

vultures were "migrating as an integral part of the flight," but they did not indicate whether the species were stratified by altitude.

Swainson's Hawk normally migrates at great heights (Monroe, *ibid.*; Skutch, *Northwest Sci.*, 19:80-89, 1945), however, on overcast days they are forced to fly much lower (Skutch, *ibid.*). The overcast weather coupled with the jutting mountains could have funneled the hawks we observed toward the coastline. This idea is supported by Loetscher's observations of migrating Swainson's Hawks in the vicinity of Jalapa and Las Vigas on 5 April 1939. The weather at that time (4 and 5 April 1939) was mostly fair and clear in the mountains (Loetscher, *pers. comm.*) and on the coastal plain at Tejeria, west of the city of Veracruz (U. S. Weather Bureau records).

On 23 March 1970 the coastal plain was overcast; at Jalapa (elevation 1,400 m) we were in the midst of the clouds, and at Las Vigas (2,450 m) we were above the clouds. Since we observed migrating birds only on the coastal plain, this observation apparently was an example of local weather conditions and topographic features affecting the migration of these birds.—JAMES R. PURDUE, CHARLES C. CARPENTER, DALE L. MARCELLINI, *University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma*, AND ROBERT F. CLARKE, *Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas*, 16 June 1971.

An unusual nest of the Sandhill Crane.—On 7 May 1969 while conducting research on Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*) at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon I discovered an unusual crane nest. The nest consisted of two mounds of vegetation with an egg on each mound. One had the appearance of a normal nest, while the other consisted of a small accumulation of broad-fruited bur-reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*). The second mound was situated 73 centimeters south of the normal structure.

The larger mound had the following measurements: basal diameter 110 × 138 cm; crown diameter 69 × 50 cm; bowl diameter 22 × 25 cm; bowl depth 2.9 cm and nest height above water 11.9 cm. The nest was in 17.8 cm of water and the egg which measured 102.8 × 61.1 mm, was being incubated. The small mound had no definable crown or bowl. It was 3.5 cm above water level in 10.5 cm of water. The egg measured 99.6 × 60.9 mm and had not been incubated.

When I disturbed the incubating bird it showed little interest in the nests; however, a crane was observed incubating on 8 May. Re-examination of the nest in early June revealed both eggs had been destroyed by a raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

Of 394 Sandhill Crane nests I have inspected on Malheur NWR, this is the first nest observed where the eggs were not deposited on a single mound. I have seen several sites where two mounds had been constructed, but only one was ever utilized.—CARROLL D. LITTLEFIELD, *Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona* 85721, 16 August 1971.

Variability of tail molt in the Burrowing Owl.—Mayr and Mayr (*Auk*, 71: 172-178, 1954) described simultaneous tail molt in one museum specimen of the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) as well as in other small owls. However, Thomsen (*Condor*, 73:177-192, 1971) in her study of a population of *S. c. hypugaea* in California found simultaneous tail molt to be "not apparent." Coulombe (*Condor*, 73:162-176, 1971) did not study tail molt. This note documents the occurrence of simultaneous or nearly simultaneous tail molt in a captive Burrowing Owl (*S. c. floridana*) and in a natural population of this subspecies.