

ABSTRACTS OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS**PREY SIZE SELECTION BY WILD AMERICAN KESTRELS (*FALCO SPARVERIUS*) WINTERING IN SOUTHCENTRAL FLORIDA**

In order to test prey size preferences, free ranging American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) hunting from roadside perches were each offered a pair of white laboratory mice (*Mus musculus*), representing two of four size categories (7–14 g, 15–22 g, 23–30 g, 31–38 g). Female kestrels were observed significantly more often than males in the study area. The larger mouse of a pair was selected significantly more often than the smaller mouse. Electivity indices showed that mice of the smallest size category were selected below their availability and that the greatest proportional number of attacks was directed towards mice of the largest size category. Mouse activity, determined by the number of 10 cm grid crossings, was directly proportional to mouse size. Thus either differential size or activity may have functioned as a stimulus for prey size selection. These results support an energy maximizing model of predator choice and are in direct opposition to results obtained from laboratory studies of owl and shrike prey size selection. A new technique for testing preferences of roadside hunting raptors for variable prey characteristics is described.

Smallwood, John A. 1981. Prey size selection by wild American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) wintering in southcentral Florida. M.S. Thesis, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Birds of Prey of Southern Africa. C. G. Finch-Davies and A. C. Kemp. 1980. Winchester Press, Ltd., Johannesburg, South Africa. 339 pp.

This is an exceptional book that unfortunately is limited to 1726 volumes. Therefore, if you don't have a copy by now you may not get one. The book certainly merits a review because of the significant contribution to the history of ornithological art and biology of African raptors it presents. Basically the book contains the art work of the late Lt. C. G. Finch-Davies (1875–1920) with commentary on each species by Alan Kemp, Curator of birds at the Transvaal Museum. Finch-Davies grew up in British colonialist tradition and like so many 19th century British ornithologists lived in both India and Africa. He had a varied and controversial career and if he takes a place in history it will be because of his art work and not his career and achievements as a military man. While the late and legendary Leslie Brown has often been said to be the authority on African raptors his only edge on Alan Kemp has been his age. Alan's intimate knowledge of raptors, his keen ability as an observer and his intuitive common sense about raptors biology have been manifest throughout his narrative species accounts.

The book contains 141 color plates, including the frontispiece; 124 plates of diurnal raptors and 17 of owls. Of the 59 species of diurnal raptors shown all but 15 depict adult and juvenile plumage and in all but a handful of cases there are more than one plate per species. The 12 species of owls shown are all adult but one. While most of the art work