

The Greater Shearwater is known from the United States only along the Atlantic coast from eastern Florida northward (Murphy 1967, Serial atlas of the marine environment: distribution of North Atlantic pelagic birds, map 8B, Amer. Geogr. Soc.). I have been unable to locate any other records for the Gulf coast of the United States or for any other part of the Gulf of Mexico region. Hence, the specimen represents not only the first record for Texas, but for the entire Gulf of Mexico.

The occurrence of procellariiform birds along the Texas (and Gulf) coast is usually associated with storms from the Gulf of Mexico. No severe weather had occurred on the Texas coast for at least 2 weeks prior to the encounter with this bird (Ray, pers. comm.) nor were there any tropical storms in the Gulf during the period of 1 October–4 November according to the Texas A&M University Weather Station.

I thank Jeffrey Greenhouse and Joseph Kleiman for salvaging the bird and S. M. Ray for preserving the specimen and for recognizing its uniqueness. Finally, I thank George H. Lowery, Jr. and John P. O'Neil for comparing the specimen with material in their care.—KEITH A. ARNOLD, *Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843*. Accepted 19 Apr. 74.

A new prey-pursuit behavior by White-tailed Kites.—I report here two instances of White-tailed Kites (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*) making a rapid dive with wings folded while in apparent pursuit of prey. This behavior was seen during November 1972 in Irvine, Orange County, California.

On 5 November, at about 1450 PST, I watched an immature kite make four attempts to capture prey in 3- to 4-foot-tall weed growth on the fringe of a marsh. The first three attempts were characterized by the steep V of the wings, dangling legs, and slow descent. This is the form of hunting behavior reported for many years as typical of the White-tailed Kite (Pickwell 1930, Condor 32: 221; Waian and Stendall 1970, California Fish and Game 56: 188). The fourth attempt was a rapid, head-first dive made with wings folded tight against the body. The dive started from hovering flight approximately 50 feet above the ground; the axis of movement was nearly perpendicular to the ground. The kite penetrated the weed growth while in diving flight.

The second sighting, on 27 November at about 0945 PST, involved an adult kite. I was driving next to a tilled field when I saw the kite hovering ahead of me, over the field slightly to the right of the road. As I approached, the kite descended feet first until about 30 feet above the ground, then partially folded its wings against the body and dove toward the right ditch bank. The kite appeared to absorb the impact with its legs and breast.

Hawbecker (1942, Condor 44: 267) stated that Laidlaw Williams thought the last 20 feet of a kite's stoop is quite fast; however, there is no indication that the speed resulted from a dive. Watson (1940, Condor 42: 295) described the flight of the White-tailed Kite in detail, mentioning rapid dives only in the defense of feeding areas. All instances he recorded were associated with inter- and intraspecific aerial encounters. I saw no indication of feeding area defense.

I am grateful to George L. Hunt, Jr. of the University of California at Irvine for his comments during the preparation of this report.—BRUCE C. THOMPSON, 1412 Nisson Road, Apt. 2, Tustin, California 92680. Present address: Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331. Accepted 22 Apr. 74.