

a last-year's duck blind. Although the cover of corn shocks had since disappeared, except for a few stalks, there remained the framework of a few poles and stretched between two of these was approximately twelve feet of galvanized wire and flying to and from the same, were both adult and immature Black Terns. Both Laesch and myself remarked at the time, that although we had often seen these birds perched upon solitary poles in the water, floating vegetation and other débris, we had never seen these terns perched, as members of the swallow family are prone to do, on wire.—FRED R. ZIMMERMAN, *Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison, Wisconsin.*

IN the July, 1938, number of 'The Auk', Alexander Sprunt, Jr., reports having observed the Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) perching in swallow fashion on wires. During the past summer I have frequently seen this species indulging in this unusual behavior. About fifteen miles west of the city of Rochester, New York, there is a small, cat-tail bordered, freshwater bay which opens into Lake Ontario. Across the mouth of this bay, known as Braddock's Bay, are the remains of an old trolley trestle upon which poles still carry power wires. On these wires the Black Terns were seen perching in large numbers, in the same fashion as described by Mr. Sprunt, on July 10, 11, 17, and 24. On these same dates Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), in numbers up to two hundred, were seen behaving in the same manner. Both species hovered for a moment before alighting on the wires. Their position did not seem secure as they more or less constantly teetered slightly to maintain balance. The Common Terns were still present and were seen perching there last on September 9.—GORDON M. MEADE, M.D., *Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, New York.*

**Analysis of Barn Owl pellets in Pennsylvania.**—A total of forty-seven pellets of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*) collected by the writer on February 23, 1934, from an old barn two miles north of State College, Pennsylvania, was subsequently analyzed. Evidently the pellets had been disgorged by a non-nesting bird over a period of approximately six months. Apparently the owl had been killed by some mammalian predator early in February, because feathers and uncleaned bones were on the barn floor. The average-size pellet measured 4.5 by 2.5 cm., the largest 9.0 by 2.5 cm. and the smallest 2.5 by 1.2 cm. while the thickest was 4.0 by 3.8 cm. In several pellets, the skulls were partially decomposed. This analysis based upon the number of skulls, indicated that the food of this Barn Owl during autumn and winter consisted of approximately 90 per cent small rodents, 8 per cent shrews, 1 per cent weasel, and 1 per cent small birds. Eighty-four animals were eaten and ejected in forty-seven pellets, two of which contained no skulls. What percentage these animals formed of the bird's total diet could not be determined. The species represented were: eastern meadow mouse (*Microtus pennsylvanicus pennsylvanicus*), 75 per cent; house mouse (*Mus musculus musculus*), 10 per cent; unidentified small rodents, 15 per cent; short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*); New York Weasel (*Mustela noveboracensis noveboracensis*); and one small bird, probably an English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*).—WILLIAM H. MEYER, *Soil Conservation Service, Freehold, New Jersey.*

**Short-eared Owl and Orange-crowned Warbler in West Virginia.**—On November 3, 1938, a living, but badly crippled Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus*, was brought to me by a farmer who lives not far from Bethany, Brooke County, West Virginia. The farmer told me that he had shot the owl because it (together with another of its kind) had been menacing his chickens. Examination of the bird's stomach revealed only small mammalian bones and fur. The Short-eared Owl has