strip of muscle tissue, and then emerges with the tissue in its beak (Fig. 2, see inside back cover, bottom). The White-breasted Nuthatches proved too wary to be unambiguously captured in the act of scavenging with the camera equipment we had on hand, ceasing their activity and flying off each time we attempted to close within ~8 m of their position. We did not observe the Downy Woodpecker feeding on the carcasses, but it remained in the immediate vicinity for the entire time we were present, searching the nearby trees where the chickadees and nuthatches were caching pieces of meat and fat.

Black-capped Chickadees have previously been observed scavenging skunk and deer carcasses.[2,3] They are generally thought to prefer fat,[6] but in our observations, muscle was the primary tissue of interest. Among closely related passerines, the Great Tit *(Parus major)* is similarly reported to scavenge carcasses,[4] but also hunts and kills hibernating bats during periods of extreme winter weather.[1] There are a few observations of woodpeckers scavenging carcasses,[4,5] but we found no previous reports of carcass scavenging by White-breasted Nuthatches.

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SURVIVAL OF A 'FOSTERED' YOUNG GREAT HORNED OWL

On 10 March 2009, I captured an adult Great Horned Owl in a net near the Edmonton International Airport. The bird was previously banded (no. 788-12210), and I recorded this information as well as an assessment of the bird's condition before releasing it. Later examination of banding records indicated that I had banded this bird as a nestling on 28 May 2002. However, as this was no ordinary nestling, I will share its remarkable story in this note.

Around 5 May 2002, a flightless young owl had been found wandering on the ground in the campground at the Blood Indian Creek Reservoir about 55 mi south of Coronation, Alberta. A search for the nest by some campers found that it had blown down and no adults or young owls were observed in the area. The owlet, which had no physical injuries other than being somewhat emaciated and very hungry, was cared for and rehabilitated for 2 weeks at the nearby T.K. Ranch (by C. Biggs, a local volunteer). On 19 May 2002, I was contacted by Mrs. Biggs, who informed me that she had an abandoned Great Horned Owl nestling that needed to be returned to the wild. Fostering the young owl in another active nest would be a critical step in this process.

I regularly monitor Great Horned Owl nests in the Edmonton area in preparation for banding the young, and in 2002, there

were a number of suitable nests for the fostering attempt. The owlet was delivered to me on 27 May at Leduc, Alberta. Based on the age of the bird, there was a good candidate nest near Morinville, where I had banded two young of a similar age in the previous week. The following day with the assistance of A. De Groot, I banded the owlet and placed it in the candidate foster nest near Morinville. My hope was that the adults would accept and feed the fostered owlet, and because it was the same age as the other nestlings, it should be able to compete for food and survive in the nest until fledging.

Fostering of young in wild families is not a new venture and has been undertaken for a number of species, including the Great Horned Owl. A short note on the steps taken for a successful fostering of a nestling Great Horned Owl is described on the Alabama Wildlife Center website.[1] Unless a fostered young is marked and observed later, we do not know what happens after the bird leaves the nest area. The recovery of this fostered young later in its adult life, 7 years after the event, is strong evidence that if done properly, fostered young can survive.

The fostered young, placed in the nest at Morinville in the spring of 2002, moved approximately 30 mi south to where it was recaptured in March 2009. I do not know when it dispersed from the nesting area to its current breeding territory where it was captured, but I do know that this owl survived the fostering action and is now living a healthy life.

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Juvenile Great Horned Owls. *Ryan Fisher*