

Both adult Savannah Sparrows were seen feeding both nestlings later in the day. When the nest was checked again on 7 July it was empty with the lining undisturbed, suggesting snake predation; garter snakes (*Thamnophis radix*) were common in the field.

Hamilton and Orians (op. cit.) suggested that an egg-laying female whose nest had been destroyed might lay the remaining eggs that were not resorbed in nests of other nearby birds; in a highly territorial species, such an egg-laden female might have less difficulty in gaining access to nests of other species within the territory than nests of her own species in other territories. On the Wisconsin grassland both species were plentiful and highly territorial, actively patrolling territorial boundaries against deep intrusions by neighboring conspecific individuals. Territories of the two species broadly overlapped, and I once found nests of both within 3 meters of each other. These nests both held nestlings, and close watching failed to reveal any sign of overt aggression or interference between the species as they foraged for the young. Clashes between these species were not infrequent in other circumstances, and generally involved conflicts over song perch occupancy (Wiens, op. cit.). Individuals of either species moving about on the ground in territories of the other generally elicited no overt response. This degree of tolerance of another species on the ground near a nest site was not shown by the other species breeding in the area, and perhaps expedited this case of interspecific "egg-dumping."—JOHN A. WIENS, *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Present address: Department of Zoology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.* Accepted 1 May 70.

**Golden Eagle attacks a Mallard.**—On 24 May 1969, while censusing birds on the Whittell Forest and Wildlife Area of the University of Nevada in Little Valley, Washoe County, Nevada, we watched a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) capture a male Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in flight. As we approached a large beaver pond on Franktown Creek, our attention was attracted to a Mallard flying rapidly, within 25 feet of the ground, through a bordering stand of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) with a Golden Eagle in close pursuit. As the duck maneuvered side to side and up and down the eagle remained directly behind it. The eagle was able to maneuver through the pines and over the willows (*Salix* sp.) almost as well as the duck. Within seconds the Mallard disappeared downstream in a thick stand of pine, and the eagle rose to about 100 feet in the air, apparently breaking off the chase.

Suddenly the duck reversed direction and reappeared in weaving flight close to the ground. The eagle turned, stooped, snatched the Mallard out of the air, and still holding the duck in its talons, landed within 100 feet of us. As it surveyed the surrounding area, the eagle detected us, released the duck, and flew away. After the eagle left we tried to find the duck, but it was gone; all we found were a few blood-stained duck feathers.

Sharp (J. Wildl. Mgmt., 15: 224, 1951) mentioned Golden Eagles preying on Mallards and Grossman and Hamlet (Birds of prey of the world, New York, Clarkson N. Potter Inc., 1964) point out that the Golden Eagle has been known to harass ducks in flight. Woodgerd (J. Wildl. Mgmt., 16: 457, 1952) and Brown and Watson (Ibis, 106: 78, 1964) stated Golden Eagles ate Mallards and Carnie (Condor, 56: 3, 1954) reported Mallards in stomach analyses and nest material examinations; but a literature search revealed no exact description of a Golden Eagle capturing a Mallard in flight.—JAMES V. KELLEHER and WILLIAM F. O'MALIA, *Biology Department, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89507.* Accepted 18 Mar. 70.