

The second instance was almost identical with the first: a Horned Owl was found by New York State Ranger School students at Wanakena, New York, in the western Adirondacks in early March. The greatly emaciated body and sunken eyes were obvious in this bird and it too, died a short time after being found. Again there were no indications of external injuries. Unfortunately neither bird was preserved for pathological examination so that evidence of disease was not fully determined.

In the 'Wilson Bulletin' (44: 180, 1932) Errington reported a pair of Great Horned Owls from Wisconsin which had died of a virus disease that may be specific for certain owls. All available evidence for these New York specimens leads me to believe that they were stricken with some malignant disease that rendered them helpless at the time of their capture.

It is common knowledge that the Great Horned Owl is one of the most efficient of all winged predators and can sustain itself during the most severe winters. Fleming and Lloyd (Auk, 37: 433, 1920) have remarked on the plump, fleshy condition of 125 specimens collected in southern Ontario during a migration of Horned Owls into that region in the critical winter of 1917-18. Though the winter of 1939-40 was one of the most severe on record in New York State, there were available food supplies throughout the winter where the weakened owls were found. In Cattaraugus County, within the hunting range of one specimen, cottontail rabbits, Ruffed Grouse, and several large coveys of Hungarian Partridges were noted frequently throughout the winter. Within the hunting range of the Adirondack bird at Wanakena, varying hares, Ruffed Grouse and red squirrels were present in considerable numbers. In fact during early March 1940, red squirrels were so populous and voracious in their feeding on the terminal twigs of Norway spruce as to cause considerable damage to some of the Ranger School plantations. The carcasses of many starving deer were scattered about the woodlands, thus augmenting a further food supply for Horned Owls.

In view of what appeared to be available food in near normal quantities, it seems reasonable to infer that disease may have been the initial decimating agency in the destruction of these owls, and not starvation, which might at first have been assumed.—J. KENNETH TERRES, *Soil Conservation Service, Utica, New York.*

A definite age record of a Horned Owl.—On March 23, 1927, in a ravine six miles northeast of Benicia, California, on the Lopas ranch, Mr. Gunnar Larson and I located an old hawk's nest about twenty feet up in a live oak with a Pacific Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus pacificus*) sitting. It took several sticks thrown at the nest to flush the bird. The nest held two eggs and one young just hatched, the latter a red fellow with white down.

On April 17 we again visited the nest and banded the two young. The third owlet had been eaten; only the hind quarters remained in the nest. This was a recent happening as the remains were of the same size as the hind-quarters of the two live owlets. They later showed little ferocity but allowed me to handle them without any scratching or biting. In spite of a heavy wind we managed to take two photographs of them from an adjacent tree. Also I banded them, nos. 200,712 and 200,713.

I was quite thrilled on March 5, 1940, to hear again of one of these two birds which had been banded in the nest. Mr. Ray Bell of Vallejo, visiting my office at the Benicia Arsenal, told me that he had shot an owl bearing band no. 200,713 while quail hunting on the Azevedo ranch in Sky Valley near Benicia on November

23, 1939. He had just received a report from the U. S. Biological Survey that I was the bander. The owl was twelve years and eight months old when killed. At the time of its taking it was in a canyon over the ridge three miles from where it was hatched.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California*.

Western Burrowing Owl in western Missouri.—An adult female Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) was taken in September 1934, by Mr. Estill P. Ravenscroft in company with Mr. Paul Mingle, three miles east and one mile north of Lee's Summit, in Jackson County, Missouri. Jackson County is one of the westernmost counties of Missouri bordering the State of Kansas. The specimen taken was one of four birds of this species which were flushed near a hole in the ground in a typical prairie pasture. This bird was mounted and is now in the Rotary Club Boys' Camp Museum collection near Lee's Summit, Missouri, where it was examined by the writer.

The only previous specimen of Western Burrowing Owl known to the writer to have been taken in the State of Missouri, is one reported by Harry Harris in his 'Birds of the Kansas City Region' (Trans. Acad. Sci. of St. Louis, p. 269, 1919) as being killed by Mr. Charles Dankers on April 19, 1902, at Corning in Holt County in northwestern Missouri.—DIX TEACHENOR, *1020 West 61st St., Kansas City, Missouri*.

Muscle atrophy in a Crow.—In the winter of 1938-39, at Cornell University, I came into possession of a Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, which apparently was the victim of a curious pathological condition. All the muscles of the left wing were in an advanced state of atrophy; in fact, the member was hardly more than skin, bone, and feathers. The bird was able to flex the wing but it would not support flight. When at rest the bird would hold the bad wing against the side of the body in an attempt at normal posture but the wing would always droop showing that the remaining muscle power was not great enough to overcome the attraction of gravity. The wing was normally feathered, and it was not abnormally warm or cold. The member seemed to be well supplied with blood. The whole situation curiously resembled the frequent condition of human victims of poliomyelitis in which the muscles of an arm or leg greatly atrophy with subsequent loss of power in the limb. This brings up the possibility that my Crow might have been afflicted with some related disease. Of course the possibility of pathological or accidental nerve destruction must be considered. Without doubt a veterinary might be able to advance more suggestions of what caused this peculiar condition.

The state of atrophy of the wing muscles of this Crow was so advanced that it probably had not flown for some time when it was picked up, although even if it were a bird of the year it had certainly previously known flight. How it managed to escape from predators while grounded I cannot say. When picked up the Crow was not in the best of flesh, but its attitude was that of a bird in good health. It defended itself with vigor and complained in a voice of normal corvine raucousness. The bird was placed in an outdoor cage on the roof of a building. It ate greedily of meat scraps and sunflower seeds. It was fond of exercising itself by running around the large cage and climbing and jumping from perch to perch. It apparently showed interest in the avian occupants of the adjoining cages. In all it seemed to be doing quite well in captivity. It was with some surprise, therefore, that I found the Crow dead one morning after two weeks in captivity.

I did not get a chance to examine the bird after death but the person who