

side of the river, carrying something in its bill. I marked the spot, and after about a half hour came back to it. To my surprise there was a young Starling, almost fully grown, looking out of an old woodpecker hole about twenty-five feet up in a dead tree, which was broken a few feet above the hole and had no branches whatever. Soon the adult male Starling came and fed the youngster. One or two more seemed to be inside, because they could be seen making ineffectual attempts to get their head out of the hole. So far as the writer is aware this is the first authentic instance of the nesting of the Starling in the immediate vicinity of Chicago.

In 1928, Mr. C. A. Eickemeyer, a teacher near Crete, Illinois, thirty miles south of Chicago, described to the writer some birds new to him that had nested in his orchard. From the description it was at once apparent that the birds had been a pair of Starlings, the gentleman in question being also perfectly familiar with our native birds. This year (1929) he again notified me that they had arrived and were starting nesting operations. I have heard of similar instances in 1928 from near Waukegan. This, therefore, registers another gain of breeding territory in the westward march of this species.—C. W. G. EFRIG, *River Forest, Illinois*.

Winter-Killing of Barn Owls in Wisconsin.—A Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*) was picked up dead in what is known as the Shorewood Quarry, west of Madison, Wisconsin, on February 10, 1930. Four days later another owl of the same species was found within sixty yards of the one first mentioned. Both owls had the appearance of having been dead for a week or more. They were lying on the ground at the base of the quarry face, in the crevices of which face they had been accustomed to roost. A careful post-mortem disclosed that these birds had not met death from shooting or from direct mechanical injury of any sort. Though lean, they were not emaciated. Their alimentary tracts were quite empty, except for a small amount of fecal material in the intestine of one of them.

Barn Owls are rare in Wisconsin, but the presence of these two in the quarry had been known for some months, and their pellet accumulations had been gathered from time to time for food habits study. It had been noted, as the winter had progressed, that the pellets had been becoming smaller, due presumably to the protection afforded mice and shrews by the snow. Many of the pellets last deposited contained remains of but a single meadow mouse (*Microtus*), instead of the three to six small mammals making up a full size pellet. The owls were apparently unable to take advantage of the winter population of small birds; at least, they had not done so.

Madison and environs had experienced the coldest weather of the season during the last half of January, the temperature having dropped as low as 24 degrees below zero. The inference is that a scarcity of food, coincident with the cold weather, proved too much for these individual owls.—PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Madison, Wisconsin*.

A Hint on the Character of Catbirds.—While bird banding in the spring of 1929 I had the unusual experience of catching the same Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) three times in one day in the same trap. The trap was located in our back lot in a clump of elderberry bushes, where later in the year Catbirds could always be seen devouring the juicy berries. It was an ordinary pull-string drop-trap, equipped with a broken stick as support. As bait a mixture of bread