



FIG. 1. Total albino Least Auklet chick, 20 August 1967, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.

Sage (Brit. Birds, 55:201, 1962; Brit. Birds, 56:409, 1963) discussed melanism and its occurrence in British birds but did not record it in the Alcidae. Storer (op. cit.) mentioned three examples of melanism in *U. aalge* and Winge (Grønlands Fugle, 1898) and Tuck (op. cit.) reported several melanistic individuals of *U. lomvia*.

On 11 June 1967 I saw one apparently total melanistic *U. lomvia* flying in a flock of about 20 at sea near the Northwest Cape of the island.

This work was supported by a National Research Council of Canada grant to M. D. F. Udvardy.—SPENCER G. SEALY, *Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, British Columbia. (Present address: Department of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104). 3 March 1968.*

Flicker incubates pink plastic balls, on a lawn, for five weeks.—The following incident, brought to my attention by Mrs. Howard Vivyan of the Kirkland Bird Club in Clinton, New York, is an interesting addition to our knowledge of the sometimes unusual breeding behavior of the Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). The bizarre courtship antics of the species are well-known to all observers. In the literature one may find examples of the odd places this species has been known to nest—haystacks, rotten stumps, old barrels and very occasionally on the ground. And the flicker is known to be an indeterminate layer and will continue to lay eggs if they are removed as soon as laid (Welty, *The life of birds*, W. B. Saunders Co., 1962, p. 295).

On 11 June 1967, Mrs. F. C. Lloyd, who lives three miles northeast of Clinton, near a wooded pond and open fields, found an egg on her front lawn lying next to a pale pink plastic ball, of the type that has a small protruding knob to snap into another ball, with a circumference of about four inches. On the 12th, another egg was laid and on the 13th a female flicker was discovered sitting on the eggs and pink ball. In all four eggs were laid; two were broken and then the remaining two were removed to the house (where an unsuccessful attempt was made in the next two weeks to hatch them in an improvised incubator). A second plastic ball was placed by the Lloyds on the lawn beside the first. At intervals, on the 16th–18th, the flicker was seen on the balls, so on

the 20th Mrs. Lloyd put a small box on the ground nearby, hoping the bird would nest in that. When it was ignored, she fashioned a simple "grass nest" and placed the plastic balls in it. On the 22nd, she found the flicker sitting on the balls, outside the grass nest. Several more attempts were made to induce the bird to use the grass nest, but it always removed the balls to the ground nearby and when the balls were next placed in a small hole dug in the ground, they were also removed from it. On the 25th it was noted that the male was taking his turn at incubating. He at first seemed content to sit on the hole containing the balls, but in a little while, "kicked" them out, and sat on them on the bare ground. From 26 June through 5 July both birds took turns sitting. When not disturbed, the incubating birds remained one-half to three-quarters of an hour on the eggs, and there was always a bird on the nest as dusk fell. The male returned to the nest more rapidly than the female after being driven off. The last date the bird incubated was 11 July.

The "nest" was located on the ground near a tree which was situated halfway between the house and the road, or 18 feet from each. Actual distance of the nest from the tree varied from two feet to about 15 feet, as the balls were moved around and pushed closer to the road. Attempts to move the balls closer to the house, away from the road, only resulted in the birds' moving them back by pushing with the beak.—SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850, 22 March 1968.*

Hooded Warbler in Trinidad, West Indies.—On 17 December 1967, I saw a male Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) at Waller Field on the island of Trinidad, West Indies. The bird was in brilliant adult plumage, a phenomenon that is apparently normal for this species during the nonbreeding months of the year according to Dwight in Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 203:618–619, 1953)

I studied the Trinidad bird at the closest focal range of 7×50 binoculars for fifteen minutes. It was undoubtedly an adult male, for yellow edgings of black portions of the plumage were absent. The bird was in a moist thicket in company with another North American migrant, a Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) as well as a female Black-and-white Manakin (*Manacus manacus*). Although I returned to the same thicket periodically through the remainder of December and in January, I did not see the Hooded Warbler again.

Bond (Birds of the West Indies, 1960) calls the Hooded Warbler a rare transient in the West Indies, where it has been recorded as far south in the Lesser Antilles as Martinique. The American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds (1957) gives its winter range as "rarely to Central Panamá (Canal Zone)." Apparently the species has never been recorded on the continent of South America.

The present record therefore represents a considerable extension of the Hooded Warbler's range and is tantamount to a South American occurrence since Trinidad is within sight of Venezuela. On the other hand the advent of this bird on the island must be considered unusual, rather than the late recognition of a previously overlooked but regular migrant, for a species as unmistakable as this one would not have escaped the notice of a succession of ornithologists who have been collecting and observing birds in Trinidad for over a century. Several unmistakable species known to winter in Venezuela (e.g., Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) may have eluded detection in Trinidad by bird watchers, but the Hooded Warbler is probably not one of these since its usual winter range lies considerably to the north and west.—C. BROOKE WORTH, *R. D. Delmont, N.J. 08314, 25 March 1968.*