

proved the manuscript. T. Cade and L. Oring offered additional helpful suggestions on the manuscript.—JONATHAN BART, *New York Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853. Accepted 14 Sept. 1976.*

Osprey catches vole.—On 3 October 1975 at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven Co., Connecticut, I observed an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) circle low over a salt marsh, rise slightly, hover in the same pattern it would in catching a fish and then plunge to the ground. It sat motionless for a moment in the short *Spartina patens* grass looking at its feet then took flight clutching a small rodent. It flew to the ridgepole of a nearby cottage and through a 20× spotting scope I watched it tear its prey apart. When it had finished and left, I retrieved all that remained: the skin from the sides, feet and some entrails of a meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*).

Brown and Amadon (1968. *Eagles, Hawks, and Falcons of the World*. McGraw Hill, New York) list numerous vertebrates as acceptable Osprey prey including birds, frogs, and crustaceans in addition to its normal diet of fish. Wiley and Loher (Wilson Bull. 85:468-470, 1973) give detailed lists of Osprey prey including 12 species of birds, several reptiles and amphibians, and 8 species of mammals, but not *M. pennsylvanicus*. Spitzer (pers. comm.) found what he believed to be *M. pennsylvanicus* remains in at least 1 Osprey nest. The literature is lacking in actual sightings of how these mammals are taken.—NOBLE S. PROCTOR, *Biology Dept., Southern Connecticut State College, 501 Crescent St., New Haven 06515. Accepted 6 Aug. 1976.*

Patterns of feeding Field Sparrow young.—As part of a study of Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) breeding ecology (Best, Ph.D. thesis, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, 1974), I recorded the activities of parents feeding nestlings on the 6th day after the first young hatched. Observations were made from a blind and covered the periods: dawn-08:00, 09:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00, and 17:00-dusk. A mirror positioned above the nest permitted observation of its contents. Airplane paint was applied to each nestling's bill for individual recognition (this had no noticeable effect on parental feeding behavior) and adults were marked with colored leg bands. Besides documenting the frequency and temporal distribution of feeding visits (Best, Auk, 94:308-319, 1977), the pattern of food delivery to individual nestlings was also recorded for 6 broods. The pattern of food delivery, which is rarely reported, is the subject of this note.

To determine if the sequence of feeding nestlings was random, an interval-distribution test (Ghent and Hanna, Am. Midl. Nat. 85:188-195, 1971) was employed. In only 2 of the 16 nestlings tested (representing 2 of 6 broods), were the intervals between feedings significantly different from a random sequence ($P < 0.05$). Although this implies no sequential pattern in feeding most nestlings, certain nonsignificant trends were evident. In all 16 nestlings the "observed" frequency of consecutive feedings (the same nestling being fed twice in immediate succession) was less than the "expected" frequency, while the observed frequency of alternate feedings (another nestling being fed between successive feedings of the nestling in question) was greater than the expected frequency in all but 3 nestlings (representing 2 broods). These trends indicate that on the basis of