

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

weeks old. On 26 June we last observed the young crane and adults in the meadow. Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) were harassing the young bird, which struck and killed one, then walked out of view with the prey in its bill.—ROBERT C. FIELDS, ALAN K. TROUT, and DAROLD T. WALLS, *J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Upham, North Dakota 58789. Accepted 3 April 1974.*

Observations on the terrestrial wing displays of breeding Willets.—Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) are large tringine sandpipers with unusually prominent white wing stripes bordered with dark brown and black. They are monogamous breeders with each pair maintaining a nesting territory (Vogt, Proc. Linnean Soc. N. Y., 49:8–42, 1938) and sometimes a separate feeding territory (Tomkins, Wilson Bull., 77:151–167, 1965). Both authors attributed territory advertisement almost exclusively to males, which perform aerial displays and engage in partly ritualized border standoffs with neighboring males. Loud vocalizations are used in both situations. Both authors also commented on the conspicuousness of the wing pattern during precopulatory wing vibration and aerial hovering displays, the latter likened in function to passerine song by Vogt. They both believed that the contrasting pattern provided stimulation to the female during courtship. Other functions, such as species recognition and distraction, were postulated by Tomkins (op. cit.). No references were made to terrestrial wing displays other than precopulatory wing vibration. For this reason I report here observations I made on behavior of Willets near Corpus Christi, Texas, in March and April, 1973. These observations provide evidence of additional contexts in which terrestrial wing displays regularly occur.

The Willets in my study area rarely fed in the nesting territory, which was set off from Gulf waters by man-made dikes, but instead utilized nearby tidal marsh for that purpose. One member of each of four different pairs was color-marked. Two of these were determined to be males, on the basis of position in copulation and relative size and color pattern (males are smaller and more strongly marked than females). The sexes of the other two marked birds were not determined. One pair, of which the male was marked, maintained fidelity to the same feeding territory throughout the two-month period, while two other pairs showed only intermittent attachment to particular feeding sites. I monitored two pairs with adjacent, well-defined territories in the nesting area, and the males of both pairs were marked.

Terrestrial wing displays were observed in four contexts:

1. Prior to copulation males were observed to approach females from behind, extend the wings vertically, vibrate them and give a rapid, prolonged, staccato *kip-kip-kip*. . . call. This behavior has been described by Vogt (op. cit.) and Tomkins (op. cit.).

2. Males landing in either the nesting or feeding territory nearly always held both wings vertically for two to three seconds after alighting and gave the loud *pill-will-willet* call several times. As known females were not marked, it was not determined whether females perform the same display when landing alone in their territories. However, when both members of a pair landed together, the display was given by both simultaneously.

3. When conspecifics flew over or near a male Willet on its nesting or feeding territory, the latter usually responded by giving the *pill-will-willet* call, often accompanied by the partial or complete raising of both wings. I observed this response over 100 times and found that it could be reliably predicted when a flying bird was seen approaching. It was my impression that wing display occurring in this context was a direct function