

Allowing for an incubation period of 30 days (estimate) and 10 days for nest construction and egg laying, the kites must have been on the refuge from at least the middle of March. The nest and a portion of the supporting limb were collected on 14 May and are in the U. S. National Museum.

According to H. Friedmann (*U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 50 [pt. 11], pp. 106 and 109, 1950), *Chondrohierax uncinatus* is a local resident in swamps and marshy areas in tropical Mexico, through Central and South America to as far south as northwestern Argentina, Paraguay, and southeastern Brazil. The northern subspecies (*C. u. aquilonis*), to which our birds presumably belonged, is a resident in most of Mexico, from Tamaulipas to Jalapa, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Oaxaca, Yucatan, and Chiapas. Roger Tory Peterson and Edgar Kincaid (pers. comm.) state that they have never seen this species in Mexico. L. Irby Davis (*vide* Peterson) regards it as "very rare." Melvin A. Traylor (pers. comm.) states that the species cannot be common in Tamaulipas. Herbert Friedmann (*vide* Traylor) did not cite any other than the type specimen for Tamaulipas when he described the subspecies.

The semi-desert habitat of the refuge is very different from the tropical swamp and marsh habitat usually associated with *C. u. aquilonis*. While this may indicate nothing more than the fact that, being the only one available, it was acceptable to our birds (and we must remember that the nesting failed), we still cannot help wondering if the population in Tamaulipas may not be greater than the dearth of records indicates. This would be possible if few collectors and ornithologists have searched for this kite in any but the "typical" habitats. In any case, we think that relatively large tracts of woodland with tall dead trees and heavy populations of land and arboreal snails should be carefully watched for the possible presence of these kites.

In the present instance, certainly, common land snails were the principal food of young and adults; two broken snail shells were lodged on the edge of the nest, and a half pint of shells with their ends broken open was found on the ground under the nest in addition to numerous shells under dead trees where the adults perched.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, *Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Rt. 1, Box 202-A, Alamo, Texas*, and JOHN L. HAMILTON, *R. R. 2, Huntton Road, St. Joseph, Missouri*.

Interactions of a crow and a fledgling cowbird.—The observations described below were made on 5 June 1965 at Medomak, Lincoln County, Maine. A Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) was the sole occupant of an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) nest and fledged on the morning of 5 June. In the afternoon I saw a Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) alight on the lawn about 20 feet from the fledgling cowbird. The cowbird immediately hopped toward the crow, giving begging movements which included wing fluttering and gaping (and perhaps also vocalizations, although I was too far away to hear). When the cowbird was within two feet, the crow hopped away a few feet. Still begging, the cowbird approached twice more with the same result. Then the crow seized the cowbird, flew a few feet, dropped it, killed it with jabs of the bill, and then finally flew off with it.

Two points about these interactions are of interest. First, the cowbird was definitely unspecific in its begging responses. Although there are many observations in the literature of young birds begging from species other than their parents, in the present case the disparity in size and appearance of the phoebe foster parent and the crow was certainly very great. Begging responses elicited by a wide range of

stimuli could be generally adaptive (though evidently not always) in the cowbird because of the variety of species which serve as foster parents. Second, the crow's attack was evidently inhibited initially by the approaches of the begging fledgling, even though (since a crow had not been observed on this lawn previously during my stay) it was possibly attracted initially by the cowbird. Begging by young birds, therefore, perhaps reduces aggressive responses of adult birds, and this example suggests that it may so function interspecifically, even with a potential predator.—MILLICENT S. FICKEN, *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

Rock Wren in Ontario.—On 6 December 1964 a Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) was found by Carl Mrozek, Daniel Salisbury, and us on a jetty at the Lake Ontario entrance to the Welland Canal in Saint Catharines, Ontario, Canada. The bird was first seen on top of a rock in a snow- and ice-covered embankment bordering the west side of the Canal. It remained on the rocks, but covered a horizontal distance of 300 yards along the canal. The bird would perch on the top of a rock, give a variable, high-pitched rattle, and then fly into rock crevices a few feet away. While in view it would bob and, although it blended in well with the rocks, this made it easy to see; it seemed to prefer the larger, higher rocks for perching. Often a close approach did not cause the bird to flush.

The Rock Wren was collected the next morning by Dr. Robert Andrlé of the Buffalo Museum of Science. It was identified as *S. o. obsoletus* by Dr. Lester Short, then of the U. S. National Museum, and is now in the Royal Ontario Museum at Toronto. According to the A.O.U. Check-list, fifth edition, the species has been previously recorded east of Minnesota twice, once in Michigan (see J. Van Tyne, *Wilson Bull.*, 54: 52, 1942) and once (see A. S. Hyde, *Auk*, 44: 111-112, 1927) in Illinois. There is also a record for Tennessee (See R. D. Smith, Jr., *Migrant*, 27: 76, 1956; and *Aud. Field Notes*, 11: 272, 1957). This is the first record of the species for Ontario.—JOANNA BURGER, *State University College, Buffalo, New York*, and RICHARD BROWNSTEIN, *Buffalo, New York.*

Comparison of nesting sites of Bald Eagles in central Florida from 1930 to 1965.—In recent years the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has decreased in numbers within the contiguous United States, to the point where it is now considered a threatened species within these borders (see A. Sprunt, IV, *Aud. Mag.*, 63: 324-327, 1961; 65: 32-35, 1963; and 66: 45-46, 1964). In addition, in some areas where the eagle is still found, productivity has greatly diminished. Therefore, any area in which the Bald Eagle still breeds at a natural rate and maintains a stable population at a high level becomes of major importance. The Kissimmee Prairie region of central Florida appears to be such an area. (In the 1964-65 nesting season the area contained about 80 active nests, with approximately 90 per cent of the apparently ecologically favorable sites being occupied [G. M. Heinzman and D. Heinzman, *Florida Nat.*, 38: 126-127, 1965].) This is a sparsely populated region of large cattle ranches, where landowners have joined with the Florida Audubon Society in a program to protect the eagles and their nesting sites.

The general decline in the eagle population over a long-term study period has been documented in one area by Howell, who has checked periodically on 24 nest sites in east-central Florida since 1935 (*Auk*, 71: 306-309, 1954; 75: 96-98, 1958; 79: