

It was sometimes possible to enter the cages and to capture the English Sparrows with an insect net before they escaped through their entrance hole or through the mesh of the chicken wire. Normally, I entered the cages and concentrated my efforts on a chosen bird until it was captured; then effort was shifted to a second bird if one were present.

On February 18, 1954, a cage contained two English Sparrows, and I readily captured one of these birds in a net. The second was pursued from one end of the cage to the other several times before it plunged to the ground and disappeared into the rat burrow at the corner of the cage. I waited several minutes about 10 feet from the burrow for the bird to reappear, but it remained hidden. I withdrew, therefore, to a distance of some 20 feet from the burrow and waited. After about five minutes, the bird came out of the burrow. It paused a few inches from the entrance and remained there several minutes while I watched. I then disappeared from the bird's view and watched from concealment. After several minutes, the English Sparrow moved farther from the burrow and flew about the cage. I then rushed into the cage with the net only to see the bird immediately return into the burrow. This procedure was repeated two more times without my being able to capture the English Sparrow. It was only by waiting a half hour and then rushing into the cage that I was able to outwit this bird.

A second English Sparrow showed closely similar behavior. This bird escaped into the room from the small cage in which it was confined inside of the bird laboratory. When it was pursued, it soon disappeared somewhere among the equipment stored in an adjacent room. Food and water were available in the room, and this bird remained free therein through the following several weeks. Repeated unsuccessful efforts to capture it were made. Whenever I entered the laboratory, it flew directly into the small adjacent room and hid among equipment which could not conveniently be moved. After about a month it was permitted to escape through an open door.—PAUL A. STEWART, *Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Ohio State University, Columbus, June 21, 1954.*

**Barn Owl hunting by daylight.**—At 3:00 p.m. on January 23, 1954, Francis Cormier of Hartsdale, New York, Terry Hall of Scarsdale, New York, and I observed a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) hunting over Tobay Beach Bird Sanctuary near Jones Beach, Long Island, New York. We watched the bird for about 15 minutes, during which time the sun was bright although the sky was slightly hazy.

The owl had a distinctive hunting pattern, which we saw it repeat four times: After flying at an altitude of 15 or 20 feet for about 50 yards over bayberry (*Myrica cerifera*) and scattered Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergi*) habitat, it would climb to 30 feet and hover for about half a minute. Slowly losing altitude, it would suddenly plunge to the ground. Consistently catching nothing, it would fly into a two or three acre Japanese black pine grove or perch on an 8 foot high sign post at the edge of the grove.

While hovering, the owl's long legs hung directly downward, its head was directed downward at an angle of about 35 degrees from its horizontal body, and its wingbeat was approximately one-third as rapid as that of a hovering Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*). While the owl was hunting, a light-phase American Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) passed within 50 feet of it. Neither bird, however, outwardly reacted to the other.

The owl's intended prey was probably the meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), which occurs abundantly in the area. On February 28, 1954, 200 yards from where we had observed the owl hunting, Terry Hall and I found three Barn Owl pellets containing four skulls of meadow voles.—KEN HARTE, 45 Lawrence Road, Scarsdale, New York, April 2, 1954.