

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

been recorded but infrequently in West Virginia, and so far as I know, actually taken but once heretofore in the Northern Panhandle: a specimen shot November 6, 1930, near Bethany, and recorded by Weimer (*Cardinal*, 3: no. 1, p. 18, January, 1931) and also by Sutton (*Cardinal*, 3: no. 5, p. 111, January, 1933).

On the morning of October 20, 1938, near Bethany, Brooke County, West Virginia, I saw a dull-colored warbler that at first I took to be a Tennessee or a Nashville. As it turned to face me, I noted faint gray streaking on its under parts, so I collected it, finding it to be an Orange-crowned Warbler. The specimen, which proved to be an immature male, has been identified by Dr. George M. Sutton as the eastern race, *Vermivora celata celata*. It is now in Dr. Sutton's private collection. The Orange-crowned Warbler probably is a regular, if not a common, transient in West Virginia, but like the Connecticut Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, and Lincoln's Sparrow (all three of which have been recorded repeatedly in recent years) it has been considered a 'rare' bird. To the best of my knowledge but one other specimen has actually been taken in the State, however, a bird found dead at Wheeling, May 12, 1933 (West and Shields, *Redstart*, 2: no. 4, p. 27, January 1935).—WILLIAM MONTAGNA, 128 *Lincoln St., Uniontown, Pennsylvania*.

**Late occurrence of Nighthawk in Connecticut.**—In his 'Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States,' E. H. Forbush records October 6 as the latest fall date for the occurrence of the Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) in that section, and indicates that August and early September is the normal time of migration. It seems appropriate, therefore, to report the observation of a Nighthawk at Stratford, Connecticut, on October 13, nearly a month after the devastating and unprecedented September hurricane and a full month after most of its kin have journeyed southward. The bird was seen about noon in a large elm, quietly sitting horizontally on and parallel with a large branch projecting about twenty feet above one of the busy and noisy streets of the city. From a cursory examination of the literature and a review of the distribution files of the U. S. Biological Survey, I find but one later New England record for this species. Sage and Bishop (*Bull. Geol. and Nat. Hist. Surv. Connecticut*, no. 20, p. 99, 1913) record a Nighthawk seen at New Haven, Connecticut, October 17, 1890, as well as one at Portland, Connecticut, October 10, 1902.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Song of the Western Wood Pewee.**—In 'The Auk' (50: 174-178) for April, 1933, Dr. Wallace Craig gave an interesting presentation of his work on the Wood Pewee's song. More recently, in a letter to me, he has asked some questions regarding the performance of the western species, *Myiochanes r. richardsoni*. He urges that my reply to his letter be published for the use of interested students. I am glad to comply with the request.

Certain results of one's listening may be put into black and white (without a sound track) but, the ultimate is not attainable in that medium. However, my ruminations may be recorded in part as follows. (1) Twilight songs have been recognized in the following western flycatchers: Western and Cassin's Kingbirds, Arizona Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Coues' Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Vermilion Flycatcher. (2) These songs differ from the regular day-time notes in their more varied content as a rule and in being an almost continuously flowing sequence of single notes or phrases of notes. (3) They are often given either morning or evening, but are most marked in many species at dawn. (4) In Black Phoebe and Vermilion Flycatcher, the song may be given at any time of day and is accompanied by rhythmic tail display in Phoebe or by special flight pattern in Vermilion Fly-