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### OSPREY PREYS ON TIGER SALAMANDER

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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.

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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.

**L'Aigle Royal (*Aquila chrysaetos*) en Europe.** Actes du Premier Colloque International sur l'Aigle Royal en Europe, 13-15 Juin 1986 a Arvieux, France, edited by Alpine Research Center on the Vertebrates (C.R.A.V.E.). 1987. 174 pp., 4 color plates, numerous charts and graphs and b & w drawings. Available from C.R.A.V.E., B.P. 28, 05000 GAP, France or Michel Samuel le Coin, 05350 Molines en Queyras, France. Price + postage \$40.00 U.S. ("simple edition") or \$48.00 U.S. ("luxury edition").

This volume is the proceedings of the first international symposium devoted to the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in Europe held at Arvieux in the Regional Natural Park of Queyras, France. As such, it represents a summary of what was known about the Golden Eagle in Europe with the principle eagle researchers of Europe having papers presented. The 30 papers are contained in 5 major chapters: The status in Europe (14 countries represented), the status in Mexico, Biology of eagles mainly in western Europe (4 countries represented), Management, and a summary of the direction future research should go. While most papers are in French with English summaries, those from Scotland (2 papers), Greece, Italian Apennines Mts., Norway, Poland, Sweden, Estonia, and Navarra (Spain) are in English.

While a wealth of data is contained within the monograph it is difficult at best to say much about papers that methodically trace the distribution and numerical status of the species within a given geographical boundary. A nice review of the species' status was given, however. Most countries that reported numerical status conditions indicated a stable or slightly increasing population. For example, Switzerland has reached a saturation condition. On the other hand, Greece has a declining population and in Poland the species was extinct by the mid-1800s except in the Carpathian Mts. Today there may be 15 territories within Poland.

Population estimates were given for 19 countries in Europe. The number of pairs was estimated at between 4250 and 4802 (Portugal had the least with 4, Spain the most with an average of 892). Earlier Cramp and Simmons (Handbook of the Birds of the Western Palearctic, vol. 2, Oxford Univ. Press, London, 1979) had estimates for 15 of the 19 reporting countries. The 1979 estimate for the 15 countries was between 1982 and 2341 pairs, while in the present 1986 monograph these 15 countries reported 3420-3802 pairs. The biggest change in estimates between 1979 and 1986 were in Spain (400 to an av. of 892 pairs), France (90 to 280 pairs), and Sweden (150 to 400 pairs). None of the countries represented in both the 1979 and 1986 sample showed a decrease.

Some interesting biological data came from the following papers: R. Mathieu (Comportement et maturation sexuelle chez l'Aigle Royal, pp. 97-102) described breeding pairs composed of a bird in adult and a bird in immature plumage. He discussed variation within representative plumages and various selective values of plumages in general. M. Belaud (Observation du plumage de L'Aigle Royal en vol. pp. 130-132) gave useful information on plumage traits used to identify specific individuals while in flight. His illustrations attest to the range of variation and the ability of an array of traits, when taken together, to make an individual distinctive. Lastly, R. Grubac (L'Aigle Royal en Macedoine, pp. 37-39) summarized food data from 40-50 pairs in the Macedonian region of Yugoslavia. Overwhelmingly, the most important food was the Tortoise (*Testudo hermanni-graeca*) followed by snakes and then Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*).

Overall, this is an important monograph on *Aquila*, especially for North American workers who all too frequently do not assess overseas literature. Unless, however, one is especially interested in the Golden Eagle specifically, the price may be somewhat restrictive.—**Clayton M. White.**