

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS



Figure 1. Great Horned Owl on nest in Black Oak, Vault Hill, Van Cortlandt Park, 19 February 1994. Photograph by David S. Künstler.

Early dates for Great Horned Owl on nest: J. Bull (1985, *Birds of New York State including the 1976 Supplement*, Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY. 703 pp.) gave the earliest New York State egg date for Great Horned Owl as 28 January. Leonard Abramson and Chris Lyons found Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) and nest on Vault Hill, Van Cortlandt Park (VCP), 13 January 1994. I observed a bird incubating on 14 January and Abramson saw it as late as 20 February, but it was not on the nest 25 February (Abramson, pers. comm.), 28 February or 8 March. The nest is an old crow (*Corvus* sp.) nest about 45 feet (14 m) up in an approximately 60 foot (18 m) Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*) 20.3 inches (52.1 cm) diameter at breast height (Fig. 1).

On 1 January 1992, Carl Jaslowitz (pers. comm.), who made many of the following observations, found a Great Horned Owl on a squirrel nest 60 feet (18 m) from the ground and eight to ten feet (2.4-3.0 m) out on a limb in a Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in the Northwest Forest, VCP, four weeks before Bull's early date. On 5 and 12 January, it was not on the nest, but the bird was on the nest on 13 January. A wind storm occurred on 16 January, and on 18 January, the nest was down due to fall of supporting limb; an eggshell fragment was found 24 January 1992 (Abramson, pers. comm.). Two owls were roosting nearby in Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) on 28 January and on 9 February incubating on a crow nest in Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) nearly adjacent to the 1994 nest (Abramson and Jaslowitz, pers. comm.). An owl was on the nest 23 February, and Abramson found an eggshell under vacant nest on 27 February.

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