

Nyctea nyctea. Snowy Owl. Several specimens were secured during the year. One taken on November 4, 1929, was heavily barred. Probably nests.

Hirundo erythrogaster. Barn Swallow. It is indeed interesting that in a single year's collecting at random such a straggler as this should be taken. One was secured on June 14, 1930. The tail of this specimen is noticeably short, measuring only 68 mm. It appears to be an adult. I sent this bird to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., for final identification. Dr. Oberholser in his letter says: "The female nearly always has a shorter tail than the male and apparently your specimen is one of the former sex."

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, November 13, 1931.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Bat-eating Sparrow Hawk.—In the depths of the Grand Cañon of the Colorado, a Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius phalaena*) was seen to pursue, capture, and devour a small bat. This occurred at 4:35 p. m., October 30, 1930, in the inner cañon of Hermit Creek, about sixty feet above the stream bed and at a point directly below Hermit Camp, elevation 3000 feet. Mr. Ben H. Thompson also witnessed the incident.

The little inner gorge was in shadows, though the sun still brightened the plateau above. The hawk flew low over the edge of the plateau, and while under observation it was seen to be pursuing a small fluttering object which I instantly took to be a bird. My immediate thought was to make sure that it was a sparrow hawk thus engaged in so unorthodox a pursuit. My field glasses were trained on the hawk and followed it while it dived at its prey, which proved to be a small bat. It dived repeatedly, not following the bat about, but striking at it and then gaining a little height before bearing down again. Once, however, it followed the bat into the overhanging recess toward which it was retreating and chased it out again. At about the seventh attempt, the little bat was caught in its talons and carried to the top of the ledge over the recess. The bird remained there for about two minutes, picked at its prize a couple of times and then flew to a rock on the plateau above. In flight, the sparrow hawk was silhouetted against the evening sky and its extended talons could plainly be seen clutching the body of the little bat whose wings appeared to be folded.

On the rock the sparrow hawk proceeded to consume its prey. Once Mr. Thompson saw three or four inches of entrails dangling from its beak. The process of eating took about three to five minutes. A little later the sparrow hawk opened its mouth wide and disgorged a small piece of something, we could not tell what. When the chase occurred it was still daylight, but by now it was beginning to get dusky. The sparrow hawk flew over the little gorge once more but did not hesitate, and passed out of sight over the hill. The bluish wings and red tail with strongly marked black terminal band showed it to be a male.

Because the bat appeared to be of a uniformly silver gray color and of such very small size, I believe that it was the Canyon Bat (*Pipistrellus hesperus hesperus*), rather than the Little Pallid Bat which is also found in the Grand Cañon. However, this cannot be asserted with any degree of finality.

This occurrence is noted in detail because the known natural enemies of bats are few.—GEORGE M. WRIGHT, *Berkeley, California, October 12, 1931.*

Bird-eating Ground Squirrels.—I do not know in just what year I made the following observation, probably 1903, but it does not matter. I was doing a little collecting on the plains just northeast of Colorado Springs that spring, and on the way to my traps walked along a road bordered by uncultivated ground, and beside which was a telephone line with several wires. Pale striped ground squirrels (*Citellus tridecemlineatus pallidus*) lived in holes on this land and I often noticed feathers, usually of Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris leucolaema*), near the holes and wondered if the squirrels had caught the birds and how.