

## GENERAL NOTES

**Brown-headed Cowbird fledged in Barn Swallow nest.**—On 28 June 1960, I found a nest of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) near Berkley, Oakland County, Michigan, under a concrete bridge about 6 feet above the water. The nest was adherent to the vertical face of the concrete, within 2 or 3 inches of the connecting horizontal floor of the bridge and 7 feet back from the direct sunlight. The nest contained 2 young Barn Swallows, about 7 or 8 days old, and 1 cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) of about the same age. The cowbird appeared to be nearly ready to fledge and was much more alert than the two young swallows. It was being fed by both host adults. All three young were banded. No further observations were made.

In a search of the literature, I have found no documented record of parasitic young being found in the nest of this swallow. Friedmann (1963. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 233:59–60) lists five instances of cowbird eggs in the nests of barn swallows.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 14 October 1963.*

**The effects of probable frostbite on the feet of Mourning Doves wintering in southern Michigan.**—For several years, in trapping and later in netting Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) for banding, I have been aware of quite pronounced foot defects in many individual birds. In some cases one or two toes on each foot have lacked toenails; in others all toenails were missing; in still others the toes were abbreviated to at least the second joint.

It is a well-known fact that the feet and legs of Mourning Doves are more fleshy and hence more vulnerable to the severities of northern winters than are those of any other species of bird normally wintering in the latitude of southern Michigan. I believe that the foot defects observed are the result of frostbite. This conclusion has been reinforced during the last two winters (1961–62 and 1962–63) when there was more than the usual amount of subzero temperatures. I believe that an individual surviving two or more severe winters may lose all of its toes (Fig. 1) until only stubs remain and that an

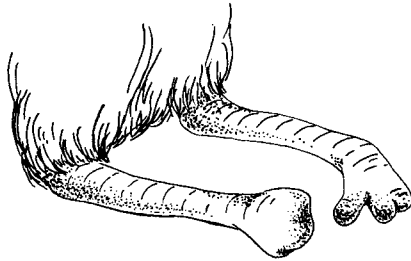


FIG. 1. Drawn from life by Betty Odle, 12 July 1963, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

individual surviving perhaps only one winter shows the effects of frostbite more or less as shown in Fig. 2. These figures were drawn by Betty Odle from the feet of two living birds netted and banded on 12 July 1963 and 17 August 1963, respectively. Both birds appeared to be in good health and both had apparently adapted to their defects, although it is hard to see how the bird shown in Fig. 1 could have perched or walked in a normal fashion. Mourning Doves are known to roost in the fall and winter in thick groves of