

fin of the salmon and knew that it was a fish of some size. One of the fishermen remarked that the "hawk" would hardly tackle so big a fish. But the bird did drop down and strike the salmon. It fastened its claws into the fish which dragged the bird along at speed, say 50 yards. For this distance the Osprey was more or less submerged although a good deal out of water. But then the salmon dived, for the Osprey disappeared entirely and was seen no more. Two or three days later Mr. Davis found the dead salmon with the drowned Osprey still attached to it by its claws which were sticking deeply in the fish's back.—J. A. FARLEY, 52 Cedar St., Malden, Mass.

Richardson's Owl in Vermont in Summer.—On a recent trip to the Northern Green Mountains, the writers discovered a Richardson's Owl near the summit of Gen. Stark Mountain (3585 ft.) between the towns of Lincoln and Warren, Vt.

We had just broken camp early in the morning of July 18, 1923, on the fourth day of hiking northward on the Monroe Skyline section of the Long Trail, and proceeded to within half a mile of the summit of Gen. Stark Mountain, when we flushed an Owl among the spruces, perhaps a hundred feet from the trail.

We pursued the bird at once, and after cautious manoeuvring obtained very close views in good light,—one of us at a distance of about fifteen feet and the other at thirty feet. Not having a gun, we were unable to collect the bird, but we made a careful description on the spot which proves that it was *Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*. It had no ear tufts, and possessed the various other characteristics of *Cryptoglaux*; whereas the clearly yellowish bill pointed to Richardson's Owl rather than the Saw-whet, although the latter was to be expected as the more common. To one of us the saliently noticeable feature of the bird was the strikingly marked facial mask, which was sharply defined by black arcs over the eyes, a diagram of which was made on the spot. Not having seen the bird before, we did not observe distinctly the markings on the forehead which are said to distinguish it from *C. acadica*.

It watched us with great interest and excitement, puffing out its feathers and craning its neck, and with a very fierce look in its eye.

The general color was gray-brown, while the back of its head showed twin streaks of buff or white, one running down the neck on either side, and its back was uniformly gray-brown spotted with white.

The yellow bill brings up a point which raises an interesting question. All skins examined show that the bill of the Richardson's Owl is yellow and that of the Saw-whet is black; but this fact is not mentioned in much of the literature on the subject, nor is the distinct black mark given as a fieldmark. Chapman's 'Handbook' makes no reference to bills, but his 'Color Key' describes the Richardson's as yellow and the Saw-whet's as black. Minot's 'Landbirds and Game Birds of New England' makes the same distinction, as do Stearns and Coues; but in other works, such as

Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, Eaton's 'Birds of New York' and Knight's 'Birds of Maine,' there is no mention whatever of the bill. Barrows in 'Michigan Bird-Life,' describes the bill of *richardsoni* as white. During the last winter, when this Owl was so common in New England, this field mark was called to the attention of the Nuttall Club, and it certainly is evident in the field. So far as we know, there are few records of the Richardson's Owl in New England except in the winter months. Audubon took a specimen near Bangor in September, and the bird is supposed to breed in the vicinity of Montreal.—WARREN F. EATON, *Weston, Mass.*, and HASKELL B. CURRY, *Boston, Mass.*

Food Habits of Owls.—I find some old notes on Owls which indicate quite plainly the after-dark rapacity of these creatures—small as well as big—and the size of the prey which they are capable of killing.

The late Mr. Arthur Johnson of Malden who shot during one season (about 1914) at a goose-stand near Hyannis, this state, told me that they found one morning in December one of their decoy Geese dead on the beach where he had been tethered over night, "with a hole eaten in his back." They let the dead bird lie, and in the dusk of the evening waited "in the battery" for the marauder (which they supposed to be an animal of some sort) to return to his "kill." When daylight was almost gone, so that they could scarcely see beyond a few feet, they discerned something "apparently fluttering" where the body of the Goose could be seen dimly in the gathering darkness out on the beach. They shot in the direction of the moving thing, without in the least knowing what it was—and to their surprise, picked up a huge Horned Owl. The bird was strongly impregnated with the odor of a skunk.

The other Owl story has to do with what might be termed the "anti-podes" of *Bubo*—the little Saw-whet. Mr. E. Cutting of Lyme, New Hampshire, once told me that in the fall a few years ago he found that something was killing his Pigeons. He thought it might be a mink or a weasel or some other animal. He had 25 Pigeons that roosted nightly on sticks put up for perches in his barn. The dove-hole was close by in the barn door. Seven Pigeons lay dead one morning on the hay beneath their perches. The birds' heads were gone, some feathers were lying about and there was some blood on their bodies; otherwise there was no sign. The following evening Mr. Cutting went by stealth into his barn. By the light of his lantern he found two more headless Pigeons on the hay. Looking up he saw the "killer" perched on a beam. He despatched it with a long stick. It was a Saw-whet Owl.—J. A. FARLEY, 52 *Cedar St., Malden, Mass.*

Lewis's Woodpecker Visits Chicago.—On May 24, 1923, Mrs. T. E. Telfer, 1514 Estes Avenue, Roger's Park, Chicago, reported to the Field Museum that a strange-looking Woodpecker had been called to her attention by Mr. Earl E. Adcock, who resides two houses west of her.