other measurements are within the normal range of the species on Christmas Island (Ashmole and Ashmole 1967, Yale Mus. Bull. No. 24). The bill, legs, feet, and nails appear normal, and my trouble catching him suggested his eyesight and leg musculature were normally developed, and I noted no tremors or instability.

Down feathers appear to be of normal length but are sparsely distributed. Those present are concentrated on the trailing edge of the wings, around the uropygeal gland, and in the scapular region. The primary, secondary, rectrix, and primary and secondary greater covert feathers are less than 5 mm long and appear to have stopped growing at that stage, rather than having been lost. This specimen is strikingly similar to the *Sterna dougallii* and *S. hirundo* shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 7 by Hays and Risebrough (op. cit.)

Chemical analyses of this individual were not performed. Christmas Island was occupied by large numbers of British and American military and civilian personnel during World War II and nuclear bombs were tested there in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Thus the island was subjected to both chemical contamination and nuclear irradiation. Whether this bird's lack of feathers was caused by man's pollution or is a genetic or developmental aberration remains moot. Its occurrence in another Sterninae genus is most interesting.

On Christmas Island in 1967 I handled approximately 1000 nestling *Anous stolidus*. In previous years N. P. Ashmole and personnel of the Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program collectively examined approximately 2000 individuals on the island; POBSP personnel banded 27,000 noddies on various other islands in the central Pacific. This is the only abnormal noddy reported.

Michael Gochfeld, James J. Dinsmore, Helen Hays, and O. L. Austin, Jr. improved the manuscript with their comments. Roger B. Clapp provided data on POBSP banding. My thanks to these persons and to R. L. Pyle for allowing my studies on Christmas Island. This is paper No. 151 of the Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program, Smithsonian Institution.—RALPH W. SCHREIBER, *Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620.* Accepted 1 Mar. 74.

***Agapornis fischeri* Reichenow in Kenya?**—When I wrote my note on the presence of escaped cage birds now living a feral existence and breeding (1969), I was unaware of the note by Zimmerman (1967) in which he reports "several recently secured bird specimens represent additions to the known avifauna of Kenya." Included was a specimen of *Agapornis fischeri* taken near Isiolo in Kenya's Northern Frontier District, north of Mount Kenia, and said to be one of 8 or 10 birds in "lush acacia woodland."

Moreau (1948) clearly shows the natural distribution of *A. fischeri* and *A. personata*, which is limited, and the two species do not overlap. They range into the Northern Province of Tanzania but do not cross into Kenya. What factors regulate or inhibit the spread of these birds has not been established. Many escapes of birds kept at Namanga, on the border, have apparently not been able to establish themselves in that environment.

Reports of escapes and feral populations are now available (Forbes-Watson 1972) and for coastal Kenya (Mann and Britton 1972). Cage birds have been kept and specimens doubtless have escaped from many aviaries. Live collections were kept at Nanyuki and Meru not far distant from Isiolo. I have lost birds from Nairobi. *A. personata* was seen recently at Mwea-Tebere, western Kenya-

Aberdares. Thousands of *Agapornis* are held in transit in Nairobi each year for the export market, and the dealers admit loss by escapes.

I feel it is hardly possible that such a conspicuous species as *A. fischeri* could have been overlooked so many years by ornithologists such as J. P. Benson and Col. R. Meinertzhagen, who collected over years in the Meru-Isiolo areas. For the birds to turn up suddenly in a most unlikely environment, having "jumped" some 350 miles across hostile terrain seems hardly credible. Nevertheless it is remarkable that these new feral populations have been able to adapt to a very diverse range of conditions, coastal to Kenya highlands, where hitherto they were unknown. The evidence against the specimen taken in Kenya being a natural wild bird is far too great, and it is my contention that the specimen from Isiolo does not constitute "an addition to the avifauna of Kenya" and the record cannot stand or be accepted.

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Orientation of entrances to woodpecker nest cavities.—Several students have tried to determine the factors that influence the orientation of entrances to woodpecker nest cavities. Reller (1972) in Illinois found that most nest entrances of the Red-headed (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and Red-bellied (*Centurus carolinus*) Woodpeckers faced southwesterly. She suggested that this orientation increased both ventilation by the wind and warming by the sun, possibly easing the adults' incubation duties during cool weather.

Bent (1939) gave detailed measurements of a Hairy Woodpecker's (*Dendrocopos villosus*) nest in a leaning tree with the nest opening on the underside of the trunk. Bent stated that Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) nest entrances usually faced east or south, and suggested that the wood quality and slope of the trunk probably had an additional effect on orientation. Kilham (1971) reported that the search image of Hairy Woodpeckers for possible nest sites was the underside of curved limbs and that cavities excavated at these sites were more easily defended.

During 1972 and 1973 I located 78 nest trees of the Red-headed, Red-bellied, Hairy, Pileated, and Downy (*Dendrocopos pubescens*) Woodpeckers and Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) within a 40-mile radius of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia. I measured nest trees to determine whether the nest openings pointed above or below the horizontal. None of the measured cavity entrances