

CORRESPONDENCE

Juvenile Cannibalism in Short-eared Owls

It is evident from Mr. Armstrong's letter (Auk, 76 (4): 560, 1959) that he considers I have been too ready in assuming that the five owlets that mysteriously disappeared from the two nests of the Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) referred to in my paper (Auk, 76 (2): 222-226, 1959) had been devoured by their nestmates. Admittedly my assumption that they had been the victims of cannibalism was based on circumstantial evidence, but in my opinion that evidence was so overwhelmingly convincing that there could be virtually no doubt that their disappearance had been due to that cause. If they had "crawled out of the nest to secrete themselves some distance away," as Mr. Armstrong seems to suggest, surely it would have been the oldest, and not the youngest, members of the brood that would have done so on being disturbed by a human being? In any case, one or two of the missing owlets were at the time of their disappearance so recently hatched, and therefore so feeble, that it would have been physically impossible for them to have left their nests unaided.

Incidentally, since the publication of my paper, my attention has been drawn to various periodicals containing records of juvenile cannibalism in no fewer than six species of raptorial birds, including *Asio flammeus*.—COLLINGWOOD INGRAM.

Request for Information

The reproductive biology of the cardinal has been under study in this area for six years. I wish now to compare local data with data from elsewhere in the species' range. For this purpose I am soliciting information on extreme dates of nesting, frequency of nests in different months, clutch-size with dates, nesting sites, extent of cover available for first nests. Details of the study will be supplied to anyone interested in assisting me.—D. M. SCOTT, *Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada.*