

Color Phases of the Screech Owl between Madison, Wisconsin, and Freeport, Illinois.—Between June 8, 1932, and March 27, 1950, a period of 18 years, I made 693 trips between Madison, Wisconsin, and Freeport, Illinois. These trips were uniformly distributed throughout the year. A total of 235 Screech Owls (*Otus asio*) killed by cars was examined. The distance between the above cities is 70 miles, of which 13 miles are in Illinois. It is of interest that approximately 75 per cent of the owls were found in Green County, Wisconsin, the road passing for the most part through what was originally rolling prairie. Here the owls were confined to farm buildings and the surrounding planted trees.

Pure gray birds were common but pure red birds were much less so. It was sometimes difficult to classify the intermediate phases, particularly the birds in juvenal plumage. The number in each of the two color phases is given in the following table:

Year	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Red	6	4	4	1	4	3	3	15	3	7
Gray	8	1	5	6	12	9	3*	20	8	7
Total	14	5	9	7	16	12	6	35	11	14

* including one melanistic

Year	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	Grand Total
Red	6	5	4	4	3	6	4	8	1	91
Gray	13	12	10	10	7	4	7	2	0	144
Total	19	17	14	14	10	10	11	10	1	235

The red phase formed 38.7 per cent and the gray phase 61.3 per cent of the total. Over 60 years ago, C. F. Carr (Wis. Naturalist, 1891, 1: 188) published a note at Madison stating that he had handled over 25 specimens from Wisconsin and had never met with the gray phase; also that the broods of young that he raised all acquired the red phase. If Carr's information is correct, there has been a radical local change, for the gray phase now predominates. J. H. Fleming (Auk, 1907, 24: 74) wrote from the vicinity of Toronto, Canada: "The red phase of plumage is rare, usually occurring for several years in succession and then disappearing." At no time during the period of my investigation did the red phase disappear. Furthermore, the number of specimens examined each year is too small to determine if there is a definite statistical difference between the two color phases from one breeding season to another.

An owl in the melanistic phase was found on the concrete road in Stephenson County, Illinois, on October 28, 1938. It had been flattened to a sheet by the traffic and would have been difficult to recognize as a Screech Owl if the feet had not remained attached. At a distance of a few feet the plumage appeared to be deep black but on closer inspection the color was sooty. This color phase appears to be very rare.—A. W. SCHORGER, *University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.*

Aspergillosis, Trichomoniasis, and Drug Therapy in a Gyrfalcon.—Fungal infections in birds and mammals are common. In birds, the species involved is generally *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

As a protozoan parasite of birds *Trichomonas gallinae* (Stabler and Herman, 1951), a flagellated inhabitant of the upper digestive tract and viscera, has few peers with respect to destructiveness.