

The swallows abandoned the box and moved to a compartment in a martin house about fifty feet away. The martins objected, and many battles resulted. However, the Tree Swallows were finally able to build. The martins used the sections facing south and west, while the Tree Swallows were in the end facing east. Things were peaceful during the period of incubation, but when the young appeared and had to be fed, the battling resumed.

Feeding became such a problem for the Tree Swallows that they got their young out of the nest about four days before they could fly. On the morning of July 4 the adults were feeding three young on the ground; a fourth was found dead under the martin house.

Frank Clinch banded the three young. The next morning one was found dead, wedged between the curbing and a stone at edge of driveway. For three days the parents fed the two on the ground, and the following day the young perched in a bush. After a lapse of several days during which they were not seen, two banded young Tree Swallows appeared, perched on a wire nearby. — Arthur W. Allen, 561 Eastern Blvd., Watertown.

Short-eared Owls in a Suburban Housing Development: Short-eared Owls are usually thought of as open fields, marshes and dunes birds, retiring to a clump of weeds, or more often nearby evergreens or thickets for roosting and usually more or less removed from civilization. Because they often do their hunting at dusk or dawn, many are probably unnoticed and unreported in their invasion into our state. An exception to this rule was found near Ithaca this late winter.

On February 27, 1962, Mrs. William Bishop, of Ludlowville, phoned the Laboratory of Ornithology to report that she had tentatively identified as owls, (rather than hawks as she had first thought) several large, pale birds which periodically appeared near her home, perching in trees in her yard, or cruising over a nearby field. Two trips to locate them were unsuccessful, but on March 5, Mrs. Malcolm McIlroy visited the area and found six Short-eared Owls, close to a small, well-built up suburban housing development. They floated back and forth across a field, and one perched in an apple tree, not 50 feet from a home.

The next day the spot was again visited and four owls emerged from a group of cedars in a vacant lot near the houses. The next day, David Allen found and photographed "at least 10", and subsequent visits produced varying numbers, up to 10.

The birds apparently were roosting in the cedars, none of which was over 12 feet tall. But the remarkable part about it was that this vacant lot was sandwiched in between houses, with children and dogs all over the area, and the closest house 50-75 feet from most of the trees. Similar small cedars were scattered throughout the development, and undoubtedly the owls used many of these as roosts, although the one vacant lot seemed to be the favorite location. Mrs. Bishop said they had been around for about two months. — Sally F. Hoyt, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

A Sparrow Hawk Dines on Suet: A Sparrow Hawk was first noticed feeding on suet January 19, 1962. Between this date and February 23 it was seen at suet fourteen times. Only once did the hawk appear to notice the hasty retreat of the other birds as it entered the area of the feeders. On one occasion the bird spent twenty-three minutes eating suet. The hawk was a male in beautiful plumage, apparently a healthy bird.

Wire baskets filled with suet have been in the same position on four trees each winter since 1945. A Sparrow Hawk has been a visitor to the area nearly every winter during this period, but this is the first time one has eaten suet. Has anyone else ever had a similar experience? — Arthur W. Allen, 561 Eastern Blvd., Watertown.