

to see a few and, from two and one-half miles on, the feeding birds were common. The observations were limited to birds that were actually carrying food, in order that no non-breeding birds would be counted, as these might feed for themselves nearly anywhere.

Referring again to the position of the bill, the skimming birds shown in the photograph would show the position more accurately had the camera been more nearly at right angles to the birds' flight.

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—IVAN T. TOMKINS, 1231 East 50th St., Savannah, Georgia.

Food of the Barn Owl, *Tyto alba pratincola*, in Hancock County, Ohio.—The purpose of the present work was three-fold: 1) to discover whether any as yet unreported species of small mammals from Hancock County, Ohio, would be found in the pellets of the Barn Owl; 2) to determine the percentage of occurrence of the various small animals in the pellets; and 3) to determine the value of the Barn Owl as a check upon small mammal populations in this area.

Hancock County is in the northwestern part of Ohio, 45 miles from Lake Erie and 50 miles from the Indiana state line. For the most part the surface of the county is flat, being located in the till plain areas of the state. At its western and eastern borders, however, it becomes slightly rolling. Seventy-seven per cent of the county is under permanent cultivation; 10 per cent is made up of wooded areas, and the remaining 13 per cent of the land area is in permanent pasture, roadways, and town-sites.

During the summer of 1948 I located three nests or roosting places of the Barn Owl. One of these was on a small balcony measuring two feet by three feet that fronted a third-story window at the home of R. W. Kirk in Findlay, Ohio. A brood of five young was reared on this balcony. Another nest was placed on a platform measuring two feet by two feet and located just beneath an opening underneath the eaves of a large barn on the Clyde Worden farm, five miles west of Findlay, Ohio, on state route 224. The third site from which pellets were collected was a roosting place located in a building on the property of the Continental Sugar Company's refinery at the west edge of Findlay.

From beneath the balcony at the Kirk home 20 pellets were collected. There were no recognizable pellets on the balcony, but the floor of the structure was covered to a depth, varying from one to three inches, with a mass of crushed and broken pellets, fecal material, and dry twigs from the nests of pigeons that had nested on the balcony before the owls took possession. The entire mass was felted together by the fur of the mammals that had been consumed. I obtained nine pounds of this material. From the nest on the Worden farm 122 pellets were collected and from the roost at the Sugar Refinery 102 pellets.

All of the lower right mandibles were separated from the pellets or the nesting debris that was collected. Each of these was regarded as one occurrence of an animal. The jaws were retained to enable the author to distinguish between

SPECIES FOUND IN PELLETS OF BARN OWL

		Occur- rences	Per cent total
<i>In 9 pounds of debris from nest at Kirk's</i>			
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	10	1.56
Meadow Mouse	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	572	89.23
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	15	2.34
Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	28	4.36
Cottontail*	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	3	0.46
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	3	0.46
English Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	6	0.93
Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	1	0.15
Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	1	0.15
		639	
<i>From 122 pellets from Worden farm</i>			
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	3	1.49
Meadow Mouse	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	153	76.04
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	1	0.49
Short-tailed shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	20	9.94
English Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1	0.49
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus, species</i>	9	4.47
Least Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Cryptotis parva</i>	12	5.96
Least Weasel	<i>Mustela rixosa</i>	1	0.49
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	1	0.49
		201	
<i>From 102 pellets from roost at Sugar Refinery</i>			
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	5	2.24
Meadow Mouse	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	181	81.22
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	4	1.79
Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	17	7.61
English Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	4	1.79
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2	0.89
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus, species</i>	6	2.68
Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	1	0.44
		223	
<i>Summary of remains regardless of location of nest or roost</i>			
		Occurrences	Per cent Total
Norway Rat		18	1.69
Meadow Mouse		906	85.16
House Mouse		20	1.88
Short-tailed Shrew		65	6.11
Cottontail		3	0.28
Deer Mouse, species		15	1.41
Least Weasel		1	0.09
Long-tailed Weasel		1	0.09
Least Short-tailed Shrew		12	1.41
European Starling		5	0.47
English Sparrow		11	1.03
Goldfinch		1	0.09
Pigeon		1	0.09
Catbird		1	0.09
		1063	

* Immature, approximately one-fourth grown.

Peromyscus spp., *Mus musculus*, *Reithrodontomys*, *Synaptomys*, and *Microtus*. Below is a list of small mammals known to be present in Hancock County, either from sight or trapping records. Although the adults of some of the species are too large to be used as food by the Barn Owl, their young are not.

Striped Spermophile	<i>Citellus tridecemlineatus</i>
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus fisheri</i>
Eastern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>
Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger rufiventer</i>
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus loquax</i>
Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
Wood Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus noveboracensis</i>
Deer Mouse*	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus bairdii</i>
Meadow Mouse	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>
Least Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Cryptotis parva</i>
Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>
Cinereous Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata noveboracensis</i>
Least Weasel	<i>Mustela rixosa allegheniensis</i>
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis nigra</i>
Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>

* Studies of the deer mouse populations of this county previous to this study indicate that *P. maniculatus* outnumbered *P. leucopus* 8 to 1.

SUMMARY

1. No species of small mammals, as yet unreported for Hancock County, Ohio, were found in the pellets of the Barn Owl, *Tyto alba pratincola*, collected from three different locations near Findlay, Ohio.

2. The meadow mouse, *Microtus p. pennsylvanicus*, comprised 85.16 per cent of the food consumed.

3. The pellets collected from the Worden farm, located in the open countryside, contained fewer bird remains, 0.48 per cent, than did those collected from the two locations within the city, 2.35 per cent.

4. Remains of game species were represented by the cottontail and the long-tailed weasel; they constituted a negligible amount (0.37%) of the total food. Four skulls of a total of 1063 were of these two species.—RICHARD S. PHILLIPS, *Biology Department, Findlay College, Findlay, Ohio.*

Notes of the Eastern Screech Owl, *Otus asio naevius*: A Correction.—I ask the privilege of making in the pages of 'The Auk,' where most of my little contributions to ornithological literature have been made since 1888, a correction of a statement in A. C. Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey' (Part 2, 1938), where, on page 256, in treating of the voice of the Eastern Screech Owl, Mr. Bent says that I had given him a description of two of the notes and then proceeds to quote me, but unfortunately not quite correctly. What I actually sent him was a description of what I considered to be *three* separate vocal utterances. I cannot now say just how I worded the description which my good friend Cleveland Bent misread, but it must have been substantially as follows: (1) The well-known wail, or whinny; (2) the so-called love song consisting of a series of short, even, low notes delivered with varying degrees of rapidity and varying in pitch, sometimes with the first part slow and the latter part rapid and virtually a trill; (3) 'wheooo,' a mellow whistle with a