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OSPREY PREYS ON TIGER SALAMANDER

MICHAEL M. KING

In addition to fish, Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) opportunistically select alternative prey species including small mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians (frogs) (Wiley, J. W. and F. E. Lohrer, *Wilson Bull.* 85:468-470, 1973; Swenson, J. E., *J. Wildl. Manage.* 42: 87-90, 1978; Castrale, J. S. and J. McCall, *Raptor Res.* 17:92, 1983; Layher, W. H., *Wilson Bull.* 93:469-470, 1984; Taylor, P., *Raptor Res.* 20:76, 1986). This note describes an instance of an Osprey taking a Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) at Hill Air Force Base, Utah (HAFB).

HAFB is located in northern Utah between Ogden and Salt Lake City and consists of approximately 2699 ha surrounded on 3 sides by developed communities and on the fourth by agricultural land. Gradually agricultural land is being converted to industrial and housing areas. No Osprey have been sighted at HAFB since the base started its Natural Resources Program over 10 yrs ago. The nearest nesting pair of Osprey is believed to be in the Flaming Gorge Reservoir area, approximately 225 km to the northeast. In light of increased urbanization of surrounding areas and the Osprey's limited status in Utah (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources classification), the sighting of the Osprey on the base is noteworthy.

On 8 September 1986 at 1245 H, I observed an Osprey soaring in a relatively tight circular pattern approximately 20 m above a small storm water retention pond at the southern boundary of the base. No fish inhabit the pond,

but Tiger Salamanders are numerous and can be readily observed near the surface. During a 15 min period, the Osprey made 4 steep dives at the water and twice plunged into the water attempting to catch salamanders.

On the second plunge, the Osprey was successful in grasping a salamander (about 13 cm long) in its talons and flying to the top of a power pole approximately 75 m away. The Osprey consumed the salamander in about 2-3 min but remained on the pole for approximately 10 min after feeding before flying out of sight beyond HAFB boundaries.

The next day, 9 September 1986, 2 Osprey were spotted soaring above the same pond between 0830-0930 H. However, no attempts were made by either bird to catch salamanders (M. Sant, pers. comm.), and no Osprey have been observed on base since that time. Winds in excess of 40 km/hr in the HAFB area characterized both days the Osprey were observed. Possibly the birds were migrating to southern winter ranges and were opportunistically utilizing a locally abundant food source at HAFB.

Environmental Planning, 2849 CES/DEVX, Hill Air Force Base, UT 84056. Present address: Dept. Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, University of Tennessee, P. O. Box 1071, Knoxville, TN 37901-1071.

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NEWS AND REVIEWS

Burrowing Owl Colormarking: Request for Information.—During the summer of 1988 young and adult Burrowing Owls were banded and colormarked in southwest Manitoba as part of a management program attempting to conserve Manitoba's dwindling population. Information is requested from anyone seeing a colormarked owl to aid in determining migration routes and wintering areas which are presently unknown. Each owl carries a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum band and one plastic leg jess. Jesses are black, one centimeter wide and extend approximately 1.5 cm beyond the leg. We would appreciate anyone observing colormarked owls to record the following: location, date, leg of attachment of metal band and jess and details of the owl's situation. Please send this information to **Bird Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7** plus an additional copy to the banders **Betsy Haug/Bob Nero, Manitoba Dep. Natural Resources, Box 14, 1495 St. James St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3H 0W9**. Thank you for your assistance.