shown to Sparrow Hawks passing over the island. Proof of the predatory habits of these herons was obtained on 13 July 1968 when an adult male was collected on Great Gull Island at approximately 07:00. Its stomach contained the nearly digested remains of three small fish (Cottidae ?) and one Roseate Tern chick estimated to have been 2-4