

In addition to nesting seabirds during spring and early summer, some islands have dense populations of meadow voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), which are doubtless an important potential source of owl food. I flushed a Great Horned Owl repeatedly from trees near the edge of a meadow on Thief Island during the last two weeks of July, 1969. As nesting birds had left the island by then, it perhaps fed principally upon the voles.

Information upon owl predation on coastal nesting islands is nearly nonexistent. Neither Bent (U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 170, 1938) nor Craighead and Craighead (Hawks, owls, and wildlife, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Stackpole Co., 1956) mention such activities. Austin (Bird-Banding, 17: 10, 1946) describes remains of several Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) found on Tern Island, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, that he presumed to be victims of owl predation, the species not named. Fisher and Lockley (Sea-birds, Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1954, pp. 110, 162, 264) mention resident owls attacking seabirds on islands off the British coast, but give no information about nocturnal visits. The Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*) has been reported to eat gulls and auks (Witherby, Jourdain, Ticehurst, and Tucker, The handbook of British birds, vol. 2, H. F. & G. Witherby Ltd., 1946, p. 313).

Thus, while Great Horned Owls prey at times upon seabird colonies in Maine, this behavior either is unusual or has escaped mention. It could help prevent the establishment of seabird colonies close to the mainland or to large islands.

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**Escape responses and swimming abilities of nestling Golden Eagles.**—While studying the nesting ecology and breeding biology of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) in southwestern Idaho and southeastern Oregon, I banded 69 of 117 Golden Eaglets in 65 active nests during the nesting seasons of 1966 and 1967. Eaglets 9½ to 11 weeks old typically flew from the nest when I appeared. Depending upon the air convection currents and direction of flight (into or with air currents), the nestling's first flight usually ended abruptly in a cartwheeling, somersaulting landing through the sagebrush some 90 to 400 yards from the nest site.

After landing the eaglets normally walked uphill and hid. Though adult Golden Eagles responded to the food calls of their young and fed them on the ground, I returned all but two eaglets to the nests. Once replaced, they stayed put and exhibited only defensive responses.

On 25 May 1967 in the narrows of the Bruneau River in southwestern Idaho while I was rappelling down a 120-foot rock cliff to an active Golden Eagle nest, two 9½-week-old eaglets took flight into the rising convection currents of midday. The first eaglet's flight ended with a breast splash-down some 30 feet from shore; its sibling tried to make a 30° flight course correction around a bend in the channel, but dipped the lower wing tip into the water and cartwheeled to a landing 150 feet from the shore.

Both eaglets reacted to the water similarly. After floating motionless for about 5 minutes, they used their wings as paddles, much in the fashion of a wounded duck when pursued by a dog and, stopping to rest every 12 to 15 feet, swam to shore. They showed no adverse effects from their swim upon recapture.—GARY L. HICKMAN, *Division of River Basin Studies, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, 1031 Miracle Mile, Vero Beach, Florida 32960*. Accepted 9 Jul. 70.