

98. OSPREY, *Pandion haliaetus*.

One flew directly over our camp on May 26, 1917. Noted in 1918 by Young, from May 5 to Aug. 6. Said by the Ward brothers to be rare.

99. LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio wilsonianus*.

In 1917 we received descriptions evidently referring to this species and were shown an old nest that seemed corroborative evidence. The supposition is confirmed by Mr. Job who reports finding four young of various sizes in an old crow's nest on opposite side of the lake June 28, 1912.

100. *SHORT-EARED OWL, *Asio flammeus*.

The commonest owl in 1917, seen nearly every evening, and often during the day, beating along the lake shore or over the old reed beds and marshes. In 1918, however, Young only noted single individuals three times during the entire season, April 30 to May 15, taking one on May 2.

101. *GREAT HORNED OWL, *Bubo virginianus*.

In 1917 occasional large owls were glimpsed or heard of during the spring visit and on Sept. 17th one was taken. It is referable to the Arctic

Horned Owl, *B. v. subarcticus*, but not absolutely typical and with slight tendencies towards the Western Horned Owl, *B. v. pallescens*. During the winter of 1916-17 a large flight of these birds, together with Goshawk and Snowy Owls, came from the north, obviously driven into new fields by the dearth of rabbits. Without doubt the Horned Owls had an appreciable influence in the destruction of upland game; though, as a night hunter, it was probably the least harmful of the trio. Young only noted one individual in 1918, on July 21; by its dates a probable breeder.

102. *SNOWY OWL, *Nyctea nyctea*.

From the accounts of the Ward brothers, it is evident that unusual numbers of this species accompanied the flight of Goshawks and Great Horned Owls in the winter of 1916-17. Being more of a diurnal and open country hunter than the Horned Owl probably this species was largely instrumental in the destruction of the grouse. In 1918, Young saw individuals from April 30 to May 15, taking one on May 2.

(To be continued)

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE OF PREHISTORIC HUMAN BONES

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Why do we bring so many human bones into a museum? Why is one skeleton not enough? Such questions are always surprising for it would seem that anyone might think of many reasons why we should collect the bones and why one skeleton would be as unrepresentative as one man is unrepresentative of his race. If we were to describe a tall, bearded man and say that he is representative of the English, it would be untrue, for there are short Englishmen and there are beardless Englishmen. These features of Englishmen are only two of a great many that could be mentioned. Likewise it is necessary, if we are to know an ancient people, to have enough skeletons to enable us to obtain average measurements and a representative series for study of the type.

The age at which an individual died can be determined approximately from his bones. If we have enough skeletons, we can determine how many individuals died in infancy, how many as little children, how many in middle age, and how many lived to be very old. This information regarding a primitive or savage people would be interesting in comparison with the same facts regarding our own people. We are often told that Indians were very healthy and lived to an old age, but in archaeological explorations we find the bones of a great

many children and young people as well as those of old people, showing that many of the Indians died young.

Fairy tales about the bones of giants and dwarfs are common. One can hardly think of a place he has explored where he has not been told of the finding of the bones of a giant, yet giants are very rare and of all the hundreds of skeletons that I have dug up and of the thousands seen in museums, I have yet to find so large a specimen. In fact, the skeletons are no larger than those of the people with whom we daily mingle.

The bones of children, easily determined, are often mistaken, by those who know nothing of such subjects, for bones of dwarfs.

A human skull that would hold "at least a peck" figures frequently among stories told by people who have probably never dug up a single skeleton, but who tell of what they have seen someone else find. Where all these extraordinarily large skulls are now is a mystery, for certainly they are not to be seen in our excavations, or in museums. The same is true in regard to the story of the leg bone of a man, told at practically every place in North America where I have carried on explorations. One end of the bone was put on the ground and the other end came nearly to the waist; but such bones