

makes use of soft tissue paper for wrapping about each skin. The value of this soft paper lies not only in keeping skins from direct contact with cotton padding, but in using pieces large enough to fold or twist loosely over the tips of bills and to fold over beyond the ends of the tails, thus acting as a buffer against jarring and possible breakage. Wrapped specimens may be slightly staggered by placing alternate specimens head end next to tail end, and placing others in resulting hollows, thereby cutting down the size necessary for the container. A third method gaining in favor is the use of newspaper or magazine paper rolls for wrapping skins. Such wrapping, if properly done, has several points of merit. By *properly done* is meant that the papers used must be long enough to extend beyond the ends of bills, tails and feet, as well as being wide enough to roll completely or twice around the birds' bodies. A small wad of cotton slipped into each end of the open roll gives extra protection against jarring or slipping of skins during transit. Other points in favor of this method are that the paper containers are firm enough to keep from over-pressure of skin upon skin, and that less cotton padding is required—only about one inch thickness against the box itself being needed.

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology is at present using a variation of this paper-roll method which seems well adapted to safety of specimens in transit. Unprinted newspaper, obtainable in rolls, is quality of paper used. A piece is cut sufficiently large to completely roll about the bird's body, with a one-half overlap, and with additional length of about one and one-half inches at each end. The

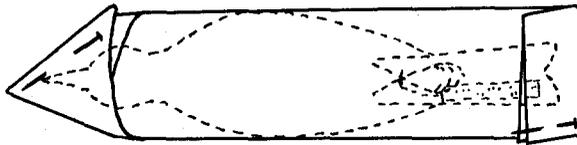


Fig. 18. Illustrating a method of wrapping a bird skin in thin paper for packing.

bird is laid on its back in proper position on the paper; then, holding the edge of the paper firmly over the primaries at the bend of the wing, or at the largest diameter of the body, the paper is rolled around the skin so that its extra width lies across the belly. If the bird is large or much rounded over the breast the paper is fastened here with a pin; otherwise it may be *held* in place until the entire wrapping is completed. The next step is to observe where the tip of the tail lies and to fold over and pin the end of the paper. Finally, observing the position of bill tip, the paper is folded over corner-wise, first from one side, then from the opposite side, starting in the head region; the folds are bowed up and pinned (fig. 18), thus making a pointed pocket of extra thickness of paper in which head and bill are protected from injury. With insertion of bits of cotton to fill gaps and hollows, and with thin sheets of cotton between rows, specimens wrapped in this manner can be closely packed without fear of distortion and injury due to rough handling to which containers may be subjected during shipment. —MARGARET W. WYTHE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, November 5, 1937.*

Dove Dies of Heart Ailment.—Early in September a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) was brought to us. It had been found, helpless, in the road and was thought to have a broken wing. Upon examination I could find no break nor evidence of there having been one from which the bird might be recovering. Non-the-less the right wing seemed to be drawing upward and the bird was of under-size for that time of the year. It could raise itself but a few inches off the ground. Otherwise it appeared healthy and normal. We placed it on a screened porch where it could move about at will. It took food and water and was unconcerned over confinement or our presence.

On the fourth day the bird was more active than usual. Then in mid-afternoon it suddenly pitched forward and blood spurted from its mouth. It died instantly. Three hours later I took the body to the doctor in a nearby CCC Camp. He said there were no broken bones nor were any out of joint. He thought there must have been some organic disorder that had caused the "drawing" and partial paralysis. While working the wings, blood poured from the mouth. He then suspected pneumonia. From past experiences with birds so afflicted I was quite sure that malady had not caused the dove's death.

We then performed an autopsy. Surely enough the lungs were healthy; also the liver. But the pericardium was distended with blood; the heart was pulpy. Hence the doctor's diagnosis was: "Death caused by some sort of heart disease."—LILA M. LOFBERG, *Road's End, Kern County, California, November 5, 1937.*