

Photographs have been deposited in the National Photoduplication File, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland (accession numbers 342-1Ca and 342-1Cb). Mr. Chandler Robbins confirmed the species identification based on these photographs. This is Cape May Point Raptor Banding Station Research Report No. 2.—WILLIAM S. CLARK, 7800 Dasset Court, No. 101, Annandale, Virginia 22003. Accepted 19 March 1974.

**American Kestrel transports Norway rat.**—Adult *Rattus norvegicus* in northern Illinois have been found to weigh between 234 and 475 g ( $\bar{x}$  372, based on 5 specimens). On two occasions I have observed a female American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) carrying what appeared to be an adult of this rat in its talons. Neither bird was more than 0.3 m above the ground when it flew in front of my automobile. One (NIU 1008) was struck by my car on 12 July 1959 near Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois. This female was carrying a rat from which portions of the thoracic region had been consumed. The rat was fresh and probably had been killed by the falcon. The second incident occurred on the same day near DeKalb, DeKalb County, Illinois. This kestrel was not collected, but flew in front of my vehicle in labored and close-to-the-ground flight.

Accurate weights are not available for representative female kestrels of the northern Illinois population, but birds from this area are probably larger than Oklahoma specimens for which I have weights (116.5 and 122.5 gms). However, even allowing for a few additional grams weight in Illinois birds, it appears that the American Kestrel is capable of flight while carrying prey approaching or perhaps twice its own body weight.

This paper represents contribution number 504 from the NIU Department of Biological Sciences.—WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. Accepted 26 April 1974.

**Recent breeding of the Sandhill Crane in North Dakota.**—Before the present century, Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) bred fairly commonly in North Dakota, but local breeding populations rapidly declined during the late 1800's and early 1900's (Stewart, Birds of North Dakota. In preparation). By the early 1920's this species had apparently been extirpated from the state as a breeding bird. On 22 June 1973 we obtained evidence of breeding in the state for the first time in recent decades. On that date we sighted a downy young crane accompanied by two adults. They were in a 130 hectare hay meadow, adjacent to the Souris River, on J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge, McHenry County. The area, interspersed with wetlands and subject to spring flooding in some years, is primarily vegetated with western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*) and quackgrass (*A. repens*).

According to Littlefield and Ryder (Trans. 33rd North Amer. Wildlife Conf., 444-454, 1968), nests of the Sandhill Crane are normally located in or near free water. A search revealed the probable nest of the cranes, consisting of a pile of dried marsh vegetation (approximately 40 cm in diameter), surrounded by water. Eggshells were not present, but a crane feather was found near the structure.

We captured the young crane and estimated it to be 80 cm tall, with the primary quills erupted about 25 mm. Based on descriptions by Walkinshaw (The Sandhill Crane. Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 29, 1949), we estimated that the crane was approximately six