

their respective sizes. On this date the young were banded and "movies" were taken of them by Mr. Alex. H. Leighton.

Some authorities state the Barn Owl has two broods a year, but a search of available literature discloses only one other winter nesting record. Possibly this practice is more common than generally supposed, due to lack of systematic search for nests at this season. It seems odd that this same pair should nest *this* winter, for the tower was visited the two preceding winters and no evidence of a nest was found, which leads us to the theory that possibly misfortune had befallen the adult female and the male had secured a new mate.—JULIAN K. POTTER AND JOHN A. GILLESPIE, *Collingswood, N. J. and Glenolden, Pa.*

**Bats Eaten by Short-eared Owl.**—On March 22, 1925, while I was collecting specimens for the Natural History Museum of San Diego on Sweetwater Marsh, which is situated on the east side of San Diego Bay, I picked up a well preserved Owl pellet from beneath a stake that projected a couple of feet above the surrounding marsh. Upon examining it, I was surprised to find the skull of a small bat embedded in its side. This prompted a further search among the vegetation beneath the stake and I soon found a second pellet, of the same color and appearance as the first. The contents of the two pellets, when they were examined later at the Museum, proved that they were unquestionably disgorged by the same bird. That the species was the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) there can be no doubt, for it winters commonly on the salt marshes about San Diego Bay and several were seen, and one collected, on the day in question.

In my personal experience of the food of the Short-eared Owl, my only previous record was the stomach contents of a specimen killed in late March, 1911, which contained an entire California Black Rail (*Creciscus coturniculus*), swallowed in two pieces. Of the two pellets which are the subject of the present note, the contents, after being spread out for tabulation, were as follows:

Pellet No. 1.

(a) Skull, lower jaws, scapula, parts of metacarpal (wing) bones, and undigested skin, with hair attached, of a Western Red Bat (*Nycteris borealis teliotis*).

(b) Skull, right lower jaw, right scapula, parts of metacarpal (wing) bones, undigested skin, with hair attached, of Bat (*Pipistrellus hesperus* subsp.).

(c) Mass of small, unidentifiable bat bones.

(d) Portions of skull and skeleton of Southern California Meadow Mouse (*Microtus californicus sanctidiegi*).

(e) Upper mandible of Belding's Marsh Sparrow (*Passerculus beldingi*).

(f) Upper mandible of Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis* subsp.).

(g) Lower mandible of unidentified bird.

(h) Two bird stomachs.

(i) Unidentified bird bones, and mass of feathers and meadow mouse hair.

Pellet No 2.

(a) Pelvic portion of the spinal column of Western Red Bat (*Nycteris borealis teliotis*).

(b) Pelvic portion of the spinal column of Bat (*Pipistrellus hesperus* subsp.).

(c) Other bones belonging to both species of bats.

(d) Upper and lower mandibles of American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*).

(e) One bird stomach.

(f) Unidentified bird bones, and mass of feathers and meadow mouse hair.

The record of the Owl's entire feast on this occasion—two bats, four birds, and a meadow mouse—is not particularly favorable to its reputation as a highly beneficial species. Presence of the bats suggests conjecture as to how the Owl catches them. The possibility of its securing them in their roosting places seems remote, leaving only the assumption that it takes them on the wing. If so, we must credit the Short-eared Owl with considerable agility. In the writer's experience, bats make a rather difficult mark to shoot at, owing to their rapid and irregular flight; whereas the Owl's flight is anything but swift and gives the impression of being unstable.

The action of the digestive fluids on the various animals contained in the pellets seems worthy of note. The hair of the meadow mouse and the feathers of the four birds formed one conglomerate, inseparable mass, in which neither hair nor feathers could be identified. On the other hand, the hair of both the bats, with its color perfectly preserved, was still attached to the skin, which was in strips, as though the Owl had thus torn the hide from the bodies. It is evident that, in this instance at least, the gastric juices had no action on the skin tissue of bats. The action on the bones, however, was quite the contrary, for the bones of the birds, excepting the skulls and horny substance covering the beaks, were well preserved, whereas the terminal ends of the lighter bat bones had been dissolved.

Apart from a study in the Owl's food, the fact that the bats were taken when and where they were, is interesting. Literature is sadly lacking in winter data on these animals, and the occurrence of both species of bats in the San Diego region at this season—for the pellets were manifestly fresh—is worthy of record.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego, Calif.*

**Belted Kingfisher Preyed upon by Red-tailed Hawk.**—Having read the note concerning the "Kingfisher and Cooper's Hawk" by Charles Eugene Johnson, with additions by the Editor, in the October (1925) issue of 'The Auk,' the writer was reminded of a recently acquired bit of information along the same line.

On October 17, an immature male Red-tailed Hawk was picked up