

presumably do not defend feeding territories, remains unknown. Dawnsinging is performed by mated male martins with well-established nests (pers. obs.).—EUGENE S. MORTON, *National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20008. Accepted 12 Apr. 1985.*

Wilson Bull., 97(3), 1985, p. 395

Observations of a Tufted Titmouse and a Cattle Egret associating with a black bear.—On 2 May 1980, in a bottomland hardwood forest in eastern Arkansas, I located a yearling male black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and his radio-collared mother in a water hickory tree (*Carya aquatica*) in one m deep floodwater. While preparing to tranquilize the juvenile bear, I observed a Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) jumping about the bear's back and rump pecking at its fur. After a few minutes, I noticed that the titmouse was collecting hair in its beak, and carrying it from the site. During a period of approximately 30 min, an adult titmouse, presumably the same bird, returned to the bear twice to repeat this behavior. The third hair-gathering episode was interrupted, however, as I approached the bear.

It is likely that the titmouse was using the collected hair in its nest. The incident occurred during the nesting period of the Tufted Titmouse in this region (Douglas and Neal, *Arkansas Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance*, Univ. Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, Arkansas, in press), and this species has been reported to use the hair of a variety of mammals to line its nest (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. No. 191, 1946; Pielou, Ph.D. diss., Michigan State Univ., Lansing, Michigan, 1957). The Tufted Titmouse has been observed collecting hair from living mammals including red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), woodchuck (*Marmota monax*), and human (*Homo sapiens*) (Bent 1946), and opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*) (Goertz, *Wilson Bull.* 74:189–190, 1962), but not black bear.

In the same forest on 13 September 1980, I saw a radio-collared adult male black bear wading in a shallow lake with a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) perched on its back. Cattle Egrets have been reported feeding alongside and atop a number of African ungulates including elephant (*Loxodonta africans*), rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), and hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), where they prey upon insects stirred up by these mammals and, possibly, ectoparasites (Pitman, *Bull. Br. Ornithol. Club* 82:100–101, 1962; Brown, *The Birds of Africa*, Vol. I, Academic Press, London, England, 1982).—TOMMY R. SMITH, *Graduate Program in Ecology, and Dept. Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, Univ. Tennessee, P.O. Box 1071, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916-1071. Accepted 8 Apr. 1985.*

Wilson Bull., 97(3), 1985, pp. 395–396

Abnormal yellow eye ring on a Tropical Kingbird.—Abnormal yellow plumage occurs rarely among wild birds, and is generally known as xanthochroism (e.g., Pettingill, *Ornithology in Laboratory and Field*, 4th ed., Burgess Publ. Co., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1970: 193; Van Tyne and Berger, *Fundamentals of Ornithology*, 2nd ed., Wiley and Sons, New York, New York, 1976:161; Terres, *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American*

Birds, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, New York 1980:98; Welty, *The Life of Birds*, 3rd ed., Saunders College Publ., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1982:56). Hailman (*Fla. Field Nat.* 12: 36–38, 1984), however, has pointed out that the term “xanthochroism” has several meanings, and that its use should be avoided in descriptions. Both Buckley (pp. 21–110 in *Diseases of Cage and Aviary Birds*, M. Petrak, ed., 2nd ed., Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1982) and Hailman (1984) recommend abandoning many of the traditional terms for avian coloration because of their ambiguity, and emphasize the importance of reporting abnormally colored birds in order to gain a greater understanding of the pigmental and genetic bases of avian coloration.

On 18 Aug. 1984 we observed two adult Tropical Kingbirds (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) near the top of a dead tree near Hotel Jaguar, several km downstream from Puerto Misahualli, along the Rio Napo River in eastern Ecuador. One of the birds possessed a complete bright yellow eye ring about 2 mm wide on the right side of the head, and normal plumage on the left side. We observed the bird in good light through 7 × 42 binoculars for 10 min from a distance of 40 m. The three of us agreed the eye ring color was bright yellow, about the same shade as the feathers on the belly of the bird. Other than the abnormal eye ring, the bird appeared normal. Unfortunately, the birds flew away before we were able to approach close enough to take photographs.

In adult Tropical Kingbirds carotenoid and eumelanin pigments are responsible for the colors of the underparts and upperparts respectively. Apparently the yellow eye ring resulted from a mutation in which the eumelanin pigments were absent, thus exposing the carotenoid pigments. Such mutations are examples of non-eumelanin schizochroism, and have been described in several species of birds (Harrison, *Bull. Br. Ornithol. Club* 83:90–96, 1963; *Bird-Banding* 37:121, 1966; Schnell and Caldwell, *Auk* 83:667–668, 1966; Braun et al., *Southwest. Nat.* 24:391–393, 1979; Curtis, *West. Birds* 12:185, 1981), but not in the family Tyrannidae. This mosaic individual could have resulted either from a somatic mutation during development, or from the inactivation or loss of one allele in a heterozygote by heterochromatinization or nondisjunction.

Acknowledgments.—For their helpful comments in preparing this note we thank K. L. Bildstein, G. L. Bradley, E. H. Burt, Jr., J. P. Hailman, and W. K. Hayes. We also thank L. E. Harris, Jr., for leadership during our excursion into the Rio Napo region.—FLOYD E. HAYES, WILLIAM S. BAKER, AND KENT R. BEAMAN, *Dept. Biology, Loma Linda Univ., Riverside, California 92515. Accepted 20 Mar. 1985.*