

Job  
1950

500224-1

Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas

Feb. 24, 1950

[This is the year the field number system was changed. now-year, month, day - consecutive number]

Concluded observations of the Great Horned Owl at the museum today. See notes of Jan 4, 1950 for first appearance of ♂ and ♀ at museum. In reconstructing the history of these owl the following is recorded from previous notes.

a. First egg found the morning of Jan 18, 1950. Egg placed on protected ledge of window at N. E. corner of upper section of building, some 12 feet higher and approx 20 from nest of previous year. The nest placed on east exposure where sun covered during the earlier part of the morning. Last year the N. exposure did not allow sun at any time. The site was a precarious one in that no nest was constructed and the eggs were placed directly upon the stone ledge. The eggs were kept from rolling off by an accumulation of dirt and debris which had collected at the outer limit of the ledge.

b. Second egg found the morning of Jan 21, 1950. During the time of the first and second egg the bird was undergoing adjustment to interference and as a result was spending nearly all day away from the nest ~~and~~ but near (150 feet) the nesting area. Temperature during this period were occasionally near freezing or below. This reaction may be a normal one until the setting impulse takes effect. From that day (Jan 21) until about the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, she was prone to frequently leave the nest upon being disturbed. However from that time on until the desertion of nest, was continually at the nest.

c. The third egg was deposited at a later date but exact day unknown. It was observed in the nest on Feb. 3, 1950. At this date, if she were forced from her nest, would reappear in about 4 or 5 minutes after making three or four approaches. When resettling on eggs would adjust each one by placing it into proper position with her bill. Only one bird observed to date except at night when two birds were heard calling practically every night after dark. The incubating bird appeared to be the same one whenever observed.

d. Eggs <sup>found</sup> deserted Feb. 19, 1950. but probably actual date of desertion Feb 18, 1950 in late afternoon or night. If the bird was killed, it would have been a logical date because most of the hunting by boy is done during Saturday afternoon. The eggs were found one foot below the nest upon a secondary platform. The eggs were apparently blown from ledge. From this date of desertion to the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb neither of the owls were heard or observed in the campus area by either myself or the night watchman who covers the entire area several times during the night. He reports just previously to desertion, these owls at Fraser, Library, Strong and other buildings in the campus ledge and approx 2 blocks away. He has not observed or heard these owls since the date of desertion.

e. Placed eggs back on ledge the same day as found displaced to see if owl would react to the egg stimulus and also see to what