

'several writers'] to its vocal powers are based on hearsay or on confusion with the notes of auklets or other birds occupying the same breeding grounds." Other available references are vague or silent regarding the matter.

During the course of a recent trip to the Farallon Islands, I had opportunity to hear the note of this bird under the following circumstances. An adult individual of this species was taken from its burrow and was held long enough to photograph and band. The bird made several polysyllabic, hoarse, burred notes while being pulled toward the opening of the burrow and also during the time it was held captive. The sound resembled a hoarse, resonant cough, and was of very short duration. A closely similar phonetic interpretation may be expressed by the syllables *b-r-r-r-uh*. The note was audible for only four or five feet and was very low in pitch, resembling to some extent, in this respect, the croaking of bullfrogs. The bird made no audible note after being released, but flew at once out of sight.

At the time of this visit, August 17, 1933, the larger portion of the Puffin colony had left, and I do not believe that this bird was breeding. We were not able to find either egg or young in this burrow, although we could feel the end of the burrow with our hands; but a young bird might possibly have secreted itself in some nook or cranny which we did not detect. The adult bird had carried some substance in its bill into the burrow, of which we found no trace. Time did not permit extended observation on the owner of the burrow.—CLARENCE F. SMITH, *Oakland, California, September 1, 1933.*

Sparrow Hawk Eats Hermit Warbler.—It was in late afternoon close to five o'clock, of May 23, 1933; place, east side of valley of Mad River, eight miles southeast of Ruth, Trinity County, California. From camp I saw a falcon perching on the tip of a spike-topped Douglas spruce, facing into the wind and teetering somewhat. First impression was of much larger than sparrow-hawk size, and this circumstance caught and held my attention. Presently the bird flew down into the lesser growth, of black oaks and smaller spruces, which surrounded the perching tree; and very soon it reappeared, with something in its claws. It again perched on the spike tip, holding the "something" under one or both feet, while it proceeded to reach its head down again and again to that object.

Bringing binoculars to bear, the "falcon" was then seen to be an ordinary American Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*), and now and then feathers were seen to drift away from the "kill" it was holding and picking at. One of my camp-mates, Raymond Gilmore, meanwhile scouted through the woods and succeeded in getting a long-range shot with number 6's. The hawk fell, as also what it was holding; but Gilmore failed to find the latter. The hawk was stone-dead when found. Brought to camp, it showed gray feathers adhering to bill and toes, and the latter were bloody. A food mass could be felt in the gullet.

The next day I skinned out the bird, an adult male (now no. 62906, Mus. Vert. Zool.). The gullet contents, a mass of flesh and smeared feathers, I "floated out" in the camp wash-basin; and as the parts separated in the water and the feathers spread out, the identity of the "kill" became quickly apparent. There were strips of skin from the head with the yellow feathering attached, the two mandibles but apart, the eye-balls (broken), pieces of skull with most of the brain in portions, and bits of clean muscle—the identifiable parts all belonging to an adult male Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*). When the shot reached the hawk, the latter had evidently not yet eaten much into the body of the warbler. Parts of the remains I floated onto a piece of card-board, to which they dried; this is now preserved in the Museum as "evidence."

Thus it appears that an American Sparrow Hawk may capture and eat a tree-inhabiting bird, and that even mature Hermit Warblers have feathered dangers lurking in their woods to watch out for. But, of course, the above instance is no ground for concluding that Sparrow Hawks in general feed regularly upon the smaller birds, nor that a regular enemy of the Hermit or any other wood-warbler is the Sparrow Hawk!—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, September 3, 1933.*