

BURROWING OWL LAYS EGG IN CAPTIVITY

Last season, on April 20th, 1920, while digging out a burrowing owl hole in a wheat field in Benicia I captured the female owl in the nest cavity. One egg had been laid in the enlarged chamber, six feet from the entrance, with no nest except dried horse dung, which carpeted the burrow from the entrance. I took the owl home and improvised a cage for her. On the morning of the second day after her capture, when we arose in the morning, we found an egg on the board floor of the box in which we had confined her. I thought she might lay some more as this was but her second one, and one's natural impression would be that eggs in process of formation would necessarily have to develop and be deposited; however, birds apparently have remarkable control over this function, as, for instance, is evidenced by the fact that a complete new set of eggs can be brought into existence within a comparatively few days after the destruction of a previous set. It also appears that they can stop laying if they so desire, and this she did, as, although I kept her five days longer, she would lay no more. As I had no access to mice or other rodents I shot some sparrows, one or two a day, though no doubt she could have taken care of more. These she ate entirely, leaving no sign of flesh, feathers, or claws, though she would not eat if she was aware that anyone was watching her. When anyone appeared suddenly in front of her cage she would assume an attitude of willingness to take either offensive or defensive, at the same time uttering a long scream and glaring at the intruder until she got accustomed to his presence, then she would settle down, continuing to glare at him. If our cat showed himself there was a continual screaming until the animal disappeared. After our interesting little visitor had spent her seventh day with us we took her back to the same field and released her.

Benicia, Solano County, Calif.

EMERSON A. STONER.

THE CHICAGO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Dr. R. M. Strong, with twenty-two students of ornithology in the University of Chicago, founded the Chicago Ornithological Society in December, 1912. The purpose of the Society being to stimulate interest in the study of Bird Life, especially our local birds, by the collection of data and comparison of field notes on the birds of the Chicago area.

The meetings were at first held in the buildings of the University, but as the membership of the Society grew, with members residing in all parts of the city, a central meeting place became desirable, and since 1915 the Society has held monthly meetings in the Loop District. A number of our members were kind enough to tender the use of their downtown offices for this purpose and those of us who have attended these meetings during