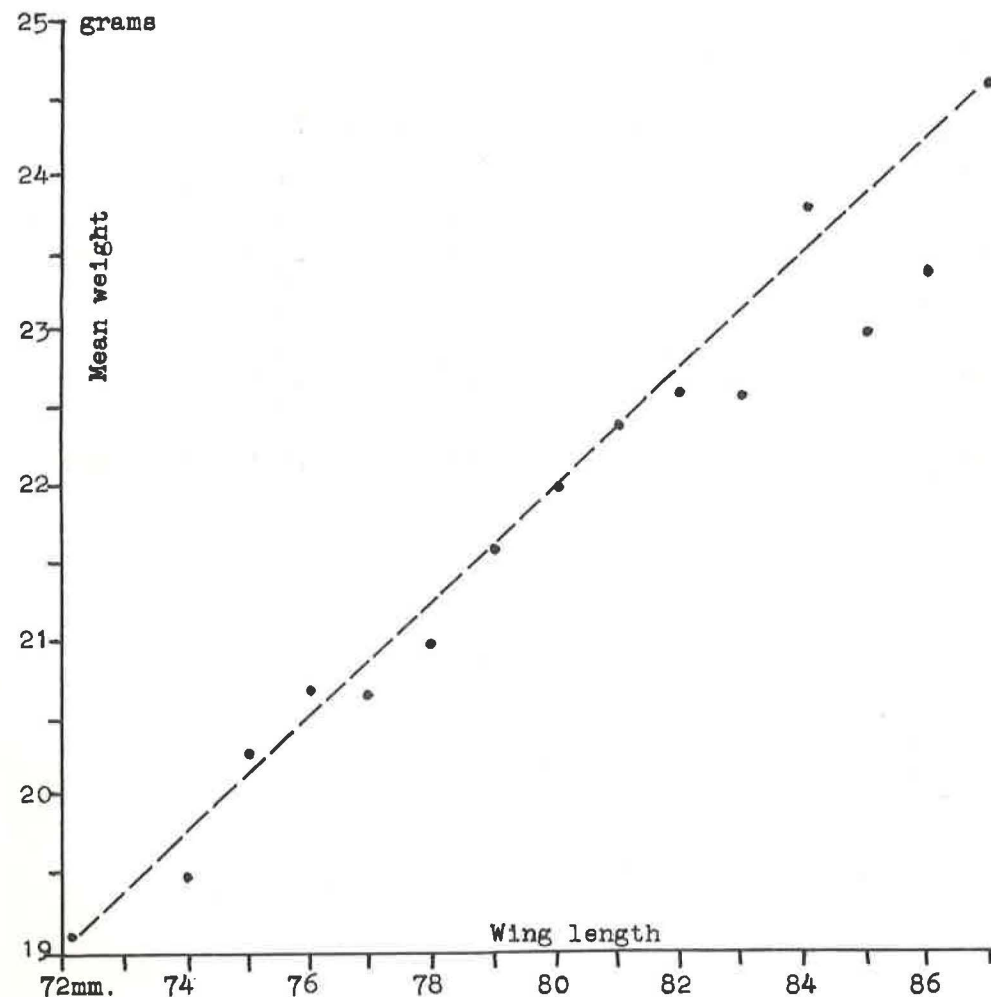


FIGURE 2. Mean weight and wing length of Tufted Titmice.



--Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector, Pa. 15677

## A GUIDE FOR FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF IMMATURE HERONS, EGRETS AND IBIS FOR BANDERS

By John C. Miller

Here is some information that might be of help to new and old banders who handle young Herons and Egrets. Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*): The young of this species can be told from the Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula thula*) by the dark blue outer primaries in the wings. These dark marks can be seen in the young bird's quills if the feathers are not yet out on the wings. You can tell by bill and leg color but only in the much older birds. The legs are greenish and the feet the same color.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): The young of this species can be told from the rest of the egrets and herons by the black colored bill with a gold tip on the upper mandible, dark skin color and black legs. The eye color is hazle. They also have shorter legs than the rest of the herons and egrets.

Snowy Egret: The young of the Snowy can be told from the Little Blue Heron by the all-white primaries in the wings, also, the very young birds will not have a dark area in the quills of the wings. This is the easiest way to tell them apart. The legs and feet are good marks to use also. The feet are yellow or gold and the legs are black.

Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*): The young of this bird are easy to tell apart at any banding age because they look like the adult bird-white on the belly and white going up the breast and neck and reddish around the head, neck and back. They also have dark-blue feathers in the wings with white wing coverts.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): The young Black-crowned can be told from the young Yellow-crowned (*Nyctanassa violacea*) by the eye color, wings, back and head color. The eye color is yellow and the wings are brown. The back is brown and the head color is brown.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: The young Yellow-crowned can be told from the young Black-crowned by the eye color, wing color, the head and back color. The eye of this bird is orange or reddish all the time. The wings, head and back color are dark greyish purple.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): The young Glossy Ibis is an all dark bird with black feet. It also had a small curved bill which has a black ring around it, much like a Pied-billed Grebe. This ring will leave the young bird within a few weeks after hatching. The wings of the young bird are greenish black.  
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