

collecting shore birds from a blind on the beach a mile or two above Sea Isle City, N. J., a single female Golden Plover came to my decoys. I had been shooting on this spot for many years, which at half tide disclosed a large area of sod bank, a favorite feeding spot for shore birds, but this was the only Golden Plover I had seen. On November 23, 1922, Mr. J. E. Godfrey collected a female of the year at Corson's Inlet a little farther north, and sent the specimen to me in the flesh—WHARTON HUBER, *Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., Pa.*

An Instance of Extreme Precocity in Young Pheasants.—On July 25, 1922, while cutting brush in a wet meadow, on my place in Newton Centre, Mass., I started a female Ring-necked Pheasant from a nest built in a clump of weeds, and which contained nine eggs.

On August 3, I found a female Pheasant lying dead, but still warm, upon the grass in front of the side door of my house. I jumped to the conclusion that my setter dog had probably caught the sitting bird. Hurrying down to the meadow, with a couple of friends, who happened to be with me, however, I was delighted to find the female sitting quietly upon her nest.

Owing to her protective coloration, my friends were at first unable to see her, until I reached over and attempted to part the weeds, when the bird rose into the air cackling and flew away, leaving a nest full of young just hatched, tottery, and some of them still wet. Before I could take a step nearer, every one of the little fellows had run or crawled out of the nest into the grass beyond, and I did not dare move for fear of stepping on some of them. Their fear in this case would seem to have been instinctive.—FREDERIC H. KENNARD, *Newton Centre, Mass.*

The Barn Owl in Washington State.—In his preliminary list of the birds of the Grays Harbor region (*Auk*, Vol. IX, 1892, pp. 43-44) Lawrence tentatively entered the Barn Owl as a resident, but only on the word of a neighbor, who reported seeing the species twice in February, 1891, near the east Humptulips River, where it seemed to have been attracted by the carcass of a small striped skunk. In 1909 Brooks (*Auk*, Vol. XXVI, 1909, p. 313) recorded the taking of a single specimen in April near the mouth of Fraser River, in British Columbia. I am indebted to Mr. D. E. Brown, of Seattle, Washington, for the following additional information concerning the status of the Barn Owl on the northwest coast. On July 13, 1915, Mr. J. Hooper Bowles, of Tacoma, collected a bird of the year at Puyallup, Pierce County, Washington; on October 1, 1917, Mr. Carl Lien, now of Clallam Bay, took a female specimen at Point Chehalis, on Grays Harbor; on November 1, 1917, Mr. Lien collected a male in the same locality, and on November 9 reported seeing another bird, which, however, was not taken. On November 25, 1917, Mr. E. A. Kitchin, of Tacoma, flushed a male Barn Owl from an old barn near the tide flats, later collecting it and finding its stomach full of the remains of mice. Professor H. S. Brode, of Whitman College, and Mr. S. H. Lyman, of Dayton, Washington, write that a specimen was taken at the Offner place near Walla Walla on

May 23, 1918, now being in the Whitman College collection, Walla Walla. These records seem to stamp the Barn Owl as a sporadic migrant, principally in the humid Transition Zone of southwestern Washington, but to be looked for at long intervals at moderate altitudes along the southern border of the State as well as along the coast all the way to the Canadian border.—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *U. S. Biological Survey, La Jolla, California.*

Long-eared Owl at Ipswich, Mass. in Summer.—On July 29, 1911, the writer with Messrs. L. B. Fletcher and C. L. Whittle observed a Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*), at Ipswich, Mass. The bird was found in a thick growth of pines at the edge of the sand-dunes, where it remained although disturbed and frightened a number of times.

The fact that this Owl was seen in July, suggests that with a mate it might have nested here, and records of this species in Massachusetts are sufficiently uncommon to make the above worthy of note.—CHARLES B. FLOYD, *454 Walcott St., Auburndale, Mass.*

The Saw-whet Owl in Spring at Philadelphia, Pa.—On April 5, 1922, at Holmesburg, Philadelphia, Pa., while searching the upper border of a strip of woods, for a Cardinal's nest, I almost bumped my head against a Saw-whet Owl that was roosting under a dense canopy of honeysuckle vines, five feet high, that covered one of the bushes. The bird flew about fifteen feet and lit on a limb of a bush, a yard from the ground, with its back towards me. It permitted me to approach within two yards, turning its head around to watch me. It then flew about four yards and lit at the same height upon another bush. I approached within three yards before the bird flew to another perch, about ten yards away; both of these times it faced me and quietly and unconcernedly let me approach. It seemed utterly fearless, and gazed at me with wide opened eyes. Under its roost was a pile of 31 pellets, and two feet distant was a similar roost, under a dense canopy of Lonicera vines; beneath this one were 35 pellets, altogether 66 pellets beside piles of excrement, indicating that the bird had spent the winter here. These pellets averaged $1'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$ in size, and were ovate or elongate in shape, and of a grayish color. They contained the bones and fur of mice and shrews, the skulls being in the largest pellets invariably. There were 30 of these skulls, 24 being those of the white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and the remaining six those of the short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*). None of the skulls were perfect as is the case with skulls found in pellets of the larger Owls. I was surprised at not finding any meadow mice skulls in the pellets. From this it would seem that the Saw-whet Owl is a woodland feeder.

This is the only spring record of the occurrence of the Saw-whet Owl I have been able to find for this vicinity. Fowler (Cassinia, 1916, p. 11) mentions "a wing found in the woods near the Upper Rhawn street bridge, March 12, 1911"—perhaps in the same woods where I saw my bird.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*