

feathers retained. Using the characters of the presence of spotted, streaked, or otherwise marked or loose-webbed upper coverts and body feathers and degree of wear of flight feathers, I was able to age correctly all adult (10 male, 19 female) *H. ustulata*, but only 18 of 20 first-year males and 15 of 22 first-year females. Similarly I aged correctly all adult (29 male, 24 female) *H. minima*, but only 13 of 17 first-year males and 25 of 26 first-year females. I repeated these attempts with the same results. Others in the Museum of Zoology had the same experience with this sample. Because of this considerable variation in retention of juvenal plumage, it would be desirable for banders to check age by skull ossification on live birds as described by Miller (1946. *Bird-banding*, 17:33-35) as well as by plumage.

I would like to thank N. L. Ford, F. B. Gill, H. B. Tordoff, and L. L. Wolf for advice in this study. The article was written while I was attending the University of California with support from the National Science Foundation.—ROBERT B. PAYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2 October 1960.*

Foot-stirring in the Green Heron.—Dr. A. J. Meyerriicks' article on Foot-stirring behavior in Herons (1959. *Wilson Bull.*, 71:153-158) describes this method of feeding in three North American herons (Snowy Egret, Reddish Egret, Louisiana Heron). A comparative behavior chart ("A summary of existing knowledge of the displays and related activities of ten North American Herons") in his more recent publication, "Comparative Breeding Behavior of Four Species of North American Herons" (*Publ. of Nuttall Ornith. Club*, No. 2), lists only these same three species as known to engage in this type of feeding behavior. On page 8 in this publication, he relates that the feeding behavior of the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) is primarily of two types: Stand and Wait, and Wade or Walk slowly. In the light of these two articles the following observation may be of interest.

In the summer of 1954, while taking 16 mm films of Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers in the shallow water of Fall Creek behind my home in Etna, New York, I noticed a Green Heron perched on a stone just above the surface of the water. With the 150 mm lens I was able to get a fairly large image, and started the camera as the heron stepped off the rock into the water. I recorded it on film as he stirred the water several times with his right foot, and shortly thereafter seized and ate what appeared to be a crustacean. Dr. Meyerriicks reports to me (pers. comm.) that an extensive search of the literature has failed to turn up a published reference to foot-stirring in the Green Heron, nor has he observed it himself in many hundreds of hours of watching this species. The little section of film footage I made is included in a lecture film of mine which has been shown to many audiences. Evidently this type of feeding behavior, while far rarer than other types, does occur at times in the Green Heron.—SALLY F. HOYT, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 29 July 1960.*

Nest-building movements performed by juvenal Song Sparrow.—There have been several accounts recently in the literature of nest-building movements performed by juvenal birds. Dilger described such an activity in a juvenal Swainson's Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata*) (1956. *Wilson Bull.*, 68:157-158). I have recently observed a similar performance in a fringillid.

On 10 September 1960, I watched a juvenal Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) feeding on the ground under my window. In a flower bed which was soft from rains, and where the soil was mixed with husks of sunflower seeds so that it was light and porous, my dog had left several rather deep footprints. The immature sparrow settled itself in