

"As it began to grow dark, I saw something every now and then moving among the trees opposite the entrance to the driveway, and when I crept up I could hear the owls snapping their bills, and spitting like a cat, and snarling. It was lucky I had on the mask, for while I was standing there, straining my eyes and ears, something suddenly swooped down without warning and gave me a hard blow on the side of the head, on the edge of the mask, at the same time uttering a scream of rage. A cousin of Mrs. Hoar's, who also had on a mask, was struck squarely in the face, and at the same moment we heard the scream of rage again. Apparently the hardness of the masks and our not being intimidated made the birds desist, for they did not attack us again, although we saw them fly from tree to tree, and clamber, parrot-like, up an inclined branch, and swing on a hanging one."

Mrs. Worcester adds that a pair of Screech Owls which bred "for a good many years" in a tree standing near a house in Arlington, Massachusetts, developed, in 1902, a habit "of attacking the people who went in and out of the yard, and even those who passed on the sidewalk."—  
WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**The Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) not generally Abundant in the Winter of 1906-1907.**—I think there has been no record showing an unusual abundance of this species for two consecutive years, and our experience shows that there is a lapse of from five to ten years between these noticeable invasions. In the winter of 1905-1906 we had an unusual abundance scattered over the country, but the present season has been devoid of any remarkable flight south into the United States, though in Manitoba they are reported as abundant as last year. In many sections of the Provinces, New England, and the Middle West, my correspondents who received numbers last winter, have had but few this season, and in some instances none.

The following eleven specimens received by Angell and Cash, taxidermists, Providence, R. I., will be of interest as they record complete data. They were received between November 3, 1906, and February 12, 1907.

- Nov. 3, ♂, Newport, R. I.  
" 5, ♂, Hope Island, Narragansett Bay, R. I.<sup>1</sup>  
" 12, ♀, Fisher's Island, N. Y.  
" 15, ♀, Monomoy Island, Mass.  
" 15, ♀, New London, Conn.<sup>2</sup>  
" 19, ♂, Monomoy Island, Mass.  
" 21, ♂, Block Island, R. I.  
" 28, ♂, Seaconnet Point, R. I.  
" 28, ♀, New London, Conn.<sup>3</sup>  
" 30, ♂, Norwich, Conn.  
Feb. 12, ♀, Fisher's Island, N. Y.

<sup>1</sup>Contents of stomach, a gray rat, head digested, otherwise whole.

<sup>2</sup>Contents of stomach, rat fur and bone pellets.

<sup>3</sup>Contents of stomach, dark flesh and feathers of Black Duck.

Where no mention is made of the contents of stomach it was empty or not examined.

Mr. Alexander Calder, Winnipeg, Man., and Mr. George E. Atkinson, Portage la Prairie, Man., inform me that these owls have been quite as numerous in their localities as they were in the winter of 1905-1906, when they were very abundant.

An interesting feature is that a number of persons who have this season received specimens, report the unusually light plumage, some examples being practically immaculate. Mr. Jas. H. Fleming, Toronto, Ont., writes under date of February 20, 1907, that Snowy Owls reached Toronto early in October (first record Oct. 12), and while the flight was not large, it was remarkable for the wonderful whiteness of the birds. Mr. Fleming states that among a dozen specimens examined there was not a dark one represented, and one taken on November 10, was as nearly spotless as a Snowy Owl can be.

Mr. P. A. Taverner, Detroit, Mich., under date of November 26, 1906, writes:

"This fall I have a few notes on Snowy Owls that you may find of interest.

"Oct. 29, 1906, male, Point Pelee, Ont. This is an almost pure white bird with but half a dozen or so light markings on the breast and a few more a shade darker on inner secondaries and scapularies. Specimen in my collection.

"Nov. 8, 1906, female, Point Pelee, Ont., the usual dark form and the only such bird that I have so far seen this fall.

"Nov. 9, 1906 (about), Port Huron, Mich., almost as white as specimen taken October 29.

"Nov. 9, 1906 (about), Port Huron, Mich., not quite as white as the last but still remarkably so. Both these birds were probably males but were not sexed.

"Nov. 10, 1906, Grosse Isle, Mich., male. Taken a few miles below Detroit. This is one of the very whitest owls I ever saw. Plucking out a few body feathers would make it immaculate.

"This flight is of more than usual interest from the pronounced whiteness of the birds taken. In all previous flights as far as I can gather the birds were of the usual heavily marked type. It shows I think that this flight comes from a different geographical source than previous flights. The only place that I know of where white birds are at all common is the Canadian Northwest, and it therefore looks as if it was from thence that these birds came, via my 'Hyperlaken Route.'"

Mr. J. D. Allen, taxidermist, Mandan, No. Dak., writes under date of March 11, 1907: "The Snowy Owls have not been as abundant in this vicinity during the present winter, as they were a year ago. About twenty specimens have been sent to me, while last winter I received about thirty." Mr. Allen also states that some years ago there was a most remarkable flight of these owls throughout the State and that he

secured over five hundred specimens, and the following year over three hundred and fifty. Since that time they have averaged from ten to forty during the winter season.

I am very much indebted to those who have kindly communicated their observations and should be glad to receive further records from any who may have observed this species within the past few months.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

**American Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) in Rhode Island**—

I am indebted to Messrs. Angell and Cash, taxidermists, Providence, R. I., for information regarding the capture of a male Hawk Owl at West Greenwich, R. I., Nov. 16, 1906. The stomach was empty. I think that this may be given as the first authentic record for this species in the State. The only previous citation would seem rather a doubtful record (Birds of Rhode Island, Howe and Sturtevant, 1899, p. 63) as follows: "The only record is of one taken by Mr. W. A. Aldrich (exact locality not known)."—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

**Identity of *Tyrannula mexicana* Kaup.**—In his recent paper on the genus *Myiarchus* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XVII, pp. 21–50, 1904), E. W. Nelson expressed the belief that Kaup's name *Tyrannula mexicana* was based upon the species usually known as *Myiarchus cinerascens*. No changes in current usage were made by him, however, these being deferred until such time as Kaup's type might be examined. While in Germany a few months ago, I therefore took the opportunity to visit the Darmstadt Museum (Grossherzog. Hessisches Museum) and compare this type with recently collected specimens. Dr. G. von Koch of the Darmstadt Museum readily found it for me and kindly extended the courtesies of the museum, for which I am very grateful. The specimen has been on exhibition and its color is considerably altered. The outer tail feathers, so important for comparison, are faded to such an extent that their markings cannot be determined except by very careful examination. In ordinary light, no markings are evident, but by transmitted light the relations of the light and dark areas are reasonably plain, and it may be seen that the dusky on the inner web is confined chiefly to the distal third of the feather and that it broadens across the tip as is characteristic of *cinerascens*. The outer web of the feather also shows a wedge-shaped dusky area. The second and third feathers underlying the outer tail feather are scarcely faded and their markings unchanged. Although not so broadly dusky at the tip as in some specimens, they agree with those of '*cinerascens*' and differ decidedly from '*mexicanus*.' Direct comparisons were made with specimens from the Biological Survey collection selected for the purpose by Mr. Nelson (No. 144872 from Cuernavaca, Morelos, representing '*cinerascens*' and No. 144861 from Minatitlan, Vera Cruz, representing '*mexicanus*'). After making these comparisons, I am convinced that Kaup's type represents the species usually called *cinerascens* and not the