

on this important point, which more than anything else would throw light on the question of whether any birds of the northern form interbreed with those which are permanent residents.—W. M. P. WHARTON.

What was wrong with this House Wren?—On June 24, 1928, while a brood of nestling House Wrens (*Troglodytes aëdon aëdon*) were being banded, one of the parent birds, banded 22 days previously, appeared near the nest acting in a seemingly strange manner. Fluttering as though crippled, it fell to the ground at a distance of fifteen feet from the writer. Supposing the bird to be severely injured or dead, I walked forward and picked up the prostrate form. The bird was retained until apparently recovered (about ten minutes) and then released, to enact the same performance. It was again retrieved and, after being held five minutes, released, when it flew with agility. This bird was taken as a repeat forty-four days later in a near-by nest-box, with a new mate, rearing a second brood. Hence, it is certain that complete recovery was won.

Whether this action can be classified as a reaction to molestation of the nest might be questionable. Since it occurred coincident with the disturbance of the nest, this would appear to be a tenable diagnosis. Certainly, in any event this bird was not feigning crippledness.—PAUL A. STEWART, Leetonia, Ohio.

Plumage Pattern of the Screech Owl.—A Screech Owl (*Otus asio asio*) gray phase, was banded at Lakewood, Ohio, October 20, 1930, No. 309305.



No trace of brown or rufous appeared, the feathers being mostly light gray, barred with darker gray and black. The breast and throat showed a symmetrical area almost white bordered with black. Excepting for the iris, which was yellow, the photograph shows the owl in its true colors, the only colors present being shades of gray, black and white.

Examination of the photograph, shown here, in a dim light or at a distance of several feet shows a change to a grotesque plumage pattern. Perhaps the photograph when viewed close up represents the bird as his friends see him, the other aspect being reserved as a warning pattern for his enemies or as a terrifying pattern for prospective prey.—E. C. HOFFMAN, Forest Cliff Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.