

YOUNG, H. 1955. Breeding behavior and nesting of the Eastern Robin. *Am. Midl. Nat.* 53:329-352.

PETER E. LOWTHER, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.* Received 22 Sept. 1980; accepted 31 Jan. 1981.

**Further Notes on Wilson's Phalarope-American Avocet Feeding Associations.**—Wilson's Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*) commonly form feeding associations with other water birds. Williams (Condor 55:158, 1953) reported that swimming Wilson's Phalaropes followed wading American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) and he suggested that food consumed by the commensal phalaropes was stirred up by the feet of the avocets. Siegfried and Batt (Auk 89:667-668, 1972) found that wading phalaropes following Northern Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) pecked at prey at almost 3 times the rate measured for a phalarope feeding alone; they also noted that females often occupied the choice lead positions.

Beginning at 1900 on 9 May 1980 I observed a Wilson's Phalarope-American Avocet feeding association in a shallow pond near Belden, Mountrail Co., North Dakota. In approximately 5-7 cm of water, a single female phalarope followed 1 of 2 avocets which foraged 10-40 m apart. The phalarope waded behind or next to one of the avocets, picking food from the surface as the avocet apparently obtained food from the bottom of the pond. When the avocet ceased feeding, the phalarope promptly flew to the second bird and foraged with it until this avocet ceased feeding, whereupon the phalarope returned to the first avocet. Six such changes were observed in the following hour. The distances traveled by the phalarope in moving from one avocet to the other indicated that it was responding to the sight of a foraging avocet and not to the detection of food released or stirred up by the foraging birds. When one avocet ceased feeding but continued wading, the phalarope always ceased feeding and sometimes flew to the other avocet, indicating that the avocets' foraging activity and not their wading resulted in prey suitable for the phalarope. Although the feeding phalarope always remained within 1 m of a foraging avocet and followed closely by moving in a similar direction, neither avocet behaved aggressively toward it.—BEN C. PINKOWSKI, *Fort Berthold College Center, P. O. Box 308, New Town, ND 58763.* Received 6 Nov. 1980; accepted 24 March 1981.

**Barn Owl Takes an American Kestrel.**—On 19 July 1980, while conducting studies of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) in northern New Jersey, I found the remains of an American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) in an active Barn Owl nest. The nest site was an old wooden water tank, 7 m above the ground in an open field. The tank had been dry for many years and was regularly used by Barn Owls.

The tank contained three 4- to 5-week-old owlets. On the floor were the remains of the recently killed American Kestrel. Examination of the feathers and bones revealed the Kestrel to be an approximately 4-week-old female. It had probably fledged because its primary wing feathers were almost completely unsheathed.

Diets of Barn Owls show geographic, seasonal, and individual variations. Most studies of food habits indicate small percentages of avian prey, although numerous species have been recorded. (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 170, 1938; Rusling, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.Y., 1951). I believe the taking of an American Kestrel as prey by a Barn Owl is highly unusual, and this is the first such occurrence known to me.—LEONARD J. SOUCY, JR., *1390 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ 07946.* Received 11 Sep. 1980; accepted 21 Mar. 1981.

**Individual Recognition of Nestlings.**—In studies of bird nesting it is often important to recognize individual young. Ricklefs (1973, *Bird-Banding* 44:63) reported a method of tattooing nestlings with India ink, but noted that tattoos disappeared or faded at about 2 weeks of age. Also, an injection was required and one had to be careful not to inject into the abdominal cavity.

While ink is useful for marking eggs, I have found a better method to be marking young around the legs with threads of different color. I have tried and do not recommend nail polish, paint, or black India ink on the claws or other parts of the body. Ink marking had to be repeated almost daily, and it is time consuming to read combinations of 2 claws.