

LITERATURE CITED

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—D. D. PLETSCHE, *Agricultural Experiment Station, Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana.*

A Contribution to the Food Habits of the European Magpie (*Pica p. pica*).—During the winter of 1946 I found a roosting place of Magpies near the village of Kovorce, Slovakia, in a thicket of blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and virgin's bower (*Clematis vitalba*) about 160 m. long and 20 m. wide. Some 50 birds roosted here in the winter and 11 pairs nested in 1946, the minimal distance between two nests being 3 m. In March I found 250 pellets, averaging 17 x 29 mm. in size and 1.1 grams in weight. They contained 254.16 g. of vegetable matter, 22.48 g. of animal matter, and 12.36 g. of mineral matter. The vegetable matter consisted of: weed seeds—smartweed (*Polygonum*), charlock (*Sinapis arvensis*), corn cockle (*Argostemma githago*), couch grass (*Agropyrum repens*), speedwell (*Veronica*), brome grass (*Bromus sterilis*), chess (*B. arvensis*), the last two most important; cultivated grain—maize (*Zea mays*), wheat (*Triticum*); seeds and haws—dog rose (*Rosa canina*), very abundant, blackthorn, English hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyantha*), black locust (*Robinia pseudacacia*). The animal food consisted of 8.29 grams of vertebrates: bones of house mouse (*Mus musculus*), harvest mouse (*Mus minutus*), field vole (*Microtus arvalis*), spermophile (*Citellus citellus*), common mole (*Talpa europea*), white-toothed shrew (*Crocidura leucodon*), pig (*Sus scrofa domestica*), dog (*Canis domesticus*), Yellow Bunting (*Emberiza citrinella*), Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Partridge (*Perdix p. perdix*), an undetermined bird; 5.7 grams of mollusks: shells of snails (*Helicella obvia*, *Monacha incarnata*, *Era tridens*, *Abida frumentum*); 8.49 grams of arthropods: Coleoptera—weevil (*Otiiorhynchus*)—very abundant, dung beetles (*Geotrupes*), carrion beetles (*Silpha*, *Aphodius*); Dermoptera—earwig (*Forficula auricula*) 319 cerci. The mineral matter consisted of grit, fragments of brick and porcelain.

I think that much of the grit and seeds was taken incidentally with animal food. Particularly interesting is the relatively great number of earwigs eaten, about 160 individuals. This is the first paper based on pellet analysis of the Magpie in Slovakia. Further study and collecting of pellets were not possible because the roosting place was destroyed by men in the summer of 1946. I wish to thank Prof. Babor of Bratislava University for determination of the snails, Dr. Korbel, Curator of Zoology, Bratislava Museum, for determination of the arthropods, and Mr. W. L. McAtee and Mrs. Margaret M. Nice of Chicago for advice in writing this report.—FRANK TURČEK, *Forester, State Research Institute for Forest Protection and Wildlife, Banská Štiavnica, Czecho-Slovakia.*

Marsh Hawk kills Baldpate.—On September 21, 1943, at about 1:15 P. M., I observed a Marsh Hawk kill an apparently normal and healthy Baldpate. The method and proficiency with which the capture was made would lead one to believe that the procedure had been successfully tried before.

The hawk (a dark-colored bird, probably an adult female) was first seen hovering and diving over a small flock of Baldpates in a narrow slough about one mile south of Upham, North Dakota. Three or four ducks were diving as the hawk maneuvered over the water. One bird was apparently then singled out for attention and the others flew or swam a short distance away. As the individual reappeared at the surface the hawk dropped close with the legs carried away from the body. This caused