

hawks. We know very little about *Buteo*, but one case is reported in which the male left the nest after the female had been shot, and joined another pair. In the American Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) I know of a pair in which the lost partner was repeatedly replaced whether it was the male or the female. A case is reported of two female Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*), that were mated with the same male and laid eggs in the same nest (or rather hollow) (British Birds, 19: 180, 1925). In the genus *Circus* (harriers) polygamy has been reported for three species (*cyaneus*, *pygargus*, and *hudsonius*). In all cases the two females that belonged to one male had separate nests. On the other hand, there are reports that in pairs of the Marsh Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) the lost male is as readily replaced as the female (Journ. f. Ornith., 75: 430, 1927, and Naumannia, p. 400, 1854).

All these observations indicate that there may be a surplus of one sex in certain species of hawks. It seems definitely desirable to pay more attention to this question and to publish all the available data on the proportion of the sexes among the young in the nest.—ERNST MAYR, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Eastern Goshawk nesting in central Michigan.—On April 16, 1937, the writer found a nest of the Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*) in the Houghton Lake Forest, in Rosecommon County, Michigan. Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne, Curator of Birds at the University of Michigan, believes that this is the southernmost nesting record for the State. The birds had chosen a site in a dense stand of white birches and quaking aspens less than fifty feet from the fire lane. The nest was situated in a crotch formed by several main branches of a white birch at a height of twenty-five feet from the ground. Three old nests in the immediate vicinity indicated that the hawks had been using this area for several years. The female remained on the nest until I approached the base of the tree and then flew off with a harsh scream longer and shriller than the *cuck-cuck-cuck* of the Cooper's Hawk.

On May 21, Mrs. Baumgartner and Miss Margaret Gross visited the area and heard a young bird peeping feebly after the old bird had left the nest. Two days later Mrs. Baumgartner climbed to the nest and found one very small nestling and one addled egg. I quote from her field notes: "The nest was very bulky, composed of fresh sticks and lined with green white-pine and hemlock twigs and a few shreds of bark. The young bird, at least two days old, was covered with grayish down with pinkish skin showing through. The cere and feet were yellowish horny; the bill black, pearl gray at the union with the cere; the egg tooth, still present on May 25, was white; the inside of the mouth pale pinkish. Its soft call notes in the nest, probably for food or warmth, were a gentle clitter not unlike that of young Horned Owls, *k-k-k-k-k-k*. The cry of fear or annoyance when handled and photographed was a loud scream."

On May 25, Dr. Arthur A. Allen and Mr. Albert R. Brand managed to reach the nest with the Cornell University sound truck and made movies and recordings of both the old and the young birds. With the exception of a threatened assault upon one of the Cornell party, the old bird never attacked, although two persons climbed to the nest and the young bird, protesting loudly, was brought down for photographing. Only one adult, the female, was ever seen in the region. The writer visited the nest area at the end of June but found no evidence of the birds. It is hoped that the nesting may have been successful and that the area will be inhabited again another year.—FREDERICK M. BAUMGARTNER, *Department of Conservation, Lansing, Michigan.*

Early nesting of the Short-tailed Hawk.—Since any reference these days to the Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) is of interest, it is with peculiar pleasure

that the writer is able to record what appears to be the earliest nesting date of this species yet known. Search of the literature at any rate, reveals none that approaches it. On January 20, 1937, a nest was discovered by the bird flying out of the tree overhead as we passed. Accompanied by Robert P. Allen of New York City, and Earle Moore of Miami, the writer was in the hammock bordering Deep Lake, Collier County, Florida. Walking down a rough road through the hammock, a disturbance in the dense foliage overhead took place, and a beautiful adult Short-tailed Hawk in the black phase left a cabbage palmetto a few yards from the road, and soared about close overhead. A short search of the tree revealed the nest, built close to the trunk amid the stems, in exactly the same manner as that employed by the Caracara. It was about twenty-eight feet up. The tree was photographed at close range, and another picture secured of the general vicinity. Other nests found in Florida seem to have been in the months of March and April, though in his "Egg Dates" Mr. Bent states on page 258 ('Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey,' part 1) that for Florida and Mexico there are fourteen records, February 12 to June 10.

In his field work in Florida, the writer has met with this species four times in three years; the localities are Royal Palm Hammock, Collier County; near Flamingo, Cape Sable; "Pinecrest" on the Loop of the Tamiami Trail; and Deep Lake. One other nest has been seen; it was built in a red-mangrove tree overhanging Shark River, on the southwest coast, and contained two eggs. This date was March 16, 1937; a good picture was secured of the nest and eggs.

On page 255 of the 'Life Histories' of the birds of prey, Mr. Bent states in reference to Lake Istokpoga, that "this lake is the only recently known breeding locality and I now believe that these hawks have been extirpated even there." In view of this, the records of the two nests above are of particular interest. One more can be added of which the writer has knowledge. In late March 1937, a nest of this species was found in the Pinecrest area of the Loop, Collier County, by J. Earle Moore, of Miami, one of the companions of the writer mentioned above. He followed the history of the nest from its discovery, when it held three eggs, to the time that the young left it. There is a peculiar coincidence in the date of the March nest seen by the writer, and photographed at Shark River. It was found on March 16, the same date as that of the first nest ever to be found in Florida, which was March 16, 1889, by W. E. D. Scott. The Shark River nest was discovered by Edward J. Reimann, one of the Audubon wardens on the southwest coast, and was shown to the writer on his March inspection of that area.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Assoc. Audubon Soccs., Charleston, South Carolina.*

Bald Eagle takes live fish.—It is commonly known that the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) subsists on dead fish, carrion and fish taken from the Osprey after the latter has made the catch. Occasionally it takes live birds and small mammals. On the southwest coast of Florida, at Turkey Key, Monroe County, about eighteen miles south of Everglades, Florida, on November 13, 1936, I saw a strange sight. At this time of the year mullet are running, and the fish school in great masses to spawn. On the above date I happened upon one of these schools and saw six Bald Eagles (four adults and two immatures) actually fishing for themselves. As the fish stay near the surface, they were easy to take. The eagles circled directly over the school, about fifty feet above the surface of the water. One would break away, go about one hundred yards off, and then start out at full speed toward the school, gaining momentum and setting its wings in a long diagonal glide down to the surface. It would then reach down to the water, immerse one leg and scoop out a