

(i) Unidentified bird bones, and mass of feathers and meadow mouse hair.

Pellet No 2.

(a) Pelvic portion of the spinal column of Western Red Bat (*Nycteris borealis teliotis*).

(b) Pelvic portion of the spinal column of Bat (*Pipistrellus hesperus* subsp.).

(c) Other bones belonging to both species of bats.

(d) Upper and lower mandibles of American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*).

(e) One bird stomach.

(f) Unidentified bird bones, and mass of feathers and meadow mouse hair.

The record of the Owl's entire feast on this occasion—two bats, four birds, and a meadow mouse—is not particularly favorable to its reputation as a highly beneficial species. Presence of the bats suggests conjecture as to how the Owl catches them. The possibility of its securing them in their roosting places seems remote, leaving only the assumption that it takes them on the wing. If so, we must credit the Short-eared Owl with considerable agility. In the writer's experience, bats make a rather difficult mark to shoot at, owing to their rapid and irregular flight; whereas the Owl's flight is anything but swift and gives the impression of being unstable.

The action of the digestive fluids on the various animals contained in the pellets seems worthy of note. The hair of the meadow mouse and the feathers of the four birds formed one conglomerate, inseparable mass, in which neither hair nor feathers could be identified. On the other hand, the hair of both the bats, with its color perfectly preserved, was still attached to the skin, which was in strips, as though the Owl had thus torn the hide from the bodies. It is evident that, in this instance at least, the gastric juices had no action on the skin tissue of bats. The action on the bones, however, was quite the contrary, for the bones of the birds, excepting the skulls and horny substance covering the beaks, were well preserved, whereas the terminal ends of the lighter bat bones had been dissolved.

Apart from a study in the Owl's food, the fact that the bats were taken when and where they were, is interesting. Literature is sadly lacking in winter data on these animals, and the occurrence of both species of bats in the San Diego region at this season—for the pellets were manifestly fresh—is worthy of record.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego, Calif.*

**Belted Kingfisher Preyed upon by Red-tailed Hawk.**—Having read the note concerning the "Kingfisher and Cooper's Hawk" by Charles Eugene Johnson, with additions by the Editor, in the October (1925) issue of 'The Auk,' the writer was reminded of a recently acquired bit of information along the same line.

On October 17, an immature male Red-tailed Hawk was picked up

from a dump north of Toronto, where it had been discarded by some hunter a few days previously. The specimen was preserved for the Museum collection and the stomach contents were examined. Besides a small amount of *Microtus* hair, the feet and some feathers, skin and flesh of a Belted Kingfisher were found. This was the first instance of which I knew of the Belted Kingfisher being preyed upon by a Raptorial bird.

It is evident that the species is not always successful in escaping from members of the Hawk family, and in this case it had a less dashing adversary to contend with than had the one observed by Mr. Johnson.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Ontario.*

**Actions of the Northern Pileated Woodpecker.**—On February 16, 1925, I was able to approach within, twelve feet of one of these Woodpeckers busily engaged in digging in a maple stub, two feet in diameter and about twelve feet high. He was after insects whose borings I found later upon examining the wood. I watched him for about an hour.

He seldom gave more than four pecks at a time, and would then swing his head round to one side or the other, sometimes raising his scarlet crest. He seldom threw back his head without tossing a chip back of him, and when I examined his work after he had left, later in the day, I found some chips near the stub, which were three inches long and one inch wide. Others half this size had been thrown out on the snow a distance of four feet. The hole was on the west side and measured six inches across and ten inches long, and extended to a depth of six inches toward the heart of the stub. There was another hole six inches square on the south side. The bird seemed to chisel out a section three inches wide across the hole and then move down and cut out another section. The two holes were dug in about two hours.—O. M. BRYENS, *Three Rivers, Michigan.*

**Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker at West Point, N. Y.**—On October 4, while I was sitting up on the mountain side back of West Point watching a stuffed Owl with which I was decoying Hawks, an adult male Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) lit on the pole upon which the Owl was placed.

This is the first one I ever saw. It is not given in Dr. Mearns' list of the birds of this locality, nor is the Pileated Woodpecker, although I have seen it twice in recent years. He did not list the Turkey Vulture either, which is now fairly common here, though I myself never saw it here until about five years ago, nor did he give the King Rail, one of which was caught here in a muskrat trap.

On October 31, a female Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was taken within a few yards of the spot where I took the male.—WIRT ROBINSON, *West Point, N. Y.*

**The Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in New Jersey.**—On October 18, 1925, the writers found an immature Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker