descending sequence from the 1st (innermost) to the 10th (outermost). Of the 12 adults 4 are in active molt and show this normal order, but 2 others show an irregular sequence. They are: CM 87629, ♀, Brazil, Rio Purús, Hyutanahan, 20 January 1922. Primaries: Right, 1 and 2 fresh, 3 to 8 worn, 9 4/5 grown, 10 worn; left, 1 to 3 fresh, 4 4/5 grown, 5–8 worn, 9 4/5 grown, 10 worn. FMNH 286608, ♂, Peru, Yarinacocha, 16 September 1969. Primaries: Right, 4, 5, and 9 very fresh, rest slight wear; left, 1, 4, and 5 very fresh, rest slight wear.

The fact that these irregularities are more or less symmetrical in both specimens makes it improbable that they are due to the adventitious loss and replacement of feathers. They may be related to age, that is the first replacement of the primaries may be irregular, but beyond the postjuvenal molt there is no way to age specimens precisely by external characters.

Feduccia (ibid., p. 62) states that his specimen of *Metopothrix* had the tips of the rectrices without barbs. This is not true of the freshly grown rectrices in either young or adults, which are barbed to the tip in all specimens. The normal rectrices vary from rounded to somewhat pointed, and with wear might have a bare spine at the tip; this is not evident in any of the available specimens. While many species of Synallaxinae have the tips of the rectrices bare, hence the common name of spinetail, this is a variable character, and many species within *Synallaxis* itself have the tail feathers normally rounded.

Peter Hocking collected the Yarinacocha specimens, and as nothing has been recorded of *Metopothrix* in life, his field notes are of interest: "These birds like insects, though they seem to be tanagers. They were feeding on small black ants on the tips of Mango branches when I collected them. In other habits they are also similar to *Thlypopsis sordida*." Hocking also says (pers. comm.) that there are several family groups in the area of Yarinacocha in September of 1969, but he has not seen them there at any other time. Their twittering calls and feeding habits are very much like *Thlypopsis sordida*, which they also resemble closely in color.

There appears to be some geographical variation in both color and size within the species. Peruvian birds have the throat and forehead palest yellow, while those from São Paulo de Olivença on the upper Solimões have them almost orange; Colombian and Rio Purús birds are intermediate in this respect. The Rio Purús specimens seem smaller than those from the remainder of the range; wing lengths are ♂ 54, ♀ 55, compared to 6 ♂ ♂ 58–60, 4 ♀ ♀ 54–57. Possibly the difference is due to missexing of the Rio Purús male. I thank Dr. Parkes for bringing to my attention the additional specimens of *Metopothrix* and suggesting the possibility of geographical variation.

Material examined.—FMNH: Peru, Yarinacocha—2 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 juv. ♂; CM: Brazil, Rio Purús, Hyutanahan—1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 im. ♂; Rio Solimões, São Paulo de Olivença—1 ♂, 1 ♀; ANS: Colombia, Putumayo, Umbria—2 ♀, 1 juv. ♂, 3 unsexed; Ecuador, Alto Napo, La Concepcion—1 ♂.—MELVIN A. TRAYLOR, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois 60605.* Accepted 25 Jun. 71.

A case of interspecific homosexuality in geese.—Collias and Jahn (Auk, 76: 478, 1959) reported Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) that did not pair normally often formed unisexual pairs; this appeared true for both males and females. An unusual variation of homosexual pairing occurred during the 1968 breeding season at Carver Park, Minnesota, where the Hennepin County Park Reserve District maintains a breeding population of Giant Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis maxima*). Here a pair bond was formed between a male Canada Goose and a male Snow Goose (*Chen hyper-*

borea). Both birds wore numbered neck collars, and the sex of each had been determined during banding. The Canada Goose seemed to assume the "female" role, in that he followed the Snow Goose and roosted close to him at night. This is especially interesting because the Canada Goose was much larger than the Snow Goose. Jenkins (Auk, 61: 30, 1944) found that Snow Geese are much more aggressive than Canada Geese when defending territory; this factor may explain the Snow Goose's assumption of the male role, for he was definitely the more aggressive of the two. When the Snow Goose was banded in March, his much enlarged penis indicated a strong endocrine stimulation.

During pair formation the Snow Goose constantly kept the Canada Goose separated from the other Canadas. After several days the Canada Goose accepted the Snow Goose, and the pair was formed. I saw no attempt to copulate or build a nest. The pair stayed together from the middle of March until early May when the Snow Goose was found dead of unknown causes.—EDWARD E. STARKEY, *Department of Zoology, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99163.* Accepted 15 Jun. 71.

Long-billed Curlew with supernumerary hallux.—Among Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) chicks obtained from a nest west of Brigham City, Utah, on 24 May 1966 and hand-reared, was a bird with a supernumerary digit attached to the medial aspect of the left hallux (Toe I). The extra toe, arose at the base of the hallux; it measured 4.5 mm with claw, the hallux was 7.5 mm with claw (Figure 1). The bird was made into a study skin and deposited in the vertebrate collection of the Zoology Department, Utah State University, Logan, Utah. This was the first congenital deformity I have observed in the examination of over 300 curlew specimens, although similar defects have been reported by Fogarty (Auk, 86: 132, 1969) in Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago*) and by von Frisch (Z. Tierpsychol., 16: 548, 1959) in several shorebird species.

I wish to thank Jean Forsythe for preparation of the figure and James L. Woodson for assistance in gathering the data. This observation was made while I was an NDEA Predoctoral Fellow at Utah State University.—DENNIS M. FORSYTHE, *Department of Biology, The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina 29409.* Accepted 28 Jul. 71.

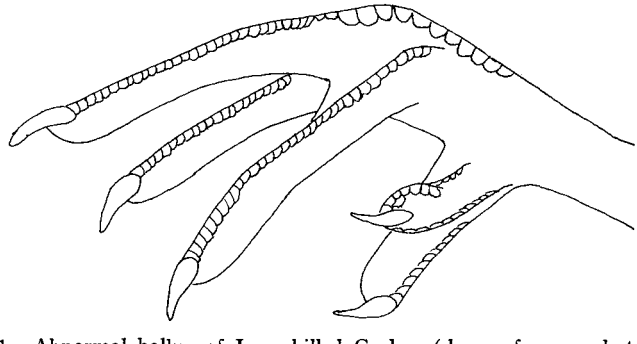

Figure 1. Abnormal hallux of Long-billed Curlew (drawn from a photograph).