

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Barred Owl feeds on frog in November: While traveling to see a Northern Hawk Owl at Fort Edward on 23 November 1991, Peter Feinberg retrieved a dead Barred Owl from 12 feet up in a tree along the side of Route 197 west of Fort Edward. The bird was presented to the author, to be added to the Columbia-Greene Community College study skin collection. The owl was an adult female with no physical injuries noted; its cause of death is therefore unknown. While preparing the specimen I discovered that the bird was well fed, had heavy deposits of fat, and the stomach contents included a frog. Although the species of the frog was not determined, it had the appearance of one of the mid-sized (3 inch) members of the genus *Rana*; most likely it was a Green Frog (*R. clamitans*), a Pickerel Frog (*R. palustris*) or perhaps a Northern Leopard Frog (*R. pipiens*). This is rather a late date for an amphibian to be active. It is well known that many birds include amphibians in their diets (D.A. Ross. 1989. Amphibians and reptiles in the diets of North American Raptors. *Wisconsin Endangered Resources Report* 59. Wis. Dept. Nat. Res., Madison, WI.; and W. E. Cook 1987. Amphibians and birds. pp 1-15 in *Amphibians and reptiles: predators and prey*. Smithsonian Herpetological Informational Service No. 73. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.) but in our area frogs are generally not out after mid October. The warm fall of 1991 was indeed unusual, however, and other amphibians were noted as late as the local Christmas bird counts. For a delightful commentary on amphibian-bird predator-prey relationships, see T. Rich (1992. Ribbiting drama. *Birder's World* 6(1):40-43).

William E. Cook, Columbia-Greene Community College, P.O. Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534.