Wilson Bull., 102(3), 1990, pp. 560–561

A Harpy Eagle successfully captures an adult male red howler monkey.—Harpy eagles (*Harpia harpyja*), the world's largest eagle, inhabit vast, relatively undisturbed lowland Neotropical forests. Skeletal remains of prey found in the vicinities of active nests and sight records indicate that they feed primarily on arboreal mammals (e.g., cebid monkeys, sloths, and procyonids), but occasionally may take terrestrial mammals such as agoutis (*Dasyprocta aguti*) and even fawns of brocket deer (*Mazama americana*: Rettig, Auk 95:629–643, 1978). Here I report a witnessed attack of an adult Harpy Eagle on an unusually large prey, an adult male red howler monkey (*Alouatta seniculus*).

On 22 June 1987, during a faunal survey in Sena Madureira, Acre (9°15'S and 68°39'W), western Brazilian Amazonia, I was travelling in a dugout canoe as we approached a troop of howlers located near the southern bank of the Igarape Xiburema, an 8-m wide forest creek. At 07:22 h, 1.5 h after sunrise, we stopped approximately 45 m downriver from the troop. This group had been involved in a loud dawn chorus for at least 15 min about 20 m above the ground in the upper branches of an emergent tree. We could also hear at least two other neighboring troops counter-calling farther inland. As I was checking the group size and composition, an adult Harpy Eagle attacked the single adult male I could see. The predator appeared rapidly, soaring low over the canopy, and hit the victim which was howling actively, facing the opposite direction, and somewhat peripheral to the rest of the troop. Despite the partial obstruction, I was able to see the commotion in the foliage and hear loud vocalizations and heavy wing-beats. A few seconds later, I could no longer see the victim nor its group-members, which probably fled to lower branches and away from their calling tree. B. Santos, who also witnessed the entire event, saw the raptor carrying an adult male howler in its talons and landing on a lower perch some 30 m away. We assumed that the victim was the only adult male in the group, and that it was killed shortly after the attack since we heard no more stress calls during the next 20 min.

This average-sized male probably weighed about 6.5 kg (mean weight of an adult male howler monkey [Thorington et al., pp. 97–106 *in* Vertebrate ecology in the northern Neotropics (J. F. Eisenberg, ed.), Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1979]), equivalent to 86% of an adult female Harpy Eagle's 7.6 kg weight (Fowler and Cope, Auk 81:257–273, 1964). Rettig (1978) estimated that a monkey captured by an adult female Harpy Eagle, which "appeared to be half of an adult red howler monkey" of unidentified sex, weighed 6.3 kg, but red howlers were not common prey at the nest he studied (Rettig, in litt.). Adult male red howlers, which are 1.45 times heavier than adult females (Thorington et al. 1979), may be near the upper limit of body mass of arboreal mammals taken by any forest eagle. All other individuals in the group (two or more adult females, one or more subadult males, and one or more juveniles) appeared smaller than the fully grown adult male captured by the raptor. In other surveyed sites of Brazilian Amazonia (Peres, unpubl. data), reliable reports of Harpy Eagles preying on medium-sized primates such as capuchins (*Cebus apella* and *C. albifrons*), sakis (*Pithecia pithecia, P. monachus, P. irrorata* and *P. albicans*), and bearded sakis (*Chiropotes satanas* and *C. albinasus*) are not uncommon. Individual body mass of these primates, however, does not exceed that of howlers. Adult two-toed sloths (*Choloepus didactylus*), which are among the largest prey reported taken by Harpy Eagles (Rettig 1978), also weigh considerably less than adult male red howlers. Considering how little is known about the relationship between avian predators and mammalian prey communities in tropical forests, it is possible that Harpy Eagle predation still exerts strong selective pressure on primate populations.

Acknowledgments.—These observations were made during a primate survey funded by

the World Wildlife Fund—US. I thank B. Santos for helping me in the field, and N. L. Rettig, C. H. Stinson, and C. R. Blem for critical comments on the manuscript.—CARLOS A. PERES, *Sub-Dept. Vet. Anatomy, Univ. of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 1QS, England. Received 18 Aug. 1987, accepted 17 Jan. 1990.*

Wilson Bull., 102(3), 1990, p. 561

Shiny Cowbird collected in South Carolina: first North American specimen.—On 16 July 1989, a second-year male Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) appeared at Hutcheson's bird-feeding station on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina. On 28 July, Post collected the bird (Charleston Museum No. 1989.48). The collection site is in dune habitat (Sea Oats [*Uniola*] and Wax Myrtle [*Myrica cerifera*]) about 200 m from the Atlantic Ocean. The specimen, which pertains to *M. b. minimus,* had the following measurements: weight, 35.2 g; wing chord, 96 mm; tail, 68 mm; tarsus, 26 mm; exposed culmen, 17 mm. The testes were enlarged (left testis = 6 × 3 mm), and the bird was not molting.

The Shiny Cowbird, represented by *M. b. minimus,* has spread rapidly through the West Indies, apparently from the Trinidad-southern Lesser Antilles region (Post and Wiley, Condor 79:119–121, 1977). Although Shiny Cowbirds have been in North America at least since 1985 (Smith and Sprunt, Amer. Birds 41:370–371, 1987), this appears to be the first specimen for North America. It is also the northernmost incursion of the species along the Atlantic coast. We thank John Bull of the American Museum of Natural History for determining the subspecies of the specimen.—WILLIAM H. HUTCHESON, *56 Society Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29401;* AND WILLIAM POST, *Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29403. Received 16 Nov. 1989, accepted 18 Dec. 1989.*