

There have been only a few Barn Owl records from Onondaga County in recent years. There was a nest with four young in a silo at Warners in 1955, with the egg dates estimated to be June 1 to June 7. On April 18, 1956, an adult Barn Owl was inadvertently caught in a tower at a Syracuse lumber yard. Another nesting with four young was reported at Warners in 1956, with the approximate egg date July 1. In the summer of 1958 a family of Barn Owls was seen near a deserted brick home near Syracuse. In the winter of 1957-1958 an adult was found dead in a barn near Syracuse; the bird had become squeezed between some bags of grain and was unable to extricate itself. During that same winter a Barn Owl became covered with oil in downtown Syracuse, was captured, cleaned up, and released (**Kingbird**, Vol 8, No. 1, p. 22) — Benjamin P. Burtt, 109 Haffenden Road, Syracuse 10.

Move to Protect Golden Eagle: The Golden Eagle, efficiently decimated by aerial gunning in the southwestern states and to some extent in California, may be coming in for legislative attention in the forthcoming Congress. Whether anything is finally done depends, of course, upon the manifestation of public demand. At any rate, four to five senators are expected to jointly sponsor a bill designed to halt in particular the hunting of these birds from airplanes. There is even a move under-way to obtain action by the Canadian government, since it appears quite probable that many of the wintering birds killed in our South come from Canada.

A phenomenon of the past fifteen years is that clubs have been organized exclusively around the airplane hunting of eagles. One hunter has become known for his marksmanship, having been credited with 8,000 of these birds. The airplane hunting accounts for 90% of the destruction of these birds, according to John A. Alderman, former member of the Texas Ornithological Society's conservation committee and now a New York City businessman (Ed — see also "Texans Shoot Golden Eagles from Airplanes," **National Wildlands News**, July, 1960). Active in mustering support for protection, Mr. Alderman may be reached at 220 Church Street, Mail Station 144, New York City 13. For those interested, the Federal Government has published an interesting booklet: "The Golden Eagle, Its Economic Status." It is Bulletin No. 27 of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. — Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell Street, Freeport, Long Island.

Observations on Diet of Goldfinches: Four reports of Goldfinches feeding on beet leaves came to my attention this past summer. While this habit has been observed before, it has by no means been widely publicized. One of the women who made the report to me indicated that she had been planting beets for several years especially for Goldfinches.

There were two other reports of Goldfinches feeding on the leaves of Swiss chard. The birds apparently bite small portions from the edges of the leaves. It has been suggested by several, including Sally Hoyt of the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, that the Goldfinches may be satisfying some craving for a salt or other chemical in the leaves. Both beet and Swiss chard leaves are high in calcium, but then too so are many other plants which are apparently untouched.

If others have observed this phenomenon or know of any studies that have been made on the subject, I would be happy to hear from them — Benjamin P. Burtt, 109 Haffenden Road, Syracuse 10.

Experiences with A Nighthawk: Last September 18 a Common Nighthawk was brought to me by a neighbor, Lou Brown. Mr. Brown, a railroad brakeman, had found the bird sitting on the front of the engine. The Nighthawk did not appear to be injured, but its flight indicated that it was apparently a young bird.

Quite a few injured birds are brought to me from time to time (I hold the required licenses for this), but this was the first Nighthawk I had cared for. I immediately called Mrs. Harold Alsdorf, who has had considerable experience in looking after and feeding many species of birds. Looking through her files she came up with a proper diet for the Nighthawk; this had been given to her in turn by a Mrs. Schoonmaker of Washington State. The diet was most interesting, I thought, and the bird looks forward eagerly to each feeding. It includes a jar of strained beef heart, two tablespoons mashed potato, a tablespoon mashed carrot, two teaspoons butter, and four drops Vi Penta vitamins.