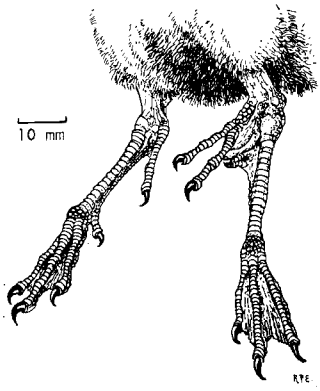

Figure 1. Abnormal legs of young Sooty Tern.

Extra toes on a Sooty Tern Chick.—While banding young Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*) on Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida 11 June 1967 we picked up a chick about 18 days old with an extra toe projecting from the head of the right tarsometarsus and two extra toes and a partial web from the left, as shown in Figure 1. The extra right toe measures 15 mm and the larger of the two left toes measures 16 mm as against 22 mm for the normal middle toes on both feet. Dissection showed muscles doubled on the tibiotarsus; no other obvious internal abnormalities. This is the first such abnormality we have noted in handling more than 125,000 Sooty Tern chicks over the past eight seasons. Figure 1 was drawn from the specimen in the University of Florida Collections by Pat Elliott of the Florida State Museum staff.—Oliver L. Austin, Jr., *Florida State Museum, Gainesville, Florida 32601*

Red Crossbill breeding in Minnesota.—On 25 February 1967 a pair of Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) appeared on the Moorhead State College campus. The birds subsequently built a nest in a white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and began to incubate three eggs approximately 15 March. The nest site was in an area of intense human activity (several hundred students passed daily within 50 feet of the nest) which had no observable effect on the birds. The female apparently did all the incubating, and on several occasions was seen being fed in the nest by the male. The eggs hatched about 1 April. Both parents fed the young a diet consisting largely of sunflower seeds, evidently gleaned from local feeders. The young left the nest on 19 April.

This species is well-known for its erratic breeding schedule, often nesting during the relatively adverse weather conditions of late winter or early spring (Bent, U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 237: 500–512, 1968). Mean ambient temperature to the nearest degree (U. S. Weather Bureau, Fargo, North Dakota) was 19°F during nest-building and laying, 34°F during incubation, and 39°F during the brood period. The average minimum daily temperature during the study period was 21°F, with an extreme of −15°F during nest-building. The relationship of this nesting to photoperiod is of interest. Although one cannot be certain, it seems unlikely that these birds had been influenced by daylength greatly in excess of that characteristic of this latitude (46° 54′ N). During the month preceding egg-laying, photoperiod increased from about 11 hours to 12 hours daily. Since Tordoff and Dawson (Condor, 67: 416–422, 1965)