

## GENERAL NOTES

**Captive Barn Owls stockpile prey.**—Wild owls have been observed to stockpile prey in the nest when incubating eggs or brooding young (e.g., Bent, *U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* **167**, 1937; Reese, *Auk*, **89**: 106-114, 1972; and references therein). However, non-nesting Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) maintained individually in large enclosures killed more prey than was eaten. Because of these observations, two experiments were designed to test for stockpiling in captive Barn Owls and the results are reported here.

Prey were placed in field enclosures (3.6 x 9.0 x 3.9 m with sparse vegetation, described in Kaufman, MS) in the evening, and the location and number of uneaten mice were recorded the next morning. In Experiment 1, 10 *Mus musculus* (25-30 g each) were placed in enclosures with each of three Barn Owls during three trials on different nights. All of the 90 *Mus* were killed but only 56 plus parts of three others were eaten. Only one of the uneaten mice was left in the center of the pen whereas the remainder were placed on a covered perch (9) or on the ground in the corners of the pen (24). The owls made nine stockpiles of 2-4 mice, three on the perch and six in corners.

In Experiment 2, the number of prey was increased to 30 *Mus* (25-30 g) and 25 *Peromyscus polionotus* (12-15 g) in the first and second trials, respectively. All 165 mice were killed but only 51 plus parts of 13 additional mice were eaten. Barn Owls stockpiled 98 of the 114 (86%) uneaten prey (Table 1).

These experiments have demonstrated that Barn Owls will kill more prey than are eaten when prey are readily available. Wild owls probably kill more prey than are eaten when prey densities are high at any time of the year. But since field observations on stockpiling are usually made only at the nest (e.g., Reese, 1972, op. cit.; and references therein), this cannot be verified.

Research was supported by Contract AT(38-1)-310 between the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the University of Georgia.—DONALD W. KAUFMAN, Department of Zoology, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712. Received 13 February 1973, accepted 16 February 1973.

TABLE 1. Number of uneaten mice placed by Barn Owls on the perch, in corners, or other areas of the enclosures.

Owl	Prey	Perch	Corner				Other
			1	2	3	4	
1	30 <i>Mus</i>	8	7	5	0	5	1
2	30 <i>Mus</i>	10	3	5	1	4	2
3	30 <i>Mus</i>	6	3	6	2	3	4
1	25 <i>Peromyscus</i>	6	3	2	0	3	1
2	25 <i>Peromyscus</i>	4	0	1	0	0	5
3	25 <i>Peromyscus</i>	0	3	7	0	1	3

**Ring-billed Gull relocates nest as a result of egg displacement.**—While studying social behavior of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) at an established colony near Rogers City, Presque Isle County, Michigan, we recorded the details of a situation that resulted in a nest being moved by the adults. To our knowledge this is the first time that such an event has been reported for this species although Prevett (*Auk*, **90**: 202-204, 1972) recently reported a similar incident for the Blue Goose (*Anser caerulescens*).

During incubation, eggs are not infrequently rolled out of the nest by the feet of the adult Ring-billed Gulls. This usually occurs as the birds take flight, especially when they are disturbed suddenly. If the eggs are undamaged and within approximately 30 cm of the nest, the adults usually roll them back into the nest as described by Beer (*Ibis*, **104**: 388-398, 1962) and Tinbergen (*The Herring Gull's World*. London, Collins, 1953). Frequently in Ring-billed Gull colonies, however, abandoned eggs are found outside of nests.

In our study area that included 50 of the approximately 4,000 nests that existed in the colony in 1972, both adults and nests were marked with enamel paint so that ownership could be easily determined and individuals recognized. Each nest and