

Immature Bald Eagle with an Abnormal Beak.—While conducting ecological and behavioral studies on Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in western Ontario, Canada, I encountered an eagle nest on 3 July 1966, which contained one nestling with an abnormal beak (Figure 1.) and another young with a normal beak. The upper mandible of the deformed beak curved toward the right side, and the lower mandible was longer than normal, extending past the upper. The abnormal bird apparently had difficulty with preening as many of the feathers at the base of the left-wing primaries were bent and out of place, and most of the left-wing coverts plus a few of the body feathers were disheveled. Aside from the unusual beak and disturbed feathers, the bird appeared to be in good condition. Its reactions toward my presence at the nest were normal, and both eaglets were of similar size and development (estimated eight to ten weeks of age).

Mr. E. Knowles, who lives near the nest, watched the nestlings during the remainder of the summer. He reported (in litt.) that both nestlings fledged, approximately a week apart (neither respective dates were noted), and remained in the area where he observed them flying, perching, and feeding. The adults continued to bring them food, along the shoreline, and he did not see the young take food themselves. Both young birds were still present in the area when Knowles left on the first of September.

Dow and Hess (*Wils. Bull.*, 77: 86-88, 1965) discuss bill anomalies, including possible causes and effects. The effect of the abnormal beak on future survival of the eaglet is unknown. The bird may have difficulty tearing food, and the lower mandible could possibly continue growth until it interfered with the bird's survival. Young eagles normally tear up a considerable amount of their own food

Figure 1. Nestling Bald Eagle with abnormal beak. The normal nestling is on the opposite side of the abnormal bird, away from the camera. (Black-and-white photograph enlarged from color slide, retouched to outline the head, beak and back of the abnormal bird).



while still on the nest; the primary role of the adults during the later stages of the nesting cycle is to bring food to the eyrie (Herrick, *Auk*, **41**: 418-419, 1924). However, Herrick later notes (*The American Eagle*, New York, Appleton-Century, pp. 129, 170, 1934) that adults occasionally continue direct bill-to-bill feeding of the young after the young are able to feed on their own. Thus an immature eagle could be fed entirely in this manner until it leaves the adults. Neither Knowles nor I observed the eaglet feeding while it was on the nest, and Knowles did not note whether bill-to-bill feeding occurred following fledging.—James W. Grier, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc. 53706.

Praying Mantis Feeds on Nettle Brown Creeper.—On 12 October 1967, while participating with Operation Recovery at Island Beach, New Jersey, I was surprised to find a mantis, presumably *Tenodera sinensis* for it was longer than three inches, feeding on a Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*). The creeper was caught in the net panel. The mantis had reached through the net mesh and firmly grasped the creeper who remained strangely motionless while the mantis fed on its right wing. The ulna was partially exposed and some flesh had been removed although there was very little bleeding along the approximately inch-long opening on the outer side of the wing. The mantis readily released the creeper and walked slowly across the net with unimpeded gait.

The creeper was banded (116-36932) and released at 1300 hours. The blood had clotted and upon release the creeper flew well, its flight seemingly unimpaired. This is the only report I have been able to find of a mantis actually feeding on a living bird, although the literature abounds with references to birds feeding on mantids. However, Ashley B. Gurney (Annual Report, Smithsonian Institution, 1950; 339-362) reports: "instances of small birds, lizards, or mice being eaten by mantids have been reported, but they are rare and in some cases the result of incorrect observations", p. 342.—Kenneth W. Prescott, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

Some alcid leg sizes and band sizes.—Many data on leg sizes and band sizes have been tabulated by Bergstrom (*Bird-Banding*, **25**: 58-59, 1954), Blake (*Bird-Banding*, **25**: 11-16, 1954; **27**: 76-82, 1956; and **29**: 90-98, 1958) and Woodford and Lovesy (*Bird-Banding*, **30**: 121, 1959). The measurements which appear in Table 1 were obtained while I was engaged in a comparative breeding biology study of the plankton-feeding alcids on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, in 1966 and 1967. These data represent information on species not covered by the above authors and the band sizes of the auklets are not given in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service list (Form BBM-D-1440) of recommended band sizes.

TABLE 1. SOME ALCID LEG SIZES AND BAND SIZES

Species	Sample Size	Aver. Greater Diameter	Aver. Lesser Diameter	Band Size
<i>Uria aalge</i>	2	10.1	5.1	7A
<i>Uria lomvia</i>	9	9.6	4.7	7A
<i>Plautus alle</i>	1	4.4	2.9	3
<i>Cepphus columba</i>	9	7.7	3.6	6
<i>Cychnorhynchus psittacula</i>	11	6.5	3.4	5
<i>Aethia cristatella</i>	12	6.8	3.2	5
<i>Aethia pusilla</i>	12	4.3	2.1	3
<i>Fratercula corniculata</i>	10	8.4	5.0	6
<i>Lunda cirrhata</i>	5	9.3	5.6	7A

The measurements were made with a "Blake" gauge and the recommended band sizes follow Table 1 in Blake (*Bird-Banding*, **25**: 11-16, 1954). The birds measured were adults and the sexes were treated together.—Spencer G. Sealy, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, British Columbia.