

When the Canvas-back was flushed some time later, a fresh Redhead egg was found in the nest.

Although this is an isolated observation, the fact that successful egg-dumping was achieved while the owner remained on the nest suggests that this may be a normal technique adopted by Redheads.—D. F. MCKINNEY, *Severn Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, England, October 14, 1953.*

Diurnal foraging by the Great Horned Owl.—Diurnal foraging by the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) has been noted by various workers. Bent (1938. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 170:312), for example, reports observations made in the middle of the day of these owls soaring like large hawks. While doing field work in August, 1953, in the Riverside Mountains of California, a desert range bordering the west side of the Colorado River approximately 35 miles north of Blythe, Riverside County, I was impressed by the diurnal activity of the Great Horned Owl. On many occasions, while hiking up canyons of the east slope of the range in late afternoon, I observed owls that seemed to be foraging. I watched one individual with binoculars for a short time, and saw it perch on several commanding outcrops of rock on the steep walls of the canyon, staying approximately a minute at each vantage point. The time was more than an hour before sundown and the rims of the canyons were in sunlight, although the canyon in which the owl was noted was in deep shadow. Indirect evidence was obtained indicating that Great Horned Owls foraged in this area even in full daylight. In a large grotto, from which an owl had repeatedly been flushed, I discovered in weathered owl pellets the nearly complete skull of a chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*), a large iguanid lizard active only during the hottest part of the day. To catch this chuckwalla the horned owl probably foraged in the sunlight. The following species also were taken from the owl pellets: pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), pocket mouse (*Perognathus formosus*), kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami*), wood rat (*Neotoma lepida*), and cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*).

Evidence from trapping small mammals suggested a possible explanation for the diurnal activity of horned owls in this area. Rodent activity was low in the Riverside Mountains area when these observations were made and the rodents foraged mostly in early morning. Consequently the horned owls may have been unable to obtain sufficient food during their usual nocturnal hunting, and of necessity may have extended their foraging into the daylight hours.—TERRY A. VAUGHAN, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, December 30, 1953.*

American Bittern in Virgin Islands.—One of the rewards of living on a small, isolated sea island is the thrill of discovering, now and again, a new inhabitant. On the morning of October 7, 1953, I flushed a tall, buff-colored bird in a partly overgrown cow pasture at Estate Anguilla, St. Croix, Virgin Islands. At first I thought it was a young night heron. Something about this bird, however, did not appear right so I collected it. It was an American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). The only bittern ordinarily found in the Virgin Islands is the Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), and this is very uncommon. The closest point from which American Bitterns have been previously recorded is the island of Puerto Rico, 80 miles to the northwest. This bird was prepared as a skin; it measured as follows: wing, 255 mm.; tail, 85 mm.; bill, 66 mm.; tarsus, 85 mm. The stomach was practically empty. The bird was very light, but appeared to be in sound condition. No ectoparasites were found.—GEORGE A. SEAMAN, *Wildlife Biologist, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, October 16, 1953.*