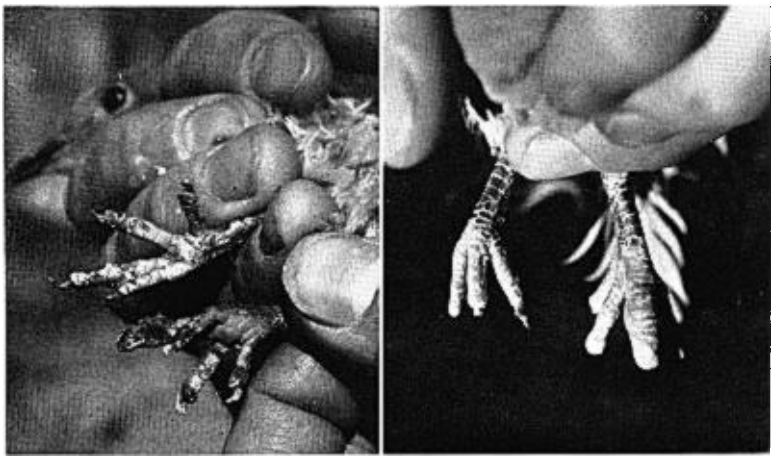
Arrestment of the post-juvenal molt was apparent in all three of the birds held captive. Of the other four trapped birds only two were given a wing molt examination. In one of these the molt of the primaries was complete; in the other the molt had been arrested. This phenomenon apparently is identical with that observed in the Bob-white by Thompson and Kabat (1950. *Wilson Bulletin*, 62: 20–31). The arrestment of molt varied in the four doves. In one bird the five outer juvenal primaries had been retained, in another bird four had been retained, in another three, in another two. The condition was bilaterally symmetrical in each case. The birds also retained, respectively, the outer four, three, two, and one white-tipped juvenal primary coverts. White-tipping and other evidences of immaturity were ap-



Left: Frozen feet of a Mourning Dove captured at Horicon, Wisconsin, February 8, 1950, and photographed the following day by Frank M. Kozlik. Right: Feet of the same dove after about six weeks of confinement. Photo by Robert A. McCabe.

parent also on unmolted feathers of the alula of the first two birds (two outer white-tipped feathers in the first; one in the second). The juvenal primaries were short, ragged, and faded dull brown, lacking entirely the sheen of the pearly gray new feathers. Swank (1950. *Texas Game and Fish*, Feb., pp. 5 and 21) states that six months are required for completion of the Mourning Dove's post-juvenal molt of primaries. If birds of late-hatched broods do not molt the outer primaries before the arrival of cold weather the molt may be arrested or suspended.—DONALD R. THOMPSON, *Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison.*

Great Horned Owl versus porcupine.—There are few published records of encounters between the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) and the porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*). The classic account is that of Eifrig (1909. *Auk*, 26: 58), quoted by Bent and by Forbush. The porcupine is not mentioned in the food habits study of this owl made by Errington, Hamerstrom and Hamerstrom (1940. *Iowa Agr. Exp. Sta. Research Bull.* 277).

On December 8, 1949, two Great Horned Owls were trapped near Ithaca, New York, and presented to the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University. Judging by size they were a male and a female. The end of a porcupine quill was noted protruding from among the feathers of the right anterior portion of the neck of the female. This quill was extracted. It was 44 mm. long, and judging from the fragments of tissue adhering to the barbs, had penetrated to a depth of at least 6 mm. This depth of penetration, coupled with the fact that

owls have a heavy protective layer of feathers, showed that the quill had been driven in with some force. The size and shape of the quill suggested the probability of its having arisen from the porcupine's tail, a notorious defensive weapon. No search for additional quills was made.

Evidence that this particular owl had attacked other prey usually avoided by most predators was the strong skunk-smell of its plumage. The skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), of course, is well known as a prey species of the Great Horned Owl.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Western Burrowing Owl in Michigan.—The Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) has "on several occasions . . . been taken outside its normal range" (Bent, 1938. "Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey," Part 2, p. 396). There are several published records for it in Wisconsin (see W. C. Pelzer, 1941. *Passenger Pigeon*, 3: 91 and H. L. Orians, 1948. *ibid.*, 10: July, back cover). R. L. Patterson (1946. *Wilson Bulletin*, 58: 53) has even reported observing a Burrowing Owl flying from ship to ship at sea more than a hundred miles off the mouth of the Gulf of California.

On May 1, 1949, three miles northwest of Chassell, Houghton County, Michigan, Bourdo chanced to encounter a Burrowing Owl along a road. It was on the ground, in open, rather flat farmland. On being stalked it pulled itself erect, as if in an attempt to see the stalker more clearly. Typical of it was a 'pumping' or bobbing motion, particularly of the head. It uttered no sound. After 20 minutes of being observed on the ground it flew to the top of a fencepost about 50 feet away. When flying it held its long legs toward the rear so that they extended well beyond the tail. Standing on the fencepost, it watched Bourdo for some time. It seemed more curious than afraid. It permitted the car to approach slowly to within 15 feet before flying off.

The following day (May 2), we found the owl in almost the same place—standing on a corner fencepost looking out across the hayfields and pasture-lands. After collecting it, we searched in vain for a burrow of any sort. At the base of a fencepost 30 feet north of the spot at which we had shot it we found the fresh remains of a Masked Shrew (*Sorex cinereus*).

The owl proved to be a female. It weighed 183.5 grams. It was heavily infested with *Docophorus communis*, a common biting louse of passerine birds. The stomach contained 8 cc. of mud and food, of which 2.5 cc. were food. The food items were: 1 earthworm, 2 spiders, 4 carabid beetles, 1 unidentified lepidopteran, and remains of 1 unidentified hymenopteran. In the crop were the spinal column (18 mm. long) and a few attached ribs of an unidentified small vertebrate.

The Burrowing Owl specimen is now No. 118,163 in the collection of the Museum of Zoology at the University of Michigan. It is, according to Dr. J. Van Tyne, the first of the species to be recorded in Michigan. It has been identified as the western North American race, *S. c. hypugaea*. A photograph of it has appeared in a recent issue of *The Jack-Pine Warbler* (1950. 28: plate 2).—ERIC A. BOURDO and GENE A. HESTERBERG, *Michigan College of Mining and Technology, Houghton.*

The nest and eggs of *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*.—The tropical New World flycatchers of the genus *Tolmomyias* are small and dull colored, resembling somewhat those of the much better known and more northward ranging genus *Empidonax*. They are, however, rather heavy-billed, in this respect resembling the species of *Rhynchocyclus*. Hellmayr (1927. Cat. Birds of the Americas, Part 5, pp. 273–293) gives all the species of the closely related genera *Tolmomyias*, *Rhynchocyclus* and *Ramphotrigon* the common name Flat-bill, a not very satisfactory appellation.

On July 31, 1949 I spent some time watching a pair of *Tolmomyias flaviventris* (Yellow-vented Flat-bills) building a nest about 1.5 meters above the ground in a coffee shrub near