Notes on a Captive Wood Thrush and Its Prenuptial Molt.—On October 10, 1957, in the Savannah River Plant area, Aiken County, South Carolina, I found a Wood Thrush *(Hylocichla mustelina)* which had struck a high-tension wire and had broken one of its wings. My wife and I force-fed the bird for two or three days, after which it began to accept food held by forceps. Within a few days it was taking food and water from dishes placed in its cage. Its staple diet was raw hamburger supplemented with wheat germ; at times bits of eggshell were added, especially when the wing bone (humerus) was healing. Sometimes berries of *Ilex, Vaccinium,* and *Pyracantha* were offered, but only those of *Pyracantha* were eaten regularly. A vitamin supplement was supplied with the water. We found the Wood Thrush, apparently a yearling, to be a quiet, unobtrusive "pet." Occasionally it gave soft *trrrr, trrrr* notes, but usually it was silent. In October and November it exhibited nocturnal unrest, but later the migratory urge subsided. Throughout the winter the bird spent the night perched on top of a wire canary cage which was kept open and was placed near one end of a much larger screen cage. In December a long mirror was set down between the screen and the wall close by, and the spot-breasted image would engage the bird's attention (and seem to induce a measure of "rapt tranquillity") for considerable periods of time. Further diversion was provided by another wing-injured foundling, a Savannah Sparrow *(Passerculus sandwichensis)*—a compulsive bather whose ablutions were usually closely watched by the thrush, which would flick its wings excitedly and peck on the floor of the cage. The pecking was interpreted as substitute or displacement behavior.

Although the Wood Thrush was rarely handled, by mid-February it was apparent that the bird was molting. Pinfeathers were especially in evidence in the crown region. This was of particular interest because Dwight (Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci., **13**: 73-360, 1900) wrote that in this species the nuptial plumage is acquired by wear, and Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 196: viii + 454, 1949) iterated this statement. A careful examination of our captive on February 26, 1958, confirmed my suspicion that it was undergoing extensive molt. New feathers, mostly still ensheathed, were growing out in all the principal contour-feather tracts. Indeed, as was clearly shown by the head plumage in particular, it seemed that all or very nearly all the individual feathers over the head and body were being replaced. Down feathers scattered over the ventral apterium were being renewed, as were the lesser and middle wing coverts and the inframarginals. Only the remiges, alulae, greater wing coverts, and rectrices were not involved. The presence of such an extensive late-winter or prenuptial molt in this individual suggests that Dwight's statement may well prove to be erroneous. An examination of February- and March-collected skins from Middle America and other wintering areas should throw light on this problem.

Since Dilger *(Sys. Zool.*, **5**: 174-182, 1956) holds that the Wood Thrush is best considered as generically distinct from the four other species usually included in *Hylocichla,* it would be of decided interest to ascertain whether or not these thrushes (Hermit, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, and Veery) are characterized by prenuptial molt. According to Dwight *(op. cit.)* such molt is lacking in all four. However, it is interesting to note that Wallace *(in* Bent, *op. cit.:* 207) kept a young Gray-cheeked Thrush *(Hylocichla minima bicknelli)* in confinement for a year and reported that the bird "grew a new tail in midwinter [due to accidental loss?] and in spring molted some wing and body feathers. This was interpreted as an abnormal molt due to poor feather condition, but the abrupt change in plumage from winter to spring in some Alaskan graycheeks suggests that spring molts in nature are not unknown." Whether this molt and that of our Wood Thrush are really "abnormal" is admittedly a moot point. Even so, these two instances of molt do serve to raise the question: Does a prenuptial molt occur regularly in members of this group of thrushes? Within the past decade, spring molt has been found to be more extensive in certain fringillids—as LeConte's Sparrow (Tordoff and Mengel, *Auk,* ***68:*** 519-522, 1951), the nominate race of Whitecrown (Norris, *Oriole,* **19**: 25-31, 1954), Harris' Sparrow (Woolfenden, *Wilson Bull.,* **67**: 212-213, 1955), and Lincoln's Sparrow (Norris, MS. notes)—than was acknowledged in the earlier literature. Similarly, notwithstanding previous statements to the contrary, it might well be that prenuptial molt is prevalent and extensive in the "*Hylocichla* thrushes."—Robert A. Norris (University of Georgia Ecological Studies, AEC Savannah River Plant area), 1918 Hahn Avenue, Aiken, South Carolina.