

in certain parts of the coast of the Isle of Man; on the contrary, the words on the inscription suggest that it did so. There is also evidence that the birds bred at Lundy Island and the only opposition is mere conjecture.

Mr. Williamson and his Isle of Man naturalists are to be heartily congratulated upon the fact that "Theis kind of birds (were) aboute the Isle of Man."—G. N. CARTER, 8, *Wolseley Place, Manchester 20, England.*

Immature Smooth-billed Ani in Florida in 1897.—The record of *Crotophaga ani* nesting in Florida (A. Sprunt, Jr., *Auk*, 56: 335, 1939) suggests the desirability of calling attention to a skin in the U. S. National Museum collection, first noticed by the author in 1938. The skin (no. 169174) is certainly that of an immature bird because the crest on the beak is undeveloped. Judging from much experience with the *Crotophaginae*, it is probable that the specimen was less than six months old when collected. Its label reads: 'Lake Worth (Fla.) Scrub Dec. 21, 1897 ♀.' The name W. R. Collins is written in another person's handwriting. Since this species is a weak flyer there is doubt that an immature could fly to Florida from the Bahamas or West Indies. According to the U. S. Weather Bureau maps there was a storm "not of hurricane intensity" between September 16–30 and another storm "doubt as to hurricane intensity" between October 1–15. The evidence seems to indicate that the specimen did not come from outside Florida but was reared near Lake Worth.—DAVID E. DAVIS, *Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Mortality of Barn Owls at Champaign, Illinois.—A family of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba pratincola*) was raised in the tower of a grain elevator on the south campus of the University of Illinois during the summer of 1939. The family of owls continued to use the elevator in the winter of 1939–40. During the night of January 18–19, the temperature fell to 15 degrees below zero after two days of subzero weather. Men working at the elevator closed the shutters to the window by which the owls entered the elevator hoping to force the owls to take shelter in the comparatively warm livestock barns nearby. The owls were thus exposed to the full severity of the temperature and deprived of the usual shelter.

My wife and I visited the elevator on the evening of January 27, 1940, to see the owls and were told by one of the attendants that four or five dead Barn Owls had been picked up below the elevator after the 15 below zero night. We saw no survivors. We heard a Screech Owl calling on the night of January 20–21 when the temperature had risen to about 8 degrees above zero. It would seem likely then that the Barn Owls were killed by the extreme cold while the Screech Owl had obviously survived the same cold spell. Cold may be an important factor in limiting the northern distribution of the Barn Owl, which is a lightly feathered species compared with most of the more northern species.—J. MURRAY SPEIRS, 204 *Vivarium, Urbana, Illinois.*

Great Horned Owls dying in the winter of 1939–40.—In late February and early March 1940, two instances of Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) dying in the wild, were recorded in western New York State. One bird was found lying weakly on a snowbank alongside a farmer's barn near Springville in Cattaraugus County, New York. It was extremely emaciated, scarcely weighing one-half pound, while the eyes appeared deeply sunken as though from prolonged suffering. The bird was so weak as barely to struggle; it refused food offered by the farmer who found it and the bird died about one hour after capture. A close examination failed to reveal external injuries of any kind.

The second instance was almost identical with the first: a Horned Owl was found by New York State Ranger School students at Wanakena, New York, in the western Adirondacks in early March. The greatly emaciated body and sunken eyes were obvious in this bird and it too, died a short time after being found. Again there were no indications of external injuries. Unfortunately neither bird was preserved for pathological examination so that evidence of disease was not fully determined.

In the 'Wilson Bulletin' (44: 180, 1932) Errington reported a pair of Great Horned Owls from Wisconsin which had died of a virus disease that may be specific for certain owls. All available evidence for these New York specimens leads me to believe that they were stricken with some malignant disease that rendered them helpless at the time of their capture.

It is common knowledge that the Great Horned Owl is one of the most efficient of all winged predators and can sustain itself during the most severe winters. Fleming and Lloyd (Auk, 37: 433, 1920) have remarked on the plump, fleshy condition of 125 specimens collected in southern Ontario during a migration of Horned Owls into that region in the critical winter of 1917-18. Though the winter of 1939-40 was one of the most severe on record in New York State, there were available food supplies throughout the winter where the weakened owls were found. In Cattaraugus County, within the hunting range of one specimen, cottontail rabbits, Ruffed Grouse, and several large coveys of Hungarian Partridges were noted frequently throughout the winter. Within the hunting range of the Adirondack bird at Wanakena, varying hares, Ruffed Grouse and red squirrels were present in considerable numbers. In fact during early March 1940, red squirrels were so populous and voracious in their feeding on the terminal twigs of Norway spruce as to cause considerable damage to some of the Ranger School plantations. The carcasses of many starving deer were scattered about the woodlands, thus augmenting a further food supply for Horned Owls.

In view of what appeared to be available food in near normal quantities, it seems reasonable to infer that disease may have been the initial decimating agency in the destruction of these owls, and not starvation, which might at first have been assumed.—J. KENNETH TERRES, *Soil Conservation Service, Utica, New York.*

A definite age record of a Horned Owl.—On March 23, 1927, in a ravine six miles northeast of Benicia, California, on the Lopas ranch, Mr. Gunnar Larson and I located an old hawk's nest about twenty feet up in a live oak with a Pacific Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus pacificus*) sitting. It took several sticks thrown at the nest to flush the bird. The nest held two eggs and one young just hatched, the latter a red fellow with white down.

On April 17 we again visited the nest and banded the two young. The third owlet had been eaten; only the hind quarters remained in the nest. This was a recent happening as the remains were of the same size as the hind-quarters of the two live owlets. They later showed little ferocity but allowed me to handle them without any scratching or biting. In spite of a heavy wind we managed to take two photographs of them from an adjacent tree. Also I banded them, nos. 200,712 and 200,713.

I was quite thrilled on March 5, 1940, to hear again of one of these two birds which had been banded in the nest. Mr. Ray Bell of Vallejo, visiting my office at the Benicia Arsenal, told me that he had shot an owl bearing band no. 200,713 while quail hunting on the Azevedo ranch in Sky Valley near Benicia on November