

gave the fine hawk to a friend of the writer, who has taxidermic propensities, when it was identified as the Goshawk. This bird probably had its nest in the woods along the pasture.

A more remarkable instance came to the writer's notice at High Falls, Wright County, Quebec, fifty miles northeast of Ottawa. There, one morning last February, Mr. Hugo Paeseler, a farmer, on going out into the woods adjoining his farm, noticed a space of about ten to fifteen feet square, where the snow had recently been much disturbed, deeply plowed up from some great commotion. That a fierce fight had been going on but a short while before was evident from the liberal quantities of blood sprinkled on the snow and the masses of feathers, single and in whole bunches, lying about and adhering to bushes and trees. On looking around for the principals of the fight, he found about ten feet away in one direction a Goshawk, lying on the snow with wings extended and frozen stiff. About ten feet away from the scene of hostilities, in the opposite direction, he found an owl, more damaged than the hawk, but still warm. It had alighted after the fight on a small spruce and fallen off, as the snow showed, and with its last strength crawled into a small log, lying with its hollow part conveniently near. The farmer took both along home, skinned and "stuffed" — here that term is appropriate — the hawk, and also the head of the owl, which was all he could make use of in her case. When the writer saw them at the farm house, they turned out to be the Barred Owl and the American Goshawk. It must surely have been a battle royal, if one could only have witnessed it. The farmer, quite a shrewd observer, tells me, that the same hawks are there winter and summer, which is, of course, not to be wondered at, the place being right in the Goshawk range. The writer's theory is, that the Goshawk, hungry and ill at ease from the severe cold, while looking for its breakfast, encountered the owl, then peacefully returning from its nightly foraging. In its usual injudiciousness, courage, fierceness, or whatever one may call it, he pounced down upon the owl, which, however, had no desire to be made a meal of, and defended herself so valiantly, that both had no more use for breakfasts.— G. EIFRIG, *Ottawa, Ontario.*

Unusual Occurrence of the Short-eared Owl in Pennsylvania.—The Short-eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus*), is a rather frequent migrant and winter resident in this section, occurring in small flocks wherever there is a sufficient abundance of *Microtus*. Here they remain until about the first of April, when they usually wend their way further north. This year, however, was an exception, at least with one pair which I had the fortune to observe.

The first evidence of mating was noticed on March 28, when they were noted sailing about in the dusk, occasionally giving vent to a peculiar call — *whaq*, with a nasal intonation. They were frequently heard during the first ten days of April but no more were seen until April 19, when in crossing a weedy field I flushed a fine specimen and observed it sailing about for some time.

No more was seen of the owls and I had almost forgotten them when about six p. m. on the night of May 28 I was astonished to observe one fly close by our residence, uttering its peculiar call. The next morning I tramped over several miles of suitable fields but could not flush any and none have been observed since.

The bird is so rare about Philadelphia after April 15 that this record seems to demand attention.—RICHARD C. HARLOW, *Edge Hill, Pa.*

The Breeding of the Short-eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus*) near Ann Arbor, Michigan.—The Short-eared Owl is a common migrant in this locality, but although a hunter once told me of finding a nest here I have had no positive proof that it breeds in this vicinity until this summer. On June 26, 1907, there was brought to me three immature specimens of this species, which had been taken in a grassy marsh seven miles south of Ann Arbor. On these birds the down was still present in places, and the wing and tail feathers were only partly out of the sheaths so that only short flights could be made. The collector did not look for the nest, which was no doubt near by. The skin of one of these birds is preserved in the University Museum.—NORMAN A. WOOD, *University Museum, University of Michigan.*

Mortality among Kingfishers.—While digging out some Kingfishers' nests this season I was surprised to find a dead bird in about every fourth or fifth hole. This I was at loss to account for, as the birds showed no signs of combat or disease, while the plumage was not even disarranged. The bodies, though, seemed to be dried up, with no signs of blood in them, so I presumed that something had crawled into the holes and sucked the blood from them, leaving the carcass intact. This surmise proved correct, as the last hole I dug out contained a large black snake, and a dead kingfisher still warm. The snake measured about four and a half feet long and had evidently gone in for the eggs, any kind of eggs being readily devoured by this snake in this section. The holes were generally from two to three feet below the top of the bank, so it was an easy matter for them to get down from the top. I found no less than six dead birds within a mile, and if all of the river bank gave the same average, the loss of life must have been great. I am at loss, however, to account for their molesting the kingfishers and not the Rough-winged Swallows, which also nested abundantly in the same bank. Snakes are more numerous this year than ever before.—H. H. BAILEY, *Newport News, Va.*

The American Crossbill in Camden County, Ga.—On November 12, 1906, I noticed American Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) here (Camden County) for the first time. While riding through a pine forest with hardwood underbrush I flushed 15 or 20 from a small open pond where I presume they were getting water. They flew to the tops of the tall pines,