

at the base of the neck and by other less obvious characteristics) were obtained from captive stock of the Endangered Wildlife Research Program at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. This flock included about a dozen birds captured as goslings on Buldir Island in the Aleutian chain during 1963, and their descendants. The eggs of Aleutian Canada Geese measured in this study were only slightly larger than those of cackling Canada Geese (*B. c. minima*) reported on by Bent (ibid., p. 233) and Reed (ibid., p. 86). Eggs of our Aleutian Canada Geese were also similar to those of the cackling geese in color.

Of the Masked Bobwhite eggs 390 were laid by wild-caught birds, and 419 were laid by birds several generations removed from the wild. The eggs laid by the wild-caught birds are listed separately from those laid by the captive-bred ones because of difference in size and in the source of the stock. Bent (U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 162, 1932, p. 38) wrote that a single egg in the U. S. National Museum measured 32.5×25.0 mm, and that an egg recorded by Major Bendire measured 31×24 mm; seven other eggs averaged 29.6×23.4 mm, the largest measuring 30.5×23.6 mm and the smallest, 28.3×23.1 mm. Reed (op. cit., p. 136) reports an average of 30.5×24.1 mm for eggs of Masked Bobwhite Quail.

Our eggs from the wild stock of Masked Bobwhite averaged 30.2 by 23.7 mm, which is close to the average of Bent's and Reed's records, but eggs of the captive stock were noticeably smaller (27.6 by 21.6 mm). Perhaps the few birds from which this captive stock originated were genetically producers of small eggs.—JAMES D. STEPHENSON and GLEN SMART, *Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland 20810*. Accepted 26 Apr. 71.

Breeding of the White-plumed Antbird (*Pithys albifrons*).—The nest and eggs of the White-plumed Antbird do not seem to be recorded. On 1 January 1962, while studying ant-following birds at Nappi Creek (a settlement of Macusi Indians at 200 m elevation, about $3^{\circ} 17' N$, $59^{\circ} 39' W$, on the flats and lower slopes of the northern base of the Kanaku Mountains), Guyana, I flushed a White-plumed Antbird off a nest with two speckled eggs. The cup-shaped nest (Figure 1) was sunk in a mat of dead leaves in the spiny crown of a small palm about 30 cm above the ground, in rather open mora (*Mora excelsa*) forest and on the edge of a small opening near Nappi Creek. Unfortunately building a blind of heliconia leaves to photograph the birds made them desert the nest. One or both parents warily circled the area during the few hours I watched, occasionally giving faint "see-see-see" and "tsee" notes, but did not go to the nest. The next day the eggs were cold and wet from rain.

The nest is somewhat unusual for an antbird. Many antbirds suspend their nests from forks of small twigs (Skutch, Life histories of Central American birds, 3, Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 35, 1969, p. 293), although the Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) builds bulky nests set on low vegetation or debris (Skutch, op. cit., p. 238). Nests that are not suspended from small forks are hard to find, and other antbird species may build nests like those of Chestnut-backed and White-plumed Antbirds. Some antbirds, such as Bicolored Antbirds (*Gymnopithys bicolor*), nest in cavities or behind the sheathing base of a large palm frond (Willis, Univ. California Publ. Zool., 79: 82, 1967).

The nest and several nearly-independent young out of the nest in late December and early January represent dry-season nesting at Nappi. Juveniles in the American Museum of Natural History were taken in August in Guyana and in October to April in Venezuela. This suggests nesting in both wet and dry seasons, possibly

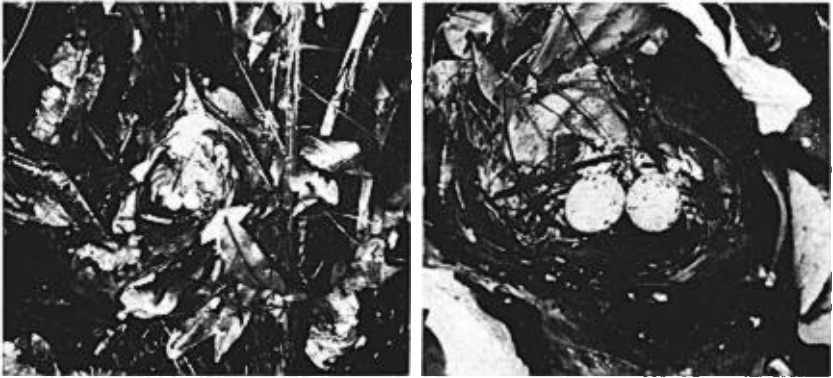


Figure 1. Nest and eggs of White-plumed Antbirds.

all year. Few White-plumed Antbirds taken April to October were in wing molt, but many (23 out of 38) were in molt from November to January. Kenneth C. Parkes (in litt.) reports many in wing molt in November to January, as well as some juveniles in the collections of the Carnegie Museum. One female, taken with two juveniles at Pied Saut, French Guiana, 7 December 1917, was completing wing molt. Some of the juvenile specimens may have been independent, as it is not known how long this plumage is retained. Apparently White-plumed Antbirds, like Rufous-throated Antbirds (*Gymnopithys rufigula*) (Y. Oniki, MS) and Bicolored Antbirds, nest and molt in the same seasons. Snow and Snow (Zoologica, 49: 11, 1964) report that Barred Antshrikes (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) also molt and nest almost throughout the year on Trinidad.

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A living wild turkey with a feathered head.—The heads of turkey poults (*Meleagris gallopavo*) are covered with down at hatching but this covering is lost gradually and not fully replaced by other feathers. Turkeys in first winter plumage typically have a homogenous head covering of bristles with very little vane at the feather bases. Most of the skin of the head is visible through these scattered bristles. Tapering along the back of the neck these young birds have short feathers with well-developed vanes that stop at the nape in most young males, but may continue through the crown in females.

Older turkeys of both sexes are more bald on the head and neck than are juveniles. The amount and distribution of neck feathering vary greatly. Some have necks completely feathered (Schorger, *The wild turkey: its history and domestication*, Norman, Oklahoma, Univ. Oklahoma Press, 1966: Plate 28) but in examining thousands of wild turkey specimens, primarily in Florida (*M. g. osceola*), I never saw a turkey with a fully feathered head before I examined the one shown in Figure 1.