

wing was found by Robert J. Erwin at Plymouth, Boxelder County, Utah, in February, 1948. The second specimen, a male, killed itself by flying against a window pane in the business district of Ogden, Weber County, Utah, in March, 1950. Both of these specimens were identified as *Falco columbarius suckleyi* Ridgway by Dr. H. Friedmann and are in the Weber College Museum of Zoology, Ogden, Utah.—RICHARD D. PORTER AND HOWARD KNIGHT, *Weber College, Ogden, Utah*.

**Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius*, Eats Bread.**—For the first five days of April, 1950, I was able to observe a female Sparrow Hawk in the grounds of a hospital in Toronto, Ontario. Since cold weather inhibited the movements of insects etc. most of the time, and small birds seemed to avoid the vicinity of the hawk, I was puzzled by an apparent lack of food for it.

Feral Pigeons, *Columba livia*, fed in numbers on bread thrown to them by patients. On the morning of April 1, the hawk dropped from her perch and approached two such pigeons in a swift horizontal glide. The pigeons took flight but the falcon flew directly to the bread, on which she alighted. Holding it with her feet, she tore small pieces of bread off the crust, raising her head after each bite and usually throwing the bread to one side. Within a few minutes she had reduced the bread to crumbs, apparently without swallowing any, and then flew to another perch.

In the next 24 hours the hawk repeated this performance several times, never attacking the pigeons but never approaching bread unless it was already being eaten by pigeons. Like the pigeons, she wasted much of the food as crumbs, by shaking large pieces violently and flinging them to one side.

On the afternoon of the second day, the Sparrow Hawk began carrying bread to her perch, in her beak or feet. She still lost much of it as crumbs, but definitely ate some. Late in the afternoon, she seized a piece as soon as it was thrown from a window. From that time, she lost her apparent dependence on pigeons to draw her attention to bread.

On the third day, the hawk no longer pounced on the bread, as on a grasshopper, but spent much time running about on the ground like a Robin, carrying bread in her beak to a perch. The fourth day was warm and rainy, and she used exactly the same technique to capture rained-out earthworms. April 5, the last day of my observations, was cold again, and the hawk returned to a diet of bread.—FREDERICK E. WARBURTON, *Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada*.

**Communal Roosting of American Rough-legged Hawks, *Buteo lagopus sancti-johannis*.**—South of Palatine, in northwestern Cook County, Illinois, is a stand of five old apple trees left unmolested in the midst of otherwise cultivated fields. During January and February, 1950, I drove by this stand of trees every evening around five o'clock. At this season it was about the time of dusk when motorists begin turning on their car lights. I observed the Rough-legged Hawks on the evening of January 24. One hawk was in the tree and one was approaching. As I watched, three more hawks alighted and a sixth drifted by. After a while three left and flew off across the darkening fields. Finally they came back one by one and settled in the trees. The sixth had not returned by the time I left.

My journal for January 30 records four hawks on the roost when I arrived. Two flew off and one returned, leaving three at the time I left. On January 31, a clear day, I found hawks on the roost early. By the time I left eight were there. February 2 was clear and I stopped by earlier to look for hawk pellets. Crows were congregating in a plowed field, and I saw three of the hawks perched here and there on fence posts at some distance from the trees, waiting, I suppose, until the Crows left.

Upon my arrival on February 3 three hawks were on the roost and two off at a distance on fence posts. One by one, they deserted the roost and congregated in trees near a farm house about a third of a mile away. When I left there were seven hawks on the new roost and one still hunting over the fields. On February 14, the day after the worst glaze-ice storm in 15 years in the Chicago region, I stopped at the hawk roost and found one hawk in the trees and a pile of broken branches on the ground beneath. I imagine the previous night must have been very bad for them with branches breaking off around them and perhaps from under them. Thereafter the roost was deserted.

I obtained from beneath the roost three large, irregularly shaped pellets and four smaller ones similar to those of the Long-eared Owl. These were wrapped in fur, with the exception of one of the largest ones which was twice the size of the others. The pellets, as analyzed by William H. Stickel of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, consisted chiefly of hair and bones of meadow mice, *Microtus pennsylvanicus*. The largest pellet consisted of a piece of cotton wadding, a small piece of thread, a fragment of yellow leg skin and some bones (these may have come from a chicken leg), fragments of corn, corn cob, oats, barley, and caraway seeds; also some grass and other vegetable matter. The supposition is that these materials were ingested as carrion.—F. J. FREEMAN, *Itasca, Illinois*.

**Food of a Family of Great Horned Owls, *Bubo virginianus*, in Florida.**—On the Welaka Game Reserve, Messers. William McLane, Joseph Moore, and Paul Pearson found a nest of Great Horned Owls. A nestling bird about four weeks old was removed from the nest and tethered to a nearby tree on January 16, 1949, on which date nest scraps and whole pellets were collected. At intervals, pellets were collected from the young bird and some were gathered in the near vicinity. On

PREY ITEMS OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL IN FLORIDA

<i>Species</i>	<i>Pellets</i>	<i>Minimum no. individuals</i>
Common Mole, <i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>	1	1
Little Brown Bat, <i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	1	1
Rabbit, <i>Sylvilagus</i> sp.	8	3
Pocket Gopher, <i>Geomys tuza</i>	5	4
Cotton Rat, <i>Sigmodon hispidus</i>	5	5
Pied-billed Grebe, <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	1*	2
Least Bittern, <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	1	1
Greater Scaup, <i>Aythya marila</i>	4	2
Lesser Scaup, <i>Aythya affinis</i>	9	5
Florida Gallinule, <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2*	3
American Coot, <i>Fulica americana</i>	55*	26
Flicker, <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	*	1
Robin, <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	1	1
Snake, undetermined	4	2
Lizard, undetermined	1	1
Grasshopper, <i>Schistocerca</i> sp.	1	1
Grasshopper, <i>Stilpnochlora coulonia</i>	1	1

\* Fragments of prey also found in nest.