

it is notable that they differ in at least degree in more characters (6) than they agree in (2, and possibly 4). In view of the fact that hybrids between the two widgeons are both readily produced in captivity and are fertile (Gray, *Bird hybrids*, Edinburgh, Commonwealth Agr. Bureaux, 1958), it would be of interest to study the morphological characteristics of hybrids of known ancestry. Perhaps such studies might yield some clues as to the ancestry of these two hybrids.—JOHN P. HUBBARD, *Rockbridge Alum Springs and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Route 2, Goshen, Virginia 24439. Present address: Delaware Museum of Natural History, Greenville, Delaware 19807. Accepted 24 Aug. 70.*

Great White Heron captures and eats Black-necked Stilt.—An Coot Bay Pond, Everglades National Park, Florida, about midday on 7 December 1969, we watched two Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) feeding along the edge of the pond next to the road with herons of several species. One of the stilts passed under overhanging foliage of red mangrove close to a Great White Heron (*Ardea occidentalis*). The heron, with a quick stab, seized the stilt by the upper part of one leg. We tried to frighten the heron, only a short distance away, into releasing the stilt, but it took wing and, with the struggling and fluttering stilt dangling from its bill, flew easily to the far side of the pond. The stilt, apparently not yet badly hurt, continued to struggle and to call loudly.

The heron maintained its hold upon the stilt's leg for about 10 minutes, repositioning its grasp several times. For a brief moment it appeared to lose its grip entirely, but the stilt, evidently now much weakened, did not escape. The heron then extended its grip to a portion of the rump, achieving a more secure grasp. During the next 10 minutes, the heron shifted the stilt about, grasping it by the main body. The stilt soon stopped struggling and seemed dead. In the next few minutes the heron swallowed the head, neck, and anterior portion of the body while the wings, tail and legs still dangled from its mandibles. The heron lowered its head and appeared to wet the stilt in the water. At this point, unfortunately, we had to leave and we did not see the heron swallow the rest of the stilt.

Hérons apparently capture and eat birds not uncommonly. Audubon (Ornithol. Biogr., 3, 1835) described such activities by captive Great White Herons and also (op. cit.) noted that the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) feeds upon marsh-hens, rails, and other birds.—CLARK S. OLSON, *Biology Department, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124* and H. MCCLURE JOHNSON, *National Hurricane Center, U.S. Weather Bureau, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124. Accepted 31 Aug. 70.*

***Collyriclum faba*: a new host and distributional record from California.**—Four individuals of colonies of Cliff Swallows, *Petrochelidon p. pyrrhonota*, banded in California were found to harbor the trematode *Collyriclum faba*. This constitutes both a new host and a new distributional record, and is only the third report of this parasite from birds from the western United States.

In the present study 823 individual Cliff Swallows were banded (February–June 1967) at seven colonies near Folsom, El Dorado County, California. Of these, 377 individuals were banded in one colony, of which 210 individuals were carefully checked for fat, molt, brood patch, and cloacal conditions. Four adult females in breeding condition were found to harbor *C. faba*. The first of these infected birds was taken on 18 June 1967. It had one nodule near its cloaca containing two flukes enclosed in a subcutaneous cyst. A second bird captured 24 June 1967 had four similar