

Dr. Goss writes:

"Your query regarding why birds occasionally suddenly die in one's hands is difficult to answer. All of us that handle birds have had it happen, so much so that when about to pick up a privately owned bird we always caution the owner that the results may be disastrous. The term "shock" covers a multitude of sins and embodies complex physiological changes. However, in these cases, I feel it is the proper word to use. Very recently we had a pigeon die while we were examining it. This is the first time we have ever had such an experience with a pigeon. I would not normally expect it to occur with a pigeon but it did. Apparently, certain birds are of a nervous temperament that will not permit them to withstand handling."

It has always been my hope that some time examination of a bird which has died under such circumstances will disclose physical reactions showing what constitutes the "shock".

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