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Long-eared Owl ingests nestlings' feces.—Female Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) consume feces excreted by their small nestlings (Bunn et al. 1982:128). Hosking and Newberry (1945) watched a female Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) ingest dried nestlings' feces from about its nest. Indirect evidence of such behavior has been reported for Great Gray Owls (*Strix nebulosa*) (Nero 1980:118). Also, female Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) in semi-natural breeding chambers often consume the fresh feces of their small nestlings (K. McKeever, pers. comm.). I am unaware of published reports of similar behavior in other strigiforms.

On 16 June 1987, I observed an adult (presumably female) Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) at its nest in Burke County, North Dakota, from a blind 7 m away. Two of four 4–9 day old nestlings were fed by the adult at 09:40–09:50 CDT. Twice during this time, nestlings excreted feces onto the nest rim. Both times the adult immediately picked up and swallowed the feces. The feces appeared sac-like, similar to the mucous-covered fecal sacs of passerines and of small nestling Snowy Owls in breeding chambers (K. McKeever, pers. comm.). Nesting Long-eared Owls exhibit many predator-avoidance strategies (e.g., Bent 1938, Marks 1986). Removal of feces by ingestion could make nest sites less obvious to predators (Blair and Tucker 1941), although this hypothesis remains untested. Also, adult birds may ingest nestlings' feces to maintain nest hygiene or to obtain nutrients (e.g., Morton 1979).

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