

**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 Two of the juvenal rectrices, the third and fourth from outer on the right side, had been replaced by shorter, greyer adult feathers.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:

1 inactive ratio in each of the three experiments, indicating that active mice were the more conspicuous type of prey.

Differential predation on active and inactive mice was probably due to visual cues as indicated by the owls' ability to capture readily inactive prey presented individually. Hearing, which is acute in Barn Owls (Payne 1971), was probably not important in these experiments as there was little vegetation or litter on the ground to make sound as the active mice moved. In certain habitats differential sound production by two or more prey would probably cause differential raptor predation by hearing only.

These results lend support to Metzgar's hypothesis (1967) that differential predation by Screech Owls in his experiment was due to activity differences of prey. Metzgar's experimental situation probably did not represent the field conditions of the resident-transient concept, but rather the increased activity of "transients" was most likely an artifact of their introduction into a novel laboratory environment.

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#### LITERATURE CITED

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DONALD W. KAUFMAN, *Department of Zoology, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712*. Accepted 22 Mar. 73.

**Black-legged Kittiwakes breeding in Labrador.**<sup>1</sup>—The breeding distribution of the Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) in Canada has long interested ornithologists because the birds are concentrated at both the northern (Lancaster Sound region) and southern (Newfoundland and Gulf of St. Lawrence) extremities of the range (Godfrey 1966). Except for relatively small numbers nesting on the east coast of Baffin Island and in eastern Hudson Strait (Resolution Island, Loks Land, Button Islands), a large hiatus exists between these two breeding groups (Nettleship 1972). The heart of this gap is the 750-mile long Labrador coast where they are common in summer but heretofore not known to breed (Godfrey 1966).

On 29 July 1972 during a boat census of breeding seabirds in Labrador, Lock identified 16 kittiwake nests, at least two of which contained young, on the cliffs on the southwestern side of Outer Gannet Island (54° 00' N, 56° 32' W). Contents

<sup>1</sup> An investigation associated with the program "Studies on northern seabirds," Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada (Report No. 10).