

softly squeaking, and one egg, cracked across near the middle. The shells from which the young had come, were still in the nest. No pellets were to be seen anywhere near the nest. The only "signs" found were two tufts of downy feathers caught in the underbrush.

The brooding bird flew out when the writer was about fifty feet away, approaching from the side toward which the cavity opened. The ground was covered with dry leaves. It was not clear whether the bird was disturbed by the sound of foot-steps in the leaves, or looked out and saw some one coming. A test made later, suggests that the latter stimulus was the one to which the bird responded.

No sooner was the bird on the wing than a party of Crows, idling in the neighborhood, gave chase with all the choice expletives which are reserved for the big Owls. When perched in the midst of a cawing mob, the Owl would duck its head when one of the Crows made a dive at it, and would often counter by a thrust of the beak. When the Crows were quiet enough, the snapping of the Owl's beak could be plainly heard for 100 yards. The Owl did not make any visible attempt to use its feet as weapons. On two occasions it dived into a big hollow beech tree, leaving the watching mob outside. No doubt the Crows would have gone away in time, but in both cases the Owl came out again before they had dispersed. When perched in the open, the Owl's plan, if it had any, was to endure the pestering and profanity until the Crows one by one lost interest and drifted away; then by easy stages, approach, and finally disappear in the nest cavity. It did not approach its nest so long as a single Crow appeared to be watching. There was no loud talk near the nursery door. To test the sensitiveness of the bird while brooding, the writer approached from the side away from the cavity. The Owl did not come out until the tree was struck gently with the hand.—J. D. CARTER, *Lansdowne, Pa.*

Barn Owls at Chicago, Ill.—Mr. Karl W. Kahmann, a Chicago taxidermist, reports that he has mounted about twenty Barn Owls this season. This is a greater number than he has handled in other years, the average being four or five. One party brought in five which were taken from a church steeple in Evanston; and said that the birds made so much noise that the neighbors could not sleep. I have always found this species rare here.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

Unusual Nesting Site of Great Horned Owl.—On March 30, 1925, I heard that a "Booby Owl" had two young on top of hay in a mow about two miles from home. Fully expecting from the situation that I would find Barn Owls I visited this barrack next morning and found two young *Bubo v. virginianus*, about half nest grown.

A hay-barrack as here built has a stone foundation usually a foot or more above ground where ground is highest to keep the sills up from dampness. The frame goes up sixteen feet to the plate, and is then weatherboarded on each end and for one third along the sides, leaving the center third on

each side open so a hay wagon can drive through. The roof runs from end to end and is shingled and the gable ends weatherboarded. As hay was plentiful last year this barrack was filled, the hay being pushed in under the roof completely up to the peak and then the center third was filled up as high as it could be pushed under the eaves. One of the short gable boards however, had come loose and fallen off leaving an eight inch space from the peak of roof to the plate. In settling, the hay left a space of about three feet under the roof, and on the highest part of this I found the young, huddled close together with no attempt at a nest, and beside them half of a rabbit, which had been there the day before (10 A. M.) when my informant found them. They were about two feet in from the weatherboarding opposite where the board was off, which afforded entrance for the old birds.

The barrack stands out in the open, no trees near it, and about half-way from the orchard to the woods which are about one-third of a mile apart. The situation was unusual also as the young were not over twenty four feet above ground all the previous nests I had seen being high up in large trees, and nearly all in Red-tailed Hawks nests of the previous year, and more or less in the center of a piece of woods.

Mr. Nicholas Parker who owns this farm assured me that if he could prevent it, the Owls would not be disturbed until they saw fit to move out. Under the eaves of his barn are still the nests of the Eaves Swallows mentioned in the April, 1925, 'Auk' as being found there last year. The farm is about twenty miles from the centre of Baltimore city, and slightly east of due north in an air line.—FRANK C. KIRKWOOD, *R. 3, Monkton, Baltimore Co., Md.*

Strange Behavior of Great Horned Owl in Behalf Of Young.—While observing bird life March 21, 1925, near Church Creek, Md., a nest of the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) containing three half-grown young was found. The nest was an old one of the Red-tailed Hawk placed in the crotch of a pine about fifty feet up and quite exposed. As I was climbing the tree to examine the young, which were visible from the ground, I heard short wailing notes to one side and arising apparently from the ground. The notes were unknown to me and I was at a loss to identify the author. When about thirty-five feet up, I was surprised to see one of the Owls half running and fluttering some fifty yards away on the floor of the woods with wings outstretched and uttering the notes that I heard a few moments before. Occasionally the bird would stop, beating first one wing and then the other, as though wounded. Twice the bird left the ground perching in the tops of nearby trees and then the well known "hoot" was heard, which is the usual form of protestation. In each instance, after a few moments' inspection, the bird returned to the ground and continued the fluttering actions which lasted while I was in the vicinity of the nest.—RALPH W. JACKSON, *Route No. 1, Cambridge, Md.*