

down, Alberta. Mr. Bebee states that he collected another pygmy owl near his home the previous winter, either in December 1931, or January 1932, but cannot give the exact date. A letter from Mr. Wilby states that he has two skins of the pygmy owl which he received from Mr. Bebee, and adds, "Authentication O.K."

It is significant that six of the specimens referred to were captured in November and December, 1932, and January, 1933, all within a period of three months; indicating that an incursion of the birds had taken place into the sparsely settled parts of the province. This was probably due to a scarcity of their usual food supply in the mountains. — FRANK L. FARLEY, *Camrose, Alberta.*

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THE HAWK OWL AND RAVEN IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO — On December 11, 1935, I had word from Fred. Bidsworth, Port Burwell, Ontario, that he and a friend were engaged in mounting a Hawk Owl which had been shot near there; and on the same day I received a specimen in the flesh which came from Long Point through the kindness of Mr. Lorne Brown, who keeps the light at the east end of the Point. This bird is almost as rare in Southern Ontario as is the Great Gray Owl, and we have no recent records for either of them in Middlesex County, nor are there any specimens extant. — W. E. SAUNDERS.

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HAWK AND RAVEN AT POINT PELEE. — In the October 1936 issue of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* under the caption of Avian Murder, Mr. P. A. Taverner misquotes a red-tail hawk when he tells of the killing of a raven by that bird. The facts are that two ravens not merely one, were seen on that morning; I fired at both of them but both passed on out of sight and I supposed them to be unhurt. When I arrived back at the house, the late J. S. Wallace brought out a raven which he had picked up. His attention was attracted by a red-tail which flushed close to the road along which he was walking and he went into the shrubbery to see what was the attraction. There he found the raven, dead, but it had apparently been killed only after a considerable struggle. Tracing back the marks of the fight, Mr. Wallace found the spot where the raven was apparently standing in the road when the hawk attacked it, and had then dragged it into the thicket where it might be eaten more readily. The whole

story is of a piece with the determination of nature to utilize potential food; a vigorous raven would have been left alone, but the wounded, and perhaps dying raven was a different concern altogether, and should be utilized for food immediately. Dr. William Beebe remarked on the utilization of injured individuals when he watched, with some trepidation at first the sharks swimming lazily about nearby, and paying no attention whatever to him, and near them the pigfish were carelessly swimming, though these fish form much of the food of the sharks; but as soon as a pig-fish was hooked by a line from the boat directly above, there was a rush of sharks, and the hooked fish was torn to bloody pieces and devoured.

Jack Miner plays on this same urge when he keeps blackbirds, blue jays, etc., in cages fluttering to get out, and thus attracts hawks within range of his gun, the hawks realizing that here is prey in trouble and therefore easily caught. Even hawks whose food consists normally of mammals and insects are brought near by the lure of easily obtained food and forfeit their lives. — W. E. SAUNDERS.

Note—I told the story as Mr. Wallace told it to us. Evidently Mr. Saunders being there at the time gives the additional details. — P. A. T.

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THE OCCURRENCE OF THE RING-NECKED SNAKE AT CAPE RICH. — Cape Rich is a point on the shore of Georgian Bay about nine miles north of Meaford, Ontario.

This survey was made on the afternoon of June 14, 1936. It covered an area which was 200 yards wide by 400 yards in length, most of it open but bordered by cedars, other conifers and a few hardwood trees.

The surface of the ground was covered with flat rocks. It was under these that the snakes were found. Almost every rock in the above area was turned over. All reptiles and amphibians were collected.

The total for the afternoon was: one spotted salamander, two red-backed salamanders, one common toad, one common garter snake about six inches long, and five ring-necked snakes. The last named varied in length from seven inches to a foot. Four cast-off skins were found under the rocks. One of these was definitely that of a ring-neck and it is probable that the others were also.

It may be worthy of note that all the ring-necked snakes were found under flat stones,





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