

At that time the toes on the foot which had been caught in the trap were stiff and black in color, while the talons on the same foot were light colored, in contrast to the black talons on the healthy foot. The bird limped badly, appeared listless and with eyes closed, and would not eat. The excrement was watery and greenish in color. That night, January 5, 1927, it died.

The bird has been identified by Prof. E. Howard Eaton as the Gray Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus rusticolus*).

It is now being mounted by John Hill, 171 Brunswick Street, Rochester, N. Y.—HENRY E. WONDERGEM, 100 Gibbs St., Rochester, N. Y.

Gyrfalcon in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania.—On January 7 there was brought to a Lancaster taxidermist an apparently mature female *Falco rusticolus gyrfalco* (or *rusticolus*) which had been killed at Manheim, Pa., about thirty miles north of the Maryland line. The farmer, Landis Witman, who shot the bird reported that it was bold to the point of fearlessness in its invasions of his barnyard, several times dashing upon Pigeons and Chickens which were near by. When he followed the bold Hawk he easily approached within firing range.

Fortunately, we saw the Gyrfalcon before it was skinned. Its length is 25 inches; wing, 17; wing spread, 57; and tail 10.75. Its back and wings are nearly solid lead gray the feathers being but slightly trimmed with grayish white. The entire head, neck and cheeks to the pale gray chin are solid dark lead gray, unstriped and unspotted. The breast is roughly striped with lead gray and white. The tail is abundantly barred with dark gray and light gray. Everywhere the bird is without any fuscous or brown tints. The ornamental features of plumage are the inner wing coverts which are bright-gray handsomely polka-dotted with white. In its solidly colored head and general color arrangement the bird is *Falco r. gyrfalco*; while in its absence of fuscous tints it resembles *Falco r. rusticolus*. At the suggestion of Dr. Witmer Stone the writer took the mounted Gyrfalcon to Philadelphia to compare it with the five specimens which are in the Academy of Natural Sciences. It was unlike any of the five in plumage characters.

Eight Goshawks and about that number of Snowy Owls are known to have been killed in Lancaster County this winter, but we scarcely expected that this extraordinary southward flight of the northern Raptores would include the Gyrfalcon.—HERBERT H. BECK and H. JUSTIN RODDY, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.

The Destruction of Eagles.—No one can say with certainty at this date how far distant is the time when the Bald Eagle and its conspicuous nest in some tall pine will be no longer among the ornithological attractions to one taking the Inside Passage trip along the scenic coastline of south-eastern Alaska. When I made a trip along those shores in 1898 the Bald Eagle or its nest were almost constantly in sight. I have seen twenty

of these birds at one time along a little stream running across a gravelly beach into the ocean, and so far as I could observe they were feeding only on dead or badly disabled salmon. But the desire of man to kill must be decimating their numbers with a greater rapidity, not only in Alaska but all over our country, than we are generally aware of.

It seems that the Eagle, together with all raptorial birds offers a target, especially to the boy hunter, that is irresistible, and to shoot an Eagle fulfils many a youth's hunting ambition.

The following appeared in the "Milwaukee Journal," of January 26, 1927:—

"Bounties of \$1 each were paid by the Territorial Treasurer on 41,812 Eagles killed in Alaska since 1917."

The writer feels sure there are 41,812 bird lovers in the United States, who would be only too glad to give at least the dollar per head if those Alaskan Eagles could be brought to life and distributed over the country between the Canadian and Mexican boundary lines.

The Alaskans may have a fancied grievance against our national bird, but let every lover of that which typifies freedom protest against the destruction of that emblem.—W. E. SNYDER, *Beaver Dam, Wis.*

The Barn Owl in Wisconsin.—In the January, 1925 'Auk,' Mr. A. W. Schorger of Madison, Wis., has an interesting record of the Barn Owl. The following additional records, all from Dodge County, may be of interest. Beaver Dam, near the center of the county, is approximately 40 miles northeast of Madison.

1. An adult female, taken on July 3, 1921, Burnett Township, No. 9511, had the belly bare and was then, or had recently been, incubating.
2. Adult male, No. 5714, Horicon, Oct. 10, 1904.
3. Adult male, No. 6282, Beaver Dam, Jan. 10, 1906.
4. Adult females, No. 7036, Minnesota Junction, July 23, 1908.
5. One taken at Fox Lake in the winter of 1894 by Geo. A. Morrison.
6. Adult female, No. 8156, Beaver Dam, Oct. 9, 1913.
7. W. R. Chatfield informs me he took one many years ago near Beaver Dam.—W. E. SNYDER, *Beaver Dam, Wis.*

Hawk Owl at New Brunswick, N. J.—A Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) was seen near New Brunswick, N. J. on the forenoon of December 19, 1926. The bird was seen several times flying over open fields between scattered groups of trees, and later was observed perched in a small tree alongside a cat-tail filled slough over which he made several short flights. There was ample opportunity for observation with 8 × glasses at about 150 feet; the long indistinctly barred tail, striking white spotting of the back, general light color of the top of the head, and the plain grey facial disc were noted. The under-parts were not seen. The field estimate as to length was 18 inches, which corresponds within the observer's limitations with that of the Hawk Owl. The observer was sufficiently familiar with the commoner large Owls, such as the Short-eared Owl, to be able to