

as *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linnaeus), the length of the horny cere being decidedly greater than that of the dertrum, and the shafts of the five outermost primaries being distinctly white. *The tarsi are not black however*; and the light color of the toes and webs indicates that these must have been largely gray rather than black at the time the bird was killed.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Bonaparte's Gull breeding in Ontario.—Having heard from C. Watson, superintendent of the Hydro-electric Power Plant at Rat Rapids on the Albany River at Lake St. Joseph, District of Patricia, who is a keen observer of birds, that he had seen a number of small gulls perched on spruce trees surrounding a small muskeg lake in that vicinity, I concluded they must be Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) and asked him to endeavour to ascertain if they were breeding there. During the past summer he was successful in locating two nests in small black-spruce trees, a short distance from the edge of the lake. He collected the two sets of three eggs and forwarded them to me with a full description of both birds and nests, leaving no doubt as to the species. Both sets were in advanced stage of incubation; one of them is now in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto. This, I understand, is the first breeding record for the Province of Ontario.—L. S. DEAR, *Port Arthur, Ontario.*

Gull-billed Tern in Massachusetts.—On July 25, 1937. Mr. David L. Garrison and I were at Nauset Beach, Eastham, at flood tide, making the usual shorebird count. On a long familiar bar, an assemblage of gulls, terns, sandpipers and plovers were roosting, and were examined with care. Suddenly one tern, tail to us, aroused instant suspicion by the pure-gray wings, with no dusky in the primaries. A little maneuvering disclosed the familiar short, stumpy, black bill of an adult Gull-billed Tern (*Gelocheidon nilotica aranea*) in full breeding plumage, and a moment later the black legs and feet were easily distinguishable. The bird was within close shotgun range, easily recognizable without field-glasses, but was not collected because there already was a specimen from the State, and the species is too rare in the eastern United States to shoot individuals unnecessarily.

That evening Mr. Joseph A. Hagar, the State Ornithologist, happened to telephone me from Marshfield for news. Accordingly, the next day Mr. J. L. Peters and he went to Nauset at high tide, and found the tern on the same bar, and also obtained a perfect observation. Needless to state, a sight record could scarcely have received more speedy and competent confirmation. On August 18, Mr. J. P. Bishop saw probably the same individual at Nauset, and on September 11, he and Mrs. Palmer Putnam found two birds together among the roosting terns.

A specimen was collected at Ipswich in 1871, and Forbush gives a sight record for August 8, 1909.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Perching habit of the Black Tern.—Alexander Sprunt's detailed account of the peculiar wire-perching habit of the Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*), that he observed while on a field trip in Texas, has been described in 'The Auk' (55: 529, 1938). Although the following incident does not present exactly the same wire-perching habit of these birds that Mr. Sprunt observed, I thought it interesting enough to offer for what it is worth. On the afternoon of July 15, 1938, conservation warden Willard Laesch and myself were engaged in planting some ivy-leaved duckweed (*Lemna trisulca*) in Red Cedar Lake, located near Cambridge, Wisconsin, about twenty-five miles southeast of Madison. Near the center of the lake, a portion of which is found growing to a wide variety of aquatic vegetation, were the remnants of

a last-year's duck blind. Although the cover of corn shocks had since disappeared, except for a few stalks, there remained the framework of a few poles and stretched between two of these was approximately twelve feet of galvanized wire and flying to and from the same, were both adult and immature Black Terns. Both Laesch and myself remarked at the time, that although we had often seen these birds perched upon solitary poles in the water, floating vegetation and other débris, we had never seen these terns perched, as members of the swallow family are prone to do, on wire.—FRED R. ZIMMERMAN, *Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison, Wisconsin.*

IN the July, 1938, number of 'The Auk', Alexander Sprunt, Jr., reports having observed the Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) perching in swallow fashion on wires. During the past summer I have frequently seen this species indulging in this unusual behavior. About fifteen miles west of the city of Rochester, New York, there is a small, cat-tail bordered, freshwater bay which opens into Lake Ontario. Across the mouth of this bay, known as Braddock's Bay, are the remains of an old trolley trestle upon which poles still carry power wires. On these wires the Black Terns were seen perching in large numbers, in the same fashion as described by Mr. Sprunt, on July 10, 11, 17, and 24. On these same dates Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), in numbers up to two hundred, were seen behaving in the same manner. Both species hovered for a moment before alighting on the wires. Their position did not seem secure as they more or less constantly teetered slightly to maintain balance. The Common Terns were still present and were seen perching there last on September 9.—GORDON M. MEADE, M.D., *Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, New York.*

Analysis of Barn Owl pellets in Pennsylvania.—A total of forty-seven pellets of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*) collected by the writer on February 23, 1934, from an old barn two miles north of State College, Pennsylvania, was subsequently analyzed. Evidently the pellets had been disgorged by a non-nesting bird over a period of approximately six months. Apparently the owl had been killed by some mammalian predator early in February, because feathers and uncleaned bones were on the barn floor. The average-size pellet measured 4.5 by 2.5 cm., the largest 9.0 by 2.5 cm. and the smallest 2.5 by 1.2 cm. while the thickest was 4.0 by 3.8 cm. In several pellets, the skulls were partially decomposed. This analysis based upon the number of skulls, indicated that the food of this Barn Owl during autumn and winter consisted of approximately 90 per cent small rodents, 8 per cent shrews, 1 per cent weasel, and 1 per cent small birds. Eighty-four animals were eaten and ejected in forty-seven pellets, two of which contained no skulls. What percentage these animals formed of the bird's total diet could not be determined. The species represented were: eastern meadow mouse (*Microtus pennsylvanicus pennsylvanicus*), 75 per cent; house mouse (*Mus musculus musculus*), 10 per cent; unidentified small rodents, 15 per cent; short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*); New York Weasel (*Mustela noveboracensis noveboracensis*); and one small bird, probably an English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*).—WILLIAM H. MEYER, *Soil Conservation Service, Freehold, New Jersey.*

Short-eared Owl and Orange-crowned Warbler in West Virginia.—On November 3, 1938, a living, but badly crippled Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus*, was brought to me by a farmer who lives not far from Bethany, Brooke County, West Virginia. The farmer told me that he had shot the owl because it (together with another of its kind) had been menacing his chickens. Examination of the bird's stomach revealed only small mammalian bones and fur. The Short-eared Owl has