

an hour of low tide and those trips that were made at other times occurred either before the mussel bed was washed by waves or during tides of short range and high surf when there was little opportunity for the birds to forage safely.

No attempts were made to follow the birds and I can only assume that foraging was better in the areas they headed for. Certainly large mussels were not available in their feeding territories when they were observed to bring such items back on these trips. While the energetic advantages of such trips seem questionable, such trips appear to be a normal part of the activities of breeding oystercatchers. The significance and relationship of these trips to the general dispersion patterns of the species must remain in question.—E. B. HARTWICK, *Dept. of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser Univ., Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6.*

Wilson Bull., 90(4), 1978, p. 652

Screech Owl predation on a Common Flicker nest.—Two cypress Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) nesting boxes (3 m above ground level and facing opposite directions) erected on the same creosote pole at Pearl River Waterfowl Refuge in Mississippi, were selected by a red phase Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) and a Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) as nest sites in April 1977. The owl laid 2 eggs and was incubating them in 1 nest box when the flicker began laying a series of 6 eggs in the other box. The owlets hatched just before the flicker young did. The owl fed the owlets other food items until she discovered the flickers in the next box. Five babies had hatched and begged constantly. The owl flew into the flickers' nest box and removed the young birds 1 by 1 to feed her owlets. This process took several days. The flickers continued during this time to feed their surviving young. Not until all flicker young were taken by the owl did they fail to return to the nest box. Half-eaten flickers were found in the owl nest box.—MARY C. LANDIN, *USAE Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS 39180. Accepted 6 Oct. 1977.*

Wilson Bull., 90(4), 1978, pp. 652–653

Red Bobwhites in Oklahoma.—On 2 September 1973, I collected an erythristic female Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) 3 km NE of Southard (Blaine Co.), west-central Oklahoma. Its plumage was deep chestnut-red except for 3 white feathers on the central upper chest (= "crop patch") and black markings as follows: median crown feathers almost totally black, nape feathers moderately so; upper wing coverts, chest and belly feathers mottled; flank feathers heavily barred; tertials and upper rump feathers with wide, irregular subterminal bands; upper tail coverts with black narrowly bordering rachis on either side; under tail coverts heavily mottled, especially toward the center; legs and bill black. Rectrices, primaries, and secondaries were solid brownish-gray.

Little subcutaneous fat was found during skinning, yet the bird weighed 183.5 g. Average weight of 8 adult females in the University of Oklahoma collection was 174.2 g, so the specimen appeared to be healthy. The single intrauterine egg measured 26 × 20 mm (fully developed eggs (n = 59) in the U.S. National Museum averaged 30 × 24 mm [Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 162, 1932]). Measurements were: wing 114, tail 61, culmen