

Attacks by Screech Owls.—A recent note in 'Science' (LXXII, 91, July 25, 1930) by Chapman tells of an experience of his in Mississippi in 1915 when he was attacked and struck by a Screech Owl. He also quotes a similar experience by Reese in West Virginia. This reminded me of an episode of my boyhood in Milton, Massachusetts. On looking back in my field notes I find that this occurred on Milton Hill, June 26, 1904. I was standing under some large maples in the early dusk looking at a row of eight young Screech Owls on a limb some forty feet away, when suddenly something struck the back of my head; it was only a light glancing blow, remarkably silent, and accompanied by a slight fanning from beating wings. I was so startled that I did not see the bird the first time, but a minute or so later, when the performance was repeated, I saw him and dodged. He was quite persistent, and kept swooping at me until I left the vicinity of the young birds. Another evening the same act was repeated in the same place. I have never had any other bird actually strike me, even in protecting its young, although several species of Terns, Gulls and Hawks have come so close to me that I could feel the wind of their wings on my face.—STANLEY COBB, *Milton, Massachusetts.*

Burrowing Owls in Illinois.—During the middle of March, 1930, one of my students reported seeing a funny little Owl rise from a Woodchuck's hole and fly a short distance away. Before I could plan a trip to make a sight identification, the lad shot the bird. However, his cat tore the specimen to pieces, and all that was returned to me for identification purposes was a portion of skin with a few feathers on it, one of the long slender tarsi, and also a part of the head. As poor as I found this material, I felt positive that the specimen had been a Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea*). However, I hesitated to publish a record of it, and merely made a notebook notation.

On April 14, Mr. M. E. Fenton, of Hamilton, Illinois, while walking along the base of the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River near Hamilton shot another specimen which flew from a Woodchuck's hole. He sent it to Mr. Earl Lambert, Professor of Biology at Carthage College, who identified it as a Burrowing Owl. Later after the specimen was mounted, I examined it carefully, and found it to be a specimen of Burrowing Owl.

These I believe are the first records of this bird reported from the state of Illinois. Whether the appearance of two of these birds is due to the very dry season, or to the numerous nesting sites, dug by an increasing number of groundhogs is difficult to say. However, I shall search the vicinity of Hamilton, Illinois, with increased interest to determine whether the Burrowing Owl has established itself in that neighborhood or the two specimens were merely strays.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois.*

The Winter Range of the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*).—In identifying birds for cataloging, I have discovered that we have in the American Museum three Middle American specimens of the Chimney