

GENERAL NOTES

Brown-headed Cowbird fledged in Barn Swallow nest.—On 28 June 1960, I found a nest of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) near Berkley, Oakland County, Michigan, under a concrete bridge about 6 feet above the water. The nest was adherent to the vertical face of the concrete, within 2 or 3 inches of the connecting horizontal floor of the bridge and 7 feet back from the direct sunlight. The nest contained 2 young Barn Swallows, about 7 or 8 days old, and 1 cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) of about the same age. The cowbird appeared to be nearly ready to fledge and was much more alert than the two young swallows. It was being fed by both host adults. All three young were banded. No further observations were made.

In a search of the literature, I have found no documented record of parasitic young being found in the nest of this swallow. Friedmann (1963. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 233:59–60) lists five instances of cowbird eggs in the nests of barn swallows.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 14 October 1963.*

The effects of probable frostbite on the feet of Mourning Doves wintering in southern Michigan.—For several years, in trapping and later in netting Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) for banding, I have been aware of quite pronounced foot defects in many individual birds. In some cases one or two toes on each foot have lacked toenails; in others all toenails were missing; in still others the toes were abbreviated to at least the second joint.

It is a well-known fact that the feet and legs of Mourning Doves are more fleshy and hence more vulnerable to the severities of northern winters than are those of any other species of bird normally wintering in the latitude of southern Michigan. I believe that the foot defects observed are the result of frostbite. This conclusion has been reinforced during the last two winters (1961–62 and 1962–63) when there was more than the usual amount of subzero temperatures. I believe that an individual surviving two or more severe winters may lose all of its toes (Fig. 1) until only stubs remain and that an

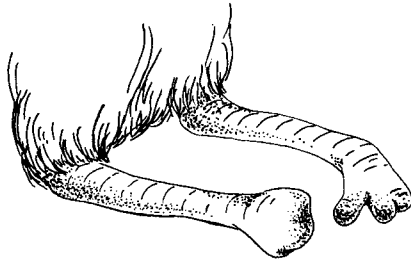


FIG. 1. Drawn from life by Betty Odle, 12 July 1963, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

individual surviving perhaps only one winter shows the effects of frostbite more or less as shown in Fig. 2. These figures were drawn by Betty Odle from the feet of two living birds netted and banded on 12 July 1963 and 17 August 1963, respectively. Both birds appeared to be in good health and both had apparently adapted to their defects, although it is hard to see how the bird shown in Fig. 1 could have perched or walked in a normal fashion. Mourning Doves are known to roost in the fall and winter in thick groves of

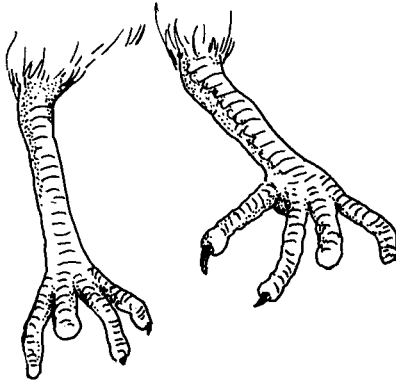


FIG. 2. Drawn from life by Betty Odle, 17 August 1963, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

conifers, so it is conceivable that perching could have been managed quite well in these overlapping branches, which would easily support the body of the bird.

A comparable case in a mammal is that of the Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) which extended its range into Michigan about 1900. This was around the time that Mourning Doves began to be noticed wintering here in any numbers. Most mammalogists recognize that the almost hairless tail and ears of the opossum frequently suffer severe frostbite and abbreviation after a hard winter in southern Michigan.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 14 October 1963.*

Nesting association of Pileated Woodpecker and Yellow-shafted Flicker in a utility pole.—An interesting example of interspecific tolerance was exemplified by the nesting in close proximity of a pair of Yellow-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) and Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*) in a utility pole. This 52-foot-high, creosote-treated, western red cedar utility pole structure was one of a pair erected in 1947 on the Pennsylvania Electric Company power line, 4½ miles west of Ridgway and ½ mile north of the Clarion River, Elk County, Pennsylvania. The flicker nest, containing 5 eggs, was located at a height of 28 feet above the ground. On 5 May, 1962 at 12:00 M, 2 flickers were observed perched on the cross arm of the pole, pecking and calling. An incubating Pileated Woodpecker on the nest in this pole did not react to this flicker disturbance. An adult flicker was observed leaving the hole at 4:30 PM on 29 May 1962 as the pole was approached prior to examination of the nest contents.

The pileated nest on 9 June 1962 contained three nestlings (2 females and 1 male) estimated to be 12 days of age based on Hoyt's (1944. *Auk*, 61:376-384) age classification. This nest was located 4 feet above the flicker nest hole at 32 feet on the same side of the pole. Both nest entrances faced upslope in a northerly direction.

Kilham (1959. *Condor*, 61:377-387) has observed intraspecific territorial defense by Pileated Woodpeckers. Hoyt (1957. *Ecology*, 38:246-256) reported strife between a nesting pileated and a flicker. However Hoyt (1948. *Auk*, 65:188-196) observed flicker and pileated nests near Ithaca in 1939 on opposite sides of the same nesting stump. No territorial defense or aggressive behavior was observed between a pair of nesting flickers and Pileated Woodpeckers in this study.—SANFORD D. SCHEMNTZ, *School of Forestry, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania (now at School of Forestry, University of Maine, Orono, Maine), 8 August 1963.*