

**First Canadian Record of Virginia's Warbler.**—During the spring migration of 1958 I spent the months of April and May at Point Pelee National Park, Ontario, Canada (41° 54' N, 82° 31' W), as Station Director of the Point Pelee Bird Banding Station, which is operated by the Ontario Bird Banding Association.

Early on the evening of 16 May 1958 I noticed a lone warbler fluttering near the top of a tree. On checking it with binoculars, Leslie Gray and I identified it as a Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*), probably a first-year male. We kept the bird under observation for 20 minutes. During this time it neither called nor sang, and fed near the extreme tops of trees, which were approximately 10 meters in height.

On our direction the bird was collected by George M. Stirrett of the National Parks Service. The skin was prepared by Albert A. Wood and presented to the National Museum of Canada (No. 41430) where our identification was verified.

The skull was granulated. The sex (male) was determined by plumage only as the specimen was quite badly shattered by shot and the gonads were unobservable. The bird was very fat, especially on the feather tracts.

This specimen represents the first record for Canada and, as far as I can learn, the first east of the Mississippi River.

I would like to thank W. Earl Godfrey, Curator of Ornithology at the National Museum of Canada, for notes on this specimen, and Albert A. Wood for notes on the gonads, fat deposition, and osteological characteristics.—DOUGLAS D. DOW, 30 Brookside Street, London, Ontario.

**Cannibalism by Nestling Short-eared Owls.**—In my paper "The Importance of Juvenile Cannibalism in the Breeding Biology of certain Birds of Prey" (*Auk*, 76(2): 222–226, 1959) I propounded a theory that if, after hatching, the available supply of food proved insufficient to support the entire brood of a Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), their number would invariably be reduced to a feedable size by acts of cannibalism on the part of one or more of the older nestlings. I also explained the means by which such cannibalism in times of plenty could to a very large extent be controlled by the old birds.

When that paper was written I had no concrete proof that the redundant nestlings, which so regularly and conveniently disappeared from the nests of this owl, were, in fact, being killed and eaten by their larger brethren. Such proof has now come to hand. This is contained in a very interesting letter recently received from Mr. James Alder of Ponteland, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Having described how he erected a hide near the nest of a Short-eared Owl on one of the Northumberland moors, he writes: "There were now only five young in the nest, two having previously disappeared. Three of these were quite sturdy; the other two were smaller. After about an hour of watching the larger birds became very restless and presently one of them reached out and pulled at the head of a small one. It then picked it up and attempted to swallow it head first. This horrified me but I realised in a flash that here was the explanation of the seemingly inexplicable reduction in the size of this family and also in one the previous year, which had fallen from six chicks to three. I, therefore restrained an urge to rush out and interfere in what was happening.

"The larger owlet presently dropped the chick but after a few minutes again reached out and picked it up by its head. This time it succeeded in swallowing it, and after much writhing and gulping, only its feet showed. The chick, I remember, was appreciably bigger than a mouse and I recall being amazed that the older nestling had been able to swallow it whole."—COLLINGWOOD INGRAM, *The Grange, Benenden, England*.