

Remains of banded birds found in Screech Owl pellets.—There are many references to the food of Screech Owls (*Otus asio*), but it is rare, indeed, for one to be fortunate enough to find in the pellets of these owls the remains of birds which one has banded. Smith (1947. *Bird-Banding*, 18: 129) reported finding the remains of two Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) in a Screech Owl pellet.

On several occasions during the fall and winter of 1949-1950, I observed a Screech Owl perched at the entrance to a cavity about twenty feet above ground in a tree in the University Arboretum in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The contents of the pellets strewn at the base of the tree were predominantly skulls and other bones of *Microtus* sp.

Although I had not seen the owl for several months, I visited the tree again on April 20, 1950, and found a considerable collection of aged and disintegrating pellets. As before, most of them contained rodent bones. In two pellets, however, I found not only bird remains, but also colored and aluminum bands which were still in place on the tarsometatarsi. A check of my banding records revealed that the birds concerned were an adult Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) and an adult female Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*).

About three hundred yards from the owl's tree I had captured and color-banded the adult titmouse on May 22, 1949. At that time, the titmouse was brooding young several days old. I color-banded the five young titmice on June 2, and at least two of them left the nest that day.

The female Goldfinch, her mate, and four fully-feathered young I had color-banded on August 24, 1949. This nest was located about one hundred yards from the owl's tree.

Although there is no way of knowing when the titmouse and the Goldfinch were killed, it seems likely that the Goldfinch was taken in the fall of 1949, inasmuch as the Goldfinch is, in all probability, migratory in the Ann Arbor region. The breeding titmice are permanent residents. One interesting feature about this record seems to me to be that both birds taken were adults, not young birds. In the case of the titmice, it may be that the young had left the immediate area once they had become independent. One sees here the possibility for an interesting problem resulting from extensive banding in areas known to be inhabited by Screech Owls.—Andrew J. Berger, Department of Anatomy, East Medical Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Reaction of female Horned Larks to banded young.—Several years ago Harvey B. Lovell reported in this journal (1945. *Bird-Banding*, 16: 144-145) an instance in which an adult Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) removed banded five-day-old young from the nest. Mr. Lovell had concluded earlier (1944. *Auk*, 61: 649) that an adult Prairie Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) had removed a banded six-day-old bird from its nest.

During 1950, in the vicinity of Ann Arbor, Michigan, I had the opportunity to observe the reactions of three female Horned Larks to banded young. On April 9, I found a nest containing two eggs at Willow Run Village. The eggs hatched April 11 or 12. I color-banded (orange above aluminum and blue above aluminum) the two young on April 19. A short time after I withdrew from the nest, the female returned and fed one of the young, after which she repeatedly picked at the aluminum band on "Orange." The female soon left the nest, but returned with food in about five minutes. After feeding one nestling the female picked at the same aluminum band, but not at the colored band, nor did she remove the young from the nest. The nest was empty on my next visit (April 22), but I found "Blue" about 95 yards from the nest. I was unable to find "Orange."

On April 20, I found a nest containing four young near the University Arboretum. Two days later the nest contained one nestling only, but I found two fledglings nearby. I banded the three young and replaced the youngest in the nest. The female lark fed this color-banded bird (white below aluminum), then picked it up by the aluminum band, flew eight yards and dropped it. She immediately picked up the nestling and flew an additional five yards before dropping it again. When the female flew off, I replaced "White" in the nest. The female fed the nestling several times, but did not attempt to remove it from the nest during the period of my observation. On April 23, however, I found "White" dead some