

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Great Horned Owl killed by Porcupine quills: The Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) is a versatile predator of small mammals and birds, preying on, among others, Striped Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) and Porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*). Bent (1938, Life histories of North American birds of prey, Pt. 2, *U. S. N. M. Bull.* 170, p. 308) cites an instance in which 56 quills became embedded in a Great Horned Owl after an attack on a Porcupine. The present note documents another case of this rather unusual predator-prey relationship.

On 12 February 1977, a Great Horned Owl was found dead on County Road 27 near the hamlet of Owls Head, Town of Belmont, Franklin County. The bird was taken to the N. Y. S. Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Office at Ray Brook, where examination revealed eight Porcupine quills deeply embedded in the frontal region of the skull, with about ten more quills in the wings, head and neck. It is not known whether the owl had attacked a live Porcupine or had been scavenging at a carcass.

The author wishes to thank Environmental Conservation Officer Frederick A. White for bringing the specimen to his attention.

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ERRATA

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Breeding Laughing Gulls Return to Long Island

... Francine G. Buckley, Michael Gochfeld and P. A. Buckley

Page 206 The sentence running from lines 19-24 should read: "More recent Laughing Gull decreases in New England (Nisbet 1971, 1976), and some cause for concern in New Jersey (Buckley 1977), have been attributed to egg and chick predation by Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, as well as the larger gulls' earlier annual arrival and occupation of higher, less flood-susceptible nest sites (Burger 1977; pers. comm.)"

Page 206 The sentence beginning on line 27 should read: "Recent Laughing Gull population trends on the coast from Maine to Virginia are not uniformly downward (Erwin *in press*)."

Page 207 The citation from "Erwin, R. M. 1978." should be corrected to read "Erwin, R. M. *In press*."