

There is still much to be learned about insect galls and their makers. Many new galls await description, and exact knowledge respecting the habits of gall makers is far from complete. Certain localities offer exceptional facilities for solving the unknown, and we would suggest to nature lovers that the local occurrence of numerous galls should be considered an invitation to enter a charming and delightful field of study.

THE BARN OWL NESTING IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO.

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The Barn Owl (*Aluco pratincola*) has been known in Ontario only as a casual visitor, and I may, therefore, be excused in stating that I regarded with incredulity a letter from Mr. W. C. Armstrong, of Chatham, written on June 29, which told me that there was a nest of the Barn Owl containing six birds near there. However, when I telephoned him he was very positive, and as a result I took the next-train to Chatham, and in the afternoon drove out to Charing Cross, where the young birds were in the barn of Mr. H. C. Hunter. To my surprise there were really six young Barn Owls, almost full grown and apparently full fledged. They were in a little pigeon house under the ridge of the barn, and as may be supposed, the floor, about seven by five feet, was well covered with pellets. The pellets from these young birds were of a peculiar flattened oval shape, and were remarkably uniform in character. They contained a remarkably small proportion of bone, possibly indicating extraordinary digestive activity. All the identified bones were those of the common field mouse, and the fur appeared to belong entirely to the same species.

Immediately on our appearance on the ladder they began to hiss in a manner that was to me entirely novel and surprising. All six birds made the noise together, and it resembled that made by escaping steam. I supposed they stopped to take breath sometimes, but as they immediately began hissing again I failed to detect them in the act. They were crowded together in a corner of the little room, and when after a while they stopped hissing, it reminded one of the habits of the frogs which call so frequently and continually, and then on the advent of an intruder cease calling altogether. That is exactly what the owls