

The angle of the stoop was usually slight (less than 20 degrees) and extended in length from a few meters up to, in one case, over 100 meters. The stoop was occasionally accompanied by a few, quick, short wing strokes or a half barrel-roll, but was usually straight and unaided. In most cases it terminated in a quick, short turn upon contact with the insect. On occasion a bird was noted to rise on a slight grade in a straight, headlong manner, accompanied by deep, steady wing beats until the prey was overtaken. Several times a beetle was struck and fell and the kite immediately wheeled and caught it in midair. Some of the beetles were flying in copulation when struck by the kite, in which case one beetle would fly off, apparently unharmed, and less often fall to the earth. At no time was it determined that the kite took both insects on the same pass. Twice single beetles were struck and fell straight to the ground, no attempt being made by the bird to retrieve them. Immediately after the capture of prey the birds would level off and commence circling and feeding, unless the strike was made low to the ground, in which case altitude was gained quickly. All prey was eaten while the kites were in flight. Both of the bird's legs may or may not hang down while feeding; however, only one foot was used to hold the insect. The bird's wings are held steady and level, the tail generally half spread. Slow, easy circles are performed with an occasional wing beat. There was a general tendency to gain altitude during the whole process.

The method of attack on grasshoppers was a straight, swift drop of approximately 90 degrees, terminating a couple of feet from the ground. The instant the prey was grasped, deep wing strokes carried the bird off 50 to 75 meters (50 to 75 yards) distant and 30 to 40 meters' elevation, at which time feeding took place. On other areas, where grasshoppers frequented tall grass or wheat, they were captured by the kite in a sweeping, continuous stoop with a partial break in speed at the point of contact.

Several times individual kites were observed for periods of up to 40 minutes to determine the amount of prey taken and the time involved between each take. Forty minutes was the maximum time a kite was noted to feed before leaving the area or rising to an elevation too far to be observed. The soaring time between each strike was three to six minutes. The required time to consume each prey animal was 30 to 70 seconds. There was an average of 10 kites feeding at one time, which would indicate approximately 60 prey species taken in a 40-minute period or about six grasshoppers, beetles, or dragonflies taken by each kite.

There was a general tendency for all the kites on the area to feed during the same period of time and for all to disappear about the same time. Occasionally, one or two would stay within view of the feeding area but appeared not to be feeding or feeding only sporadically.—ROBERT W. SKINNER, *State Conservation Department, Game and Fish Division, Montgomery, Alabama.*

The Weights of 11 Living Eagles and Vultures at the New York Zoological Park.—Despite the fact that zoological parks have opportunities to weigh living birds of prey, such weights have been recorded for very few raptors. While the weights of eagles and vultures vary from time to time and from individual to individual, as well as from small males to the large females of many species, their weights are so much a matter of public interest that it seems worth while to publish the following weights recorded on 3 May 1960 at the New York Zoological Park. Weights were recorded on a Howe metric scale of 250 kg capacity, and the following procedure was followed. Each specimen was captured in a bag net and carried, net and all, to the scale platform where its captor stood holding the bird in the net. A total weight was recorded, following which each bird was released in its cage. Then the bird keeper

returned to the scale and was weighed with the net minus the bird. This weight was then subtracted from the original recording to give the weight of the bird. Sexes are noted where known.

Andean Condor, <i>Vultur gryphus</i> , ♂	11.5 kg
King Vulture, <i>Sarcoramphus papa</i> , ♀	3.0 "
Harpy Eagle, <i>Harpia harpyja</i> , ♂	4.6 "
Crowned Eagle, <i>Stephanoaëtus coronatus</i> , ♂	3.4 "
Martial Eagle, <i>Polemaëtus bellicosus</i> , ♀	6.2 "
Verreaux's Eagle, <i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	3.8 "
White-tailed Sea Eagle, <i>Haliaëtus albicilla</i> , ♀	6.5 "
Hooded Vulture, <i>Aegypius monachus</i>	7.5 "
Pondicherry Vulture, <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	4.2 "
Vulturine Sea Eagle, <i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	1.7 "
Bateleur Eagle, <i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	2.5 "

—WILLIAM G. CONWAY, *Director and Curator of Birds, New York Zoological Park, New York 60, New York.*

***Stegophorus stellae-polaris* (Acuardiidae: Nematoda) in the Pacific Fulmar.**

—On 12 November 1961 the writer found an adult, male dark-phase Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis rogersii*, on Pescadero Beach, San Mateo County, California. The bird was dead, but intact and in fresh condition; death must have occurred shortly before the specimen was washed ashore and recovered. The cause of death could not be determined. A neck dislocation suggested the possibility of an in-flight collision with some obstacle; but wave action may have caused this injury after death. The feathers, particularly about the head, were swarming with Mallophaga (chewing lice), which have been identified as *Perineus nigrolimbatus*, *Procellariophaga brevifimbriata*, and *Saemundssonina occidentalis* (a few specimens). These species are common ectoparasites of the Pacific Fulmar (Hopkins and Clay, *A Checklist of the Genera and Species of Mallophaga*, British Museum, London, 1952).

The bird was dissected on the day of recovery. During the skinning process four small nematodes were collected as they emerged from the nostrils, waving about as though in search of a new host; 38 more specimens of the same worm were removed from the lower esophagus and proventriculus. The worms lay in the mucosal secretions but were not attached to the mucosa. The mucosa were healthy and intact; there was no evidence that the parasites were pathogenic for this particular host. Careful dissection failed to reveal any other helminths, either intestinal or extraintestinal. Heart blood films were negative for haematozoa.

The nematodes (25 female specimens ranging in length from 12.0 to 16.8 mm, and 17 males from 5.1 to 7.9 mm) conform in all morphologic and mensural respects to the descriptions of *Stegophorus stellae-polaris* (Parona, 1901), Wehr, 1934 (Wehr, *J. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, 24: 341-347, 1934; Baer, *Medd. Grønland*, 124: 1-55, 1956). This parasite has been recorded from the Atlantic Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*, from the following localities: "arctic region" of the North Atlantic (Parona, *Boll. Mus. Zool. Univ. Torino* (393), 16: 1, 1901); North Sea (Baylis, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 10, 1: 329-343, 1928); 61.00° N, 32.10° W (Wehr, 1934); Jan Mayen Island (Bird and Bird, *Ibis*, Ser. 13, 5: 837-855, 1935). It has also been recorded from the Storm Petrel, *Hydrobates pelagicus* (Baylis, 1928—Norfolk, England) and from Brünnich's Guillemot (Murre), *Uria lomvia lomvia* (Wehr, 1934—73.20° N, 17.25° W; 72.00° N, 13.30° W). *S. stellae-polaris* does not, however, appear to have been recorded previously from the Pacific Fulmar or from any other North Pacific bird.