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Cannibalism by an Adult Great Horned Owl.—Reports of cannibalism in birds of prey are not uncommon, although in most cases the cannibalism has involved nestlings and has been deduced from post facto circumstantial evidence. Pilz (Auk 93:838, 1976), Heintzelman (Auk 83:307, 1966), and Ingram (Auk 76:218, 1959) have all documented cannibalism directed towards juvenile raptorial birds. Cannibalism among birds of prey, however, has seldom been reported in the literature. Clevenger and Roest (Auk 91:639, 1974) observed possible cannibalism when they reported seeing an adult Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) carrying the partially eaten remains of another hawk of the same species. Robinson (*Wilson Bull.* 66:72, 1954) saw a Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) feeding on another Burrowing Owl, while Steffen (Auk 94:593, 1977) found skeletal remains and rectrices from an adult Red-tailed Hawk in a nest with a live immature chick.

The observation described below took place within a fenced test reactor area on the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Site. This area is characterized as a cool desert shrub biome and is situated along the western edge of the upper Snake River Plain in southeastern Idaho. At 09:00 on 3 December 1974, we saw a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) feeding on another Great Horned Owl on snow covered ground. The feeding owl showed little alarm on our approach to within 3 m and continued to remove breast feathers. It then fed on exposed pectoral muscle tissue. Since the dead owl was limp and not frozen despite a minimum temperature of -12°C the previous night, we concluded that the owl had died recently.

On 2 subsequent visits within a span of 3 hours, the owl was still seen feeding on the carcass, however no further observations were made that day. The following morning at 08:30, a Great Horned Owl was again feeding on the remains, but flew when approached. The owl returned within a few minutes and continued to feed until 13:00 when it left; it was not seen again. Most of the flesh had been removed from the owl carcass and the head was severed from the body. The remaining skeletal mass and gastrointestinal tract were intact. Two castings were collected and one contained owl remains. A comparison of the remains, including the feet, with Great Horned Owl study skins at Idaho State University suggested that the dead owl was a male. Although the sequence of observed events led us to hypothesize the actual killing of an adult owl by another, no causal evidence was found to directly support such a contention.

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