

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
HORNBILL HOUSE,
SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,
BOMBAY 400 023,
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8. AN ABNORMAL BEHAVIOUR BY A BREEDING PAIR OF
BLUE ROCK PIGEON (*COLUMBA LIVIA* GMELIN)

While studying the breeding behaviour of Blue Rock pigeon (*Columba livia* Gmelin) at Sector 18, Chandigarh (India), a strange behaviour was exhibited by a breeding pair which is worth recording.

A pair of *Columba livia* started constructing a nest on a ledge of a Verandah on 27-1-82 in a house. The nest was completed by the breeding pair on 5-2-82. Against the usual clutch of two eggs, only one was laid on 8-2-82. On 25th February, 1982, the egg hatched between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brooding (of hatchling) continued during the day and night of 25-2-82. On 26th February, 1982, the one-day old chick, was seen to be thrown on to the ground along with some nesting material at 1.30 p.m. by one of the breeding partners. The hatchling along with the some fallen nesting material was placed back on its original nesting site at 2.30 p.m. The bird returned to the nest at 3.15 p.m. and again started pushing off the nest along with the chick but before it could fall down, the bird

was chased off and the chick placed at a safer position in the nest. The bird returned again at 4.35 p.m. but did not bother about the chick and instead started picking up the nesting material from the abandoned nest to construct a new nest at about $\frac{1}{2}$ meter away from the previous nest. The fallen sticks were also picked up and used in the new nest. The bird left the nest at 6.25 p.m. for roosting, leaving the chick unattended. On 27-2-82, the pair returned to the nest at 8.30 a.m., and indulged in courtship and then selected another nesting site about 3 metres away from the deserted nest but on the same ledge. The chick died on 28-2-82, when it was picked up and preserved in 90% alcohol. The new nest construction was still underway on 6-3-82 but at a slow pace when the junior author left the place due to unavoidable reasons.

The junior author is grateful to Mrs. & Mr. Naresh Bhalla, 18/C, House No. 1162, Chandigarh for allowing us to carry out this study at their residence.

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