

young alternated sleep and vigorous activity within and outside the edges of the nest. Both parents sometimes twittered softly when approaching or covering the chicks.

I saw elaborate distraction displays from both male and female when I was near the nest during incubation and hatching. The birds moved on rapid feet, breast touching the ground, wings spread and drooping until the primaries brushed the earth, tail usually low but sometimes high and always showing much white, body trembling.

I would like to thank Stewart D. MacDonald and the Canadian National Museum for the opportunity to study on Bathurst Island, and David F. Parmelee and David J. T. Hussell for reading an earlier draft of this note.—HAROLD F. MAYFIELD, *Waterville, Ohio* 43566, 22 May 1972.

**Ten years of Barn Owl prey data from a Colorado nest site.**—Few reports on the food habits of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) are available from the Rocky Mountain region. Consequently, the ten years of prey data from a single site presented here should be of interest.

Barn Owls have used an abandoned gravel pit 3 miles southwest of Fort Collins, Larimer Co., Colorado, for nesting and roosting over a period of at least 17 years. Land surrounding the pit is largely short-grass prairie interspersed with some farmland, both dry and irrigated. Shrub covered hogbacks bordering the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains are located one-half mile west of the pit.

TABLE 1  
TEN YEARS OF BARN OWL PREY FROM NORTH-CENTRAL COLORADO

Prey	Per cent of prey numbers by year										Total
	1953*	1961	1962	1963	1964	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	
<b>MAMMALS</b>											
<i>Sorex</i> spp.	—	—	1.7	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
<i>Cryptotis parva</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	—	—	2
<i>Sylvilagus</i> spp.	1.1	—	0.2	—	0.3	—	—	0.8	2.2	1.9	31
<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>	0.2	—	0.2	0.5	—	—	0.4	—	—	—	5
<i>Perognathus</i> spp.	6.4	3.5	0.5	2.0	1.7	0.8	3.1	1.2	4.8	1.6	116
<i>Reithrodontomys</i> spp.	10.6	4.3	2.4	1.1	0.3	4.3	—	3.7	1.8	3.2	176
<i>Peromyscus</i> spp.	26.1	17.6	16.7	23.2	27.3	14.5	6.2	24.0	21.6	20.6	825
<i>Neotoma</i> spp.	0.1	—	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	15.4	21.3	20.6	29.1	22.1	9.2	49.8	23.5	17.2	16.1	800
<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>	28.4	52.5	47.9	36.1	35.7	51.6	40.1	43.3	48.4	54.2	1,565
<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	—	—	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
<i>Mus musculus</i>	3.5	—	3.1	4.0	—	7.7	0.4	2.3	1.5	1.1	94
Unidentified mammals	4.8	—	5.3	1.0	10.9	9.4	—	—	—	—	126
<b>BIRDS</b>											
Unidentified birds	3.2	0.7	1.0	2.0	1.7	2.5	—	0.9	2.8	1.3	69
Total numbers	1,018	141	582	203	293	116	227	600	273	373	3,826

\* From Reed, *ibid.*

Food habits were first studied from this pit in 1953 (Reed, J. Mammal., 38:135-136, 1957). Students in mammalogy classes at Colorado State University studied foods of Barn Owls using the pit from 1961 to 1964 and in 1966 (unpublished), and I collected and analyzed pellets from 1967 to 1970. During the last four years of the study, Barn Owls were present from March to November but most activity occurred from May to August. No information on times of occupancy is available prior to 1967.

Mammals in the genera *Peromyscus*, *Microtus* and *Reithrodontomys* formed the principal portion of the diet. Non-mammalian prey consisted entirely of birds. Complete prey lists are found in Table 1.

This study was completed while I was an NSF Trainee at Colorado State University.—CARL D. MARTI, *Department of Zoology, Weber State College, Ogden, Utah 84403, 27 June 1972.*

**First record of the Ovenbird in Trinidad, West Indies.**—During routine bird-bleeding and banding operations in conjunction with arbovirus studies in Trinidad, a male Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) was caught in a mist net on 19 January 1971, in a secondary tropical forest at Waller Field, Trinidad, West Indies. Meyer de Schauensee (*The species of birds of South America and their distribution, 1966*) states that the Ovenbird winters from the southern United States southward through Mexico and Central America to Colombia, and northern Venezuela, and to the Greater and Lesser Antilles. This bird has not been recorded, heretofore, from Trinidad, but two individuals were recorded by J. J. Dinsmore on neighboring Little Tobago Island in November 1966 and March 1967, the first being banded and released (J. J. Dinsmore, unpubl. M.S. thesis, Univ. Wisconsin, 1967). The skin (TRVL 15585) is in the reference collection of the Trinidad Regional Virus Laboratory.—ELISHA S. TIKASINGH, *Trinidad Regional Virus Laboratory, P.O. Box 164, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, West Indies, and RICHARD FFRENCH, St. Peter's School, Texaco Trinidad Inc., Point-a-Pierre, Trinidad, West Indies, 15 May 1972.*

**Blackbird nest placement and nesting success.**—In a 1971 paper (Francis, Wilson Bull., 83:178-185, 1971) that reviewed eight studies of the nesting success of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) in relation to various environmental factors, I concluded that nest placement with respect to height above ground or water was not significantly related to nesting success. The heterogeneity of the samples on which this finding was based suggested that further study of nest placement, in which as many variables as possible are eliminated, would clarify our understanding of factors affecting the choice of nest location and the relation of placement to nest success.

During May and June 1970, when I was investigating Redwing reproductive phenology in an upland nesting habitat (old-field community) in Erie County, Ohio, 47 nests were found, and examined regularly as long as eggs or nestlings were in the nest. Both the height of the nest above ground and the height of the vegetation were measured to the nearest centimeter. Goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*) was the substrate for 31 nests, daisy fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*) for nine; the remaining seven were located in mustard, clover, thistles, and grasses.

Nests in goldenrod were analyzed for height with respect to vegetation height. Since the plants were growing throughout the period, a regression of plant height on date was computed. Nest completion dates were then estimated by back-dating from the observed laying and hatching dates, and the plant height on the date of nest completion was cal-