

Accidental destruction of Greater Prairie Chicken eggs.—A nest of the Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus*) was found in Garfield County, Nebraska, 20 miles north of Burwell, on 9 May 1961. This locality is situated in the Sandhills, the vegetation of which has been described as a tall-grass postclimax (J. E. Weaver and F. E. Clements, *Plant ecology*, Second edit., 1938). The nest was located in an odd corner of an ungrazed meadow 25 feet from a barbed wire gate which was situated on a heavily used sand trail. When the gate was approached, the hen usually flushed from the nest without first moving to a standing position. As a result of this reaction over a period of time, 10 eggs of the clutch of 13 were cracked and failed to hatch. Although the hen was flushed on numerous occasions, she continued to incubate and the remaining 3 eggs hatched. This bird was wilder than most other nesting hens flushed, although the sudden emergence of humans from a vehicle may have been more startling than their gradual approach afoot.

Although prairie chicken eggs have reportedly been destroyed by several agents (R. E. Yeatter, *Bull. Illinois Nat. Hist. Surv.*, 22: 377-416, 1943), this seems to be the first recorded instance of accidental destruction of eggs by the hen. Judging from the lack of additional records of this kind of destruction resulting from this and other studies, losses of prairie chicken eggs from this type of accident are apparently insignificant.

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An early reference to the technique of owl calling.—A specialized technique employed in the study of owls involves the uttered or whistled imitation of their calls. This technique, first used by Loye Miller, and independently by Edouard Jacot (Miller and Miller, 1951: 161), makes use of the tendency of many owls to defend territories against intrusion by other owls of their own species and also to respond in various ways to members of related species. The imitation of an appropriate call often elicits seemingly aggressive calls of apparent protest and an approach by the owl.

In the most commonly cited reference to the use of this technique, Miller (1930) states: ". . . immediately after sunset I began giving the four-note 'hoot' of the Great Horned Owl [*Bubo virginianus*]. Within a few minutes a male bird answered from the southwest about a quarter of a mile away Calling continued, and this bird answered from a nearer point and then approached to within seventy-five feet and moved from perch to perch about our campfire out in the open Each time I hooted it turned quickly and looked in the direction of the sound." From this he concluded that the horned owl hoots from a point in his territory, an area within which he generally responds quickly to the note of a supposed invader.

Apparently this technique is equally effective with certain other species of owls. Campbell (1934), by imitation of their calls, was able to rouse Spotted Owls (*Strix occidentalis*) in early twilight, though this species seldom becomes active before nightfall. Van Rossem (1936) was also successful in "calling up" this species, as well as the Whiskered Owl (*Otus trichopsis*). After locating individuals of the latter species at five different sites, he imitated their call from a central point and induced four to approach him simultaneously. Marshall (1943: 23) was able to call them up in broad daylight and reported (see Pough, 1957: 137) that males of