

swim or be caught. Rather reluctantly it took to the water, swimming well for twenty yards. Here it scrambled ashore and resorted to the more usual mode of protection by squatting motionless among the debris along the shore. Swimming, it seems, was an act prompted by self preservation and was accomplished although the species is not equipped with webbed or lobed feet.

It appears that as long as an act is physically possible it may be attempted. Instances of actions at wide variance to an animal's usual activities are of interest especially if the reason for the unusual act appears evident. It can only be conjectured whether such behavior is due to a re-occurrence of a primitive instinct or whether the individual has "experimental" tendencies. There is also a possibility that certain acts which appear unusual are merely infrequently observed.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto.*

**A Death Trap to the American Barn Owl (*Tyto pratincola*).—**

Within 200 yards of my house is a piece of land known as "Porcher's Island Field" on which I have taken a great many albinistic Sharp-tailed Sparrows as well as a Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) on November 24, 1893, a Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) on May 13, 1910, also all forms of eastern Sparrows that frequent the salt marshes, as well as Marsh Wrens. In October, 1919, I found in the field a dead American Barn Owl and wondered how it happened to be killed. The next year, in November, I found the remains of another Barn Owl on the top of a dead pine tree (snag) within 75 yards of the spot where I discovered the first one, and the following October (1921) I found the remains of another bird at high water mark that had been picked clean and done as if by the hand of man. Upon examining all the feathers carefully I identified a feather that belonged to a Great Horned Owl showing conclusively that all these Owls must have been killed by a Great Horned Owl. In December, 1923, Mr. Edward von S. Dingle (who now lives near me) found the remains of a Barn Owl in this field and in close proximity to the places where all the other Owls had been killed. Here is a case of an Owl preying upon another Owl of inferior size and less ferocity.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

**The Type Locality of *Alcedo cristata* Linné.**—In a recent number of the 'Bulletin' of the British Ornithologists' Club,<sup>1</sup> Col. Meinertzhagen has described *Corythornis cristata johannae* from Anjouan Island, Comoro Islands. Unfortunately Anjouan Island (or Johanna, as it used to be called) happens to be the type locality of *Corythornis cristata cristata* (Linné),<sup>2</sup> as selected by Oskar Neumann<sup>3</sup> several years ago, and therefore Col. Meinertzhagen's name must fall as a direct synonym of *Alcedo cristata* Linn.

<sup>1</sup> 44, 24 Jan. 1924, p. 44.

<sup>2</sup> (*Alcedo*) *cristata* Linné Syst. Nat. 1, ed. 12, 1766, p. 178.

<sup>3</sup> Orn. Monatsb. 23, 1915, p. 157.