

Thomas S. Roberts reported almost identical flight behavior in the Franklin's Gull (*L. pipixcan*) in Minnesota (in Bent, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 113: 174). The Minnesota flights took place between 9:00 A. M. and 10:00 A. M. on 5 October, and involved several gyrating flocks simultaneously. Otherwise, Roberts's description is similar to those presented here for the Laughing Gull.

I have not been able to locate reports of this flight behavior in other species of *Larus*. It is interesting to note this similarity of behavior in *L. atricilla* and *L. pipixcan*, two species which are considered to be very closely related. I thank B. G. Murray, Jr., for helpful suggestions during the preparation of this note.—Robert C. Frohling, Deerfield, Illinois.

**Twig in Abdomen of a Blackpoll Warbler.**—On 29 September 1965, an unusual Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) was captured and banded at Round Hill, Sudbury, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. The bird was judged to be an adult male by skull ossification and plumage and weighed 11.7 grams, with a wing length (chord) of 75 mm. It appeared normal except for a small twig (1 mm. diameter; 25 mm. long) impaled through the skin of its lower abdomen. While the center of the twig was subcutaneous, both ends protruded above the skin, like a needle stitched through cloth. Although the puncture wounds had healed, the twig was easily removed by clipping off one end close to the body and pulling the other out from under the skin.

The literature contains numerous records of diverse traumata encountered by small birds but this curious form of injury has apparently not been reported. Michener and Michener (*Condor* 38: 102-109. 1936) state that among the 30,000 passerines they examined, injuries of the sides and abdomen were rarely seen, probably because of their usually fatal outcome.—Deborah V. Howard, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773.

**Recovered health of a Screech Owl.**—On 8 February, 1966, I got a phone call from a neighbor who asked if I was interested in a screech owl (*Otus asio*). I retrieved the owl which had been caught in the neighbor's garage. It seemed to be weak although its behaviour was not markedly different from the few screech owls I have handled. The principal difference was that when it closed its claws on my hand, they did not penetrate the flesh.

On close examination of the owl I found a band. Reference to my files indicated that I had caught the same owl in mist nets on 1 October 1957 and again in the bell tower of a nearby building on 8 February, 1958. I had weighed the owl in 1958 and was glad that I had for it gave me some perspective on the state of health of the bird. In 1958 the owl had weighed 170 grams. On the eighth of February it weighed 153.4 grams. I was not sure what had caused the loss of weight. There had been a lot of snow on the ground for the weeks preceding the capture.

I began to force feed the owl with kidney. For five days the owl retained all I fed it and gained about 15 grams. Then it began to reject the food and its weight dropped. I switched its diet to liver. The owl continued to regurgitate the food but began to pick up some of what it threw up, some time later.

After consulting with local veterinarians, I began giving the owl pteramycin. I squirted one gram into the back of the owl's mouth with a hypodermic syringe each morning. I discontinued force feeding and left strips of liver in a dish in the owl's cage.

In the next few days the owl showed a dramatic change. It became lively in the cage, especially at night. Its grip improved until the last three days of its captivity when its claws easily penetrated my skin. It was able to fly very well late in its convalescence (on the first day the bird had lurched off my desk and glided to the floor without any effort to fly).

On 24 February I released the owl. It weighed 193.4 grams.—Peter Rhoades Mott, Middlesex School, Concord, Mass.

**A Method for Trapping Cormorants.**—In 1965, while studying the social behavior of Pelagic Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*), I devised a way to capture these cliff-nesting birds for color-ringing. I used single spring Oneida Victor No. 1 steel traps with plain jaws. The jaws were padded with a one-half-inch-thick wrapping of masking tape to avoid injuring trapped birds. A length of strong cord tied to the spring of each trap was used to anchor the trap to a stone or other heavy or stationary object. One to three traps were set on the edge of the