

as they attempted to plug that break in the tunnel with dirt. Though pocket gophers are chiefly solitary animals, the young gophers are active and still in the parental burrows at this time of year in the Bridger Mountains.

The owl was not wary, but it would fly if I approached to within 40 feet, and then return to the same perch. Apart from this it appeared oblivious of my presence. It seemed to have no difficulty in seeing in the daylight. No sound was made by it at any time.

On July 4, 1941, I again saw a Great Gray Owl flying through an open space in the forest, at 1:00 P.M. when the sun was shining brightly. The location was three miles away from that described above, but in a similar situation. H. B. Mills reports seeing this species in the Bridgers on August 9, 1942, and also in Yellowstone National Park on October 8, 1934. Saunders (*Pac. Coast Avifauna*, 14, 1921:68) reported the Great Gray Owl in Montana as only a winter visitor, but Weydemeyer (*Condor*, 34, 1932:139) reported young on July 4, 1931, from eastern Lincoln County in the northern part of the state. Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 170, 1938: 219) has already pointed out that this owl may regularly breed within the limits of the United States. Though no nest has been discovered in the Bridger Mountains it would seem likely that the Great Gray Owl is a permanent resident there.—C. A. TRYON, JR., *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana.*

Plague of Mice as Food for Short-eared Owls.—Snyder and Hope (*Wilson Bulletin*, 50, No. 2, 1938:110-12) gave a detailed account of an influx of Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) into the Toronto region during the late winter of 1935-36 when meadow mice (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) occurred there in unusually large numbers. After examining 1,078 pellets collected under a roost in that area, they found about 72 per cent of the individuals were meadow mice, and about 27 per cent were deer mice (*Peromyscus* spp.), the remaining 1 per cent being house mice and small birds.

A congregation of Short-eared Owls occurred simultaneously with a high *Microtus* population in central New York during a later winter. Between December 31, 1941, and March 5, 1942, from 2 to 14 Short-eared Owls roosted in a white pine grove near the village of Perry City in Schuyler County, New York. Meadow mice were unusually abundant in this area and formed a large part of the contents of 142 pellets collected under this roost at the end of the winter. Following are the results of the examination of the 142 pellets:

Animals represented	Number	
<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	124	(82.1%)
<i>Mus musculus</i>	18	(11.9%)
<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	5	(3.3%)
<i>Pitymys pinetorum</i>	3	(2.0%)
<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	1	(0.7%)

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The owls usually emerged from the pine roost at about 3 P.M. each day. As if on a given signal, they would fly out from the pines and start beating back and forth over the adjacent pasture, scanning the snow for mice. On February 9, four Short-eared Owls were seen crossing and recrossing the pasture, while a fifth sat on a nearby fence post with a *Microtus* in one foot. Sometimes they hovered over a particular spot in the snow with a quivering motion of the wings and body; then they would plummet downward with the wings held high overhead and their feet extended as they dropped on the snow. On February 24, 14 owls were flushed from this roost.—PVT. JOHN K. TERRES, *U. S. Army, Peekskill, New York*, and E. W. JAMESON, JR., *Department of Zoology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*