Stewart (1982) offered several explanations for the movements he noted in Blue Jays. Stewart felt that movement, especially migration, of Blue Jays was influenced by the orientation of mountains and streams. He also concluded that dispersal by jays was a vestigial behavior pattern no longer serving the needs once served. Because individuals in the same area were both sedentary and migratory, he discounted environmental influences as the cause of jay movement.

Until further research is conducted, we will refrain from adding to or commenting on Stewart's (1982) speculations. It is interesting, however, that both species of *Cyanocitta* at least superficially exhibit similar patterns of movement.

Acknowledgments

We thank the Bird Banding Laboratory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for supplying banding data on several occasions: we are especially grateful to M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz. Lori Merkle is thanked for preparing the manuscript. Reviews by Martha H. Balph and L. Richard Mewaldt greatly improved an earlier draft.

Literature Cited

- Bent, A. C. 1946. Life histories of North American jays, crows, and titmice. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 191:1495.
- Goodwin, D. 1976. Crows of the world. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York.
- Grinnell, J., and A. H. Miller. 1944. The distribution of the birds of California. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27.
- Smith, K. G. 1979. Migratorial movements of Blue Jays west of the 100th meridian. North Am. Bird Bander 4:49-52.
- Stewart, P. A. 1982. Migration of the Blue Jays in eastern North America. North Am. Bird Bander 7:107–112.
- Swarth, H. S. 1922. Birds and mammals of the Stikine River region of northern British Columbia and southeastern Alaska. Univ. California Publ. Zool. 24:125– 314.
- Tyler, J. G. 1913. Some birds of the Fresno district, California. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 9.
- Willett, G. 1912. Birds of the Pacific slope of southern California. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 7.
- ¹Department of Forestry and Resource Management, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720.
- ²Sagehen Creek Field Station, University of California, P.O. Box 939, Truckee, California 95734.

An Usual American Kestrel With "Growth" On Toenail

By Karl E. Bartel 2528 W. Collins St. Blue Island. Ill. 60405

While trapping Kestrel's at an active garbage dump, south-east of Chicago, Illinois, on 29, January 1983, I captured an unusual AHY male American Kestrel (Falco sparverius). The bird had an apparent growth on its center toe of the right leg. The growth? was one inch in diameter. It was all black and was almost round.

Upon close examination I could see it was not attached to the flesh, but to the center toe nail only. I assumed it could not be nail growth, so I tried to break it with my finger nails, which was fruitless, because it was too hard. I then got out a large pliers and started to crush it. It took a great amount of pressure, but I finally crushed it. The inside was white so I (assumed?) it must have been plaster of paris, or something of that consistency.

How a thing like that could become attached to a toe nail is uncertain. If the bird picked it up at the dump, it must have been soft enough for the toe nail to embed in it, and promptly the bird could have removed it.

The solution as I see it, the bird was trapped by someone, who then attached this object to the birds toe as a lark, and held it on until it becomes hard? The bird was then released.

Have other hawk banders run into hawks that had an object like this on their toes? There was no hair or feathers within the object, thus it was not a build-up of what the Kestrel had been eating.

Anyway the bird should be happy now with that weight off it's right foot, and the left leg sporting a F & W band #1333–56303.

I planned to record the bird as status (615), but changed that to (300) status, since the bird is now normal.