

Seven birds were symmetrically replacing remiges. In numbers 400, 492, and 493 the relative growth of the new primaries indicates that their loss and replacement proceeded centrifugally. Other captured juveniles either were not molting (eight birds) or were replacing only coverts and feathers of tracts other than the alar tract (five birds).

These observations demonstrate that at least some individuals renew flight feathers during the postjuvinal molt. It is possible, of course, that geographical, age, or individual differences occur with respect to completeness of molt and that not all flight feathers are replaced even in birds having a "complete" molt. For example, Scott (Bird-Banding, **38**: 37-51, 1967) found that only those juvenile Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*) that hatch early in the breeding season have a complete molt, and Foster (*Condor*, **69**: 169-200, 1967) concluded that only certain flight feathers are replaced in some juvenile Orange-crowned Warblers (*Vermivora celata*). These problems can be resolved only after larger numbers of molting juvenile white-eyes have been examined.

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**Some encounters between birds and pelecypods.**—It is doubtful that bivalves are significant agents of bird mortality, but the following three observations in New York indicate that littoral birds occasionally have unfortunate encounters with these animals.

In the salt marsh at Fox Point, Nassau County in June 1954, I flushed a Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) from a slough bank, and as the bird flew higher, I noticed one of its legs hanging vertically. A medium-sized clam was attached to one of the toes, weighting the whole leg down. The heron flew off low over the marsh and landed about 70 m away.

Frank Enders and I found a drowned Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) near Oak Beach, Suffolk County in July 1967. Its bill tip was gripped tightly by the shell of a *Venus mercenaria* (the clam measured 6 x 8 cm). Apparently, the tern had been swimming in the shallow water and had probed at the fluttering mantle of the clam, whereupon the clam shut, holding the bird down until it drowned. The tern was about three weeks old.

In the Oak Beach salt marsh in October 1967, I flushed an American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Like the Green Heron, its leg was weighted down by a mollusc, in this case a large mussel, probably *Modiolus demissus*. The bittern flew easily with its burden, and landed about 100 m away.

There are numerous reports of oystercatchers, knots, and other shorebirds being trapped by molluscs (see, for example, *BTO News*, No. 48: 7, 1971). These incidents usually involve a bird being caught by its mandibles, presumably as it fed. It is probably more unusual for a bird to be trapped by its feet as it steps on a mollusc. Birds that frequent mussel beds are more likely prone to entrapment and death by drowning, particularly in view of the fact that mussels are attached to the substrate by their tough byssal threads. Larger birds conceivably could free themselves or pull the mussel from its attachment, but smaller birds would be trapped. Birds that drown in this manner would seldom be found, and the evidence of such mortality would soon be erased as the mollusc released its hold at high tide.—WILLIAM POST, *Research Division, North Carolina Department of Mental Health, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611*. Received 20 November 1972, accepted 28 November 1972.