

I thank Robert W. Dickerman and Helen Hays for suggesting sources and reviewing this paper.—ROGER F. PASQUIER, 235 East 73rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10021. Accepted 20 Jan. 1975.

**The Mexican chicken bug as a source of raptor mortality.**—From 8 May to 3 July 1974, I examined the reproductive success of cliff-nesting raptors in north-eastern New Mexico. The birds were nesting in extensive canyonlands made up of 6–35 m sandstone cliffs. Species observed included the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), and Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). I found 32 cliff nest sites and 92 eggs and/or young.

The abandonment of one clutch of 3 Prairie Falcon eggs and death of 7 young Prairie Falcons (broods of 4 and 3) and a brood of 2 young Red-tailed Hawks I attribute to the presence of the Mexican chicken bug (*Haemotosiphon inodorus*) (Usinger, Monograph of Cimicidae, Horn-Shafer Co., Baltimore, 1966). These bugs feed by sucking blood from their hosts. I counted as many as 30 bugs attached near the eyes and at the base of legs and wings of a single week-old Prairie Falcon. Usinger (1966:475) identified the Mexican chicken bug's native hosts as birds of prey. It has been found in the nests of the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), Golden Eagle, Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), and Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) (Hicks, Checklist and Bibliography on the Occurrence of Insects in Bird Nests, Iowa State Coll. Press, Ames, 1959; Hicks, Iowa State J. Sci. 36:233–344, 1962).

The Mexican chicken bug commonly infests poultry; Usinger (1966:261) suggests that predatory birds could become infested with the bugs by preying on chickens. This seems unlikely at the nests I observed, since I visited most ranches in the area and found chickens at only one location. In addition, I inventoried remains of 65 prey items and examined 87 pellets and found no evidence of chickens having been consumed.

*H. inodorus* is indifferent to light (Lee, Pan-Pac. Entomol. 30:159–160, 1954) and can be active throughout the daylight hours. Population densities can reach very high levels; Lee (Pan-Pac. Entomol. 31:47–61, 1955) reported 1778 bugs in a single Barn Owl nest.

My thanks to J. Langford and P. A. Platt for their valuable assistance in the field; to Dr. J. C. Lewis, Dr. G. M. Sutton, and Dr. J. S. Barclay for their encouragement; to the Scientific Research Society of North America, The Society of Sigma Xi, and OSU Research Foundation for financial assistance; and to Dr. D. E. Howell for confirming the identification of *H. inodorus*.—STEPHEN W. PLATT, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater 74074. Accepted 31 Jan. 1975.

**American Kestrels sit on Wood Duck eggs.**—While conducting a study of breeding Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) in nest boxes at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Morris Co., New Jersey, I found 2 female American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) that were sitting on Wood Duck eggs as well as their own.

The first such occurrence, initially noted on 17 April 1973 involved incubation of 5 kestrel eggs and 1 duck egg. This box, when checked on 27 March, contained only pine shavings. On 17 April it contained several unidentified down feathers as well as 2 pieces of fur. The viable duck egg was found among kestrel eggs. The shavings formed a cup