

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.

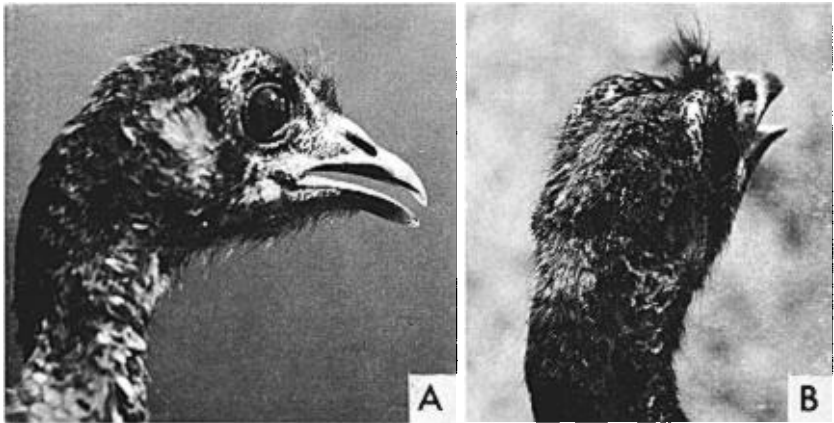


Figure 1. An adult wild turkey hen with fully feathered head.

This adult hen was captured in March 1971 in Osceola County, Florida in connection with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission turkey restocking program. The typical hairlike bristles of the head were accompanied by other feathers with much more vane. The extra feathers were slate-colored, which made the hen seem black-headed. There were no semi-plumes such as those Schorger (Auk, 87: 168, 1970) reports in specimens he described as a new extinct subspecies (*M. g. tularosa*) from Arizona and New Mexico.

Although I cannot find turkeys with fully feathered heads reported in scientific literature, old-timers in Florida have a well-known legend about turkeys they shot or heard about with "hairy" heads.—LOVETT E. WILLIAMS, JR., *Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Wildlife Research Projects Office, Gainesville, Florida 32601*. Accepted 29 Apr. 71.

**A behavioral attitude of Saw-whet and Boreal Owls.**—The concealing pose of both the Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) and the Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) has been frequently reported (e.g. Bent, U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 170: 163, 255, 1938), and the erect camouflaging posture of the Elf Owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*) is well-documented (Ligon, Univ. Michigan, Misc. Publ. No. 136: 63, 1968). The only reference to the similar behavior of the Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) is that of Taylor (Blue Jay, 20: 118, 1962): "When approached, they straighten up, draw their feathers in tightly to the body, making themselves appear as long and thin as possible, and remain quite motionless. This attempt to avoid detection is termed 'freezing'." I would expand Taylor's observation as follows:

While roosting during the day, undisturbed Saw-whet and Boreal Owls (*Aegolius funereus*) have a rounded or oval appearance, with the plumage of the breast and upper back fluffed out (not appressed), eyes closed to slits, and head either directed forward or turned over the back. Disturbance during such daytime roosting frequently induces a concealing pose (Figure 1A), characterized by four simultaneous changes: the plumage of the breast and upper back is tightly appressed, giving the owl a narrowly oblong appearance; the closed wing nearest to the intruder is directed toward him, and raised to a level with the bill (if the intruder moves to either side, the owl, now appearing to look over a hunched shoulder,