

to photograph the adult after the first two occasions, and it is unlikely that attempts would have been successful.

Three days later (November 30) the youngest bird was not in the hollow, nor was there any sight of it around the tree. Had the other young birds devoured it? Probably! No appreciable difference in the appearance or size of the three owlets was apparent over the few days. Beneath the tree were the wings of a Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*). A Myna had previously been sitting on four eggs in a hole in the same tree, and, when we had first visited the tree, a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), with well-grown young, had occupied another hollow a few feet away. The young Starlings had gone by November 5, but by now the Starling was sitting again. We assumed that the Myna wings were those of the bird that had owned the eggs. Later the Starling disappeared also. Evidently food so close saved the Owl some hunting.

On Saturday, December 7, there was no sign of the adult. The young owls were feathered all over, with but slight tufts of down at the ends of the feathers. The down is forced out to the ends of the feathers as the barbs develop. The primaries were about 3 inches long, the tail feathers 2 inches, the claws $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The wings, scapulars and mantle were well spotted and the whole coloration practically as in the adult. The eyes were more blue and around them more green. There were still numerous larvae in the conglomeration of rubbish at the bottom of the hollow, and the aroma was superlative.

Three more visits were made—on December 12, 20 and 21. On the occasion of the first the down had practically disappeared. The birds were able to stand upright on the hand or a branch without toppling. On the second of the said three visits one of the birds raised its wings suddenly and flew to an adjoining tree. This would be between 40 and 44 days after hatching. The next afternoon it was back in the hollow, and on this occasion two of the owlets flew—high into a neighbouring tree.

Sometime later Mr. Smith found the desiccated remains of one of the three birds at the foot of the tree. There was, of course, no means of explaining the cause. It had always been as healthy and well-developed as the other two.

A Correction.—On p. 80 of last issue read Lawrence in the *Annals Lyceum Nat. Hist.*, New York, vol. v, p. 117, May, 1851, not 1815. In the index of this volume Lawrence corrects *Thalassidroma fregetta* to *Thalassidroma fregatta*. As the author himself rectified his error and as Bonaparte admittedly was copying him, the genus name would be *Fregatta*.—GREGORY M. MATHEWS, Sydney, 18/7/41.