

In trying to explain the purpose or function of anting, there are two suggestions resulting from my observations that may warrant investigation: (1) Whether or not other anting birds are molting or growing new feathers; and (2) since spraying water attracted birds to feed and bathe, is anting a behavior pattern associated with bathing and dusting.—WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, *Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, 18 February 1963.*

The Carolina Parakeet in Michigan.—There has been no prior, even approximately acceptable, record for the occurrence of the Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) in Michigan. The following was written of the St. Joseph River in 1718: "It is the best place that could be found for getting a living and cultivating the soil. There are in this place pheasants, as in France; quails and paroquets" (Monsieur de Sabrevois, 1902. "Memoir on the savages of Canada as far as the Mississippi River, describing their customs and trade." *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 16:372). Only a small part of the St. Joseph flows through Indiana. At present South Bend, Indiana, there was a short portage to the Kankakee River which flows into the Illinois River. The route was used extensively by the early French missionaries and fur traders. French forts once existed at the mouth of the St. Joseph, at Niles, Michigan, and at present South Bend. P. F. X. de Charlevoix (1923. "Journal of a voyage to North America." Chicago. II:189-190) wrote in 1721 that "parrots" were to be found on the Kankakee in summer, thereby strengthening the probability of their occurrence along the St. Joseph in Michigan.—A. W. SCHORGER, *University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 14 March 1963.*

A note on Snowy Owl food habits.—Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) invaded southern Wisconsin in considerable numbers during the winter of 1960-61. Information on food habits of some of these birds was secured, largely through pellet analyses. Most of the pellets were collected from the winter territories of five owls at Horicon Marsh. As anticipated, their staple diet consisted of meadow voles (*Microtus*) and muskrats (*Ondatra*) (Table 1). These two prey species were especially vulnerable due to the

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF PREY REMAINS IN SNOWY OWL PELLETS FROM HORICON MARSH, WISCONSIN¹

Prey species	No. pellets containing prey remains	Percentage of total pellets	Minimum no. of prey individuals represented
Meadow vole (<i>Microtus</i>)	27	73	56
Muskrat (<i>Ondatra</i>)	11	30	10
Duck	9	24	4
Rat (<i>Rattus</i>)	1	3	1
Other birds	1	3	1

¹ Based on 37 pellets picked up from five owl territories during January-March.

scanty snow cover and cold weather. Many muskrats with houses in shallower water were frozen out, and were seen in the Marsh as "runners." Crippled ducks were evidently taken from a waterhole below the federal dike; there were also numerous carcasses of ducks scattered about the Marsh from the previous hunting season.

Other food-habits data were as follows: The stomach of a bird killed on Lake Mendota