

Second record of the Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) for North America.—On 23 September 1972 a Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) was trapped one-half mile northeast of Cape May Point, New Jersey. The bird's weight was 222 g and the wing chord was 250 mm. Joseph Harmer banded it with a U. S. Fish and Wildlife band (No. 524-23982) and released it the same day after it was examined and photographed. It was identified as a juvenal female by plumage. Two of the juvenal rectrices, the third and fourth from outer on the right side, had been replaced by shorter, greyer adult feathers. Dean Amadon and John Bull of the American Museum of Natural History have confirmed the identification from slides taken of it. Photographs of this bird have been deposited with the National Photoduplicate File, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland, with Accession Numbers 359.1-1 Ca, and 359.1-1 Cb.

In all respects but one, this falcon appeared to be a normal, wild bird. The only unusual feature was the presence of petroleum-based grease from the lower breast to the undertail coverts as well as some on the lower surface of the rectrices. This strongly suggests that the bird rode part or all the way from Europe aboard a ship where it perched on grease-coated wires. The alternative possibilities that the bird was an escaped caged bird or an escaped falconer's bird are dismissed as the bird showed no signs of worn plumage or other indications of captivity. It behaved in the manner typical for wild trapped falcons. When handled by other than falconry methods, trained falcons scream, bite and flap their wings vigorously, which this bird did not.

The only previous record for this species in North America is that of a female specimen collected 29 September 1887 near Nantasket Beach, Massachusetts (Corey 1888, Auk 5: 110) and now in the Chicago Natural History Museum (Hellmeyer and Conover 1949, Catalogue of birds of the Americas, part 1, No. 4, Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Zool. Ser. 13: 323).—WILLIAM S. CLARK, 7800 Dasset Court, Apt. 101, Annandale, Virginia 22003. Accepted 23 Mar. 73.

Differential predation on active and inactive prey by owls.—Selection against conspicuous prey with respect to coloration has been demonstrated experimentally for a number of different birds (e.g., Dice 1947, Kaufman 1971, 1973). Few studies have examined the effect of prey activity on predation by raptors. Metzgar (1967) reported that Screech Owls (*Otus asio*) captured more transient than resident mice in laboratory experiments, and suggested that the owls cued on the greater activity of the transient prey. I report the results of three experiments designed to examine owl predation when one mouse was active and a second totally inactive. I used white and light brown house mice (*Mus musculus*) as prey and three Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) and three Screech Owls as predators.

Trials were conducted in the late evening in field enclosures (3.6 × 9.0 × 3.9 m) with sparse vegetation (described in Kaufman 1971). Two mice of the same color, one active (live) and one inactive (dead), were simultaneously placed in the enclosure. Owls usually captured the first mouse in less than 10 seconds. Dead mice were used because they were completely inactive, yet owls took single dead mice placed in the enclosures as readily as live mice.

In two experiments Barn Owls took 16 active white *Mus* and 11 active brown *Mus* first in 16 and 11 trials, respectively. In a third experiment Screech Owls took one inactive and 14 active white *Mus* in 15 trials. The ratio of active:inactive mice was significantly (Chi-square analyses, $P < 0.01$) different from a 1 active: