

stationary positions 35-40 feet above ground and about 20 yards apart. Hover flights I observed more often in the evening than in the morning and they were especially frequent in windy weather.

On two occasions in late afternoon I saw the owl pursue a small flock of meadowlarks (*Sturnella* sp.) unsuccessfully. Twice I saw it dive to the ground during crepuscular hunting; but during about 20 hours of observation I never saw it actually catch anything. Its favorite area was inhabited by many small mammals, notably mice, several of which I saw from time to time in certain places. A few other birds of prey frequented the area, among them at least one American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), one Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*), and two or three Marsh Hawks (*Circus cyaneus*). I suspect that the Snowy Owl did much of its hunting at night and that it caught virtually all of its food then. Its activity while hunting just before sunup and just before dark contrasted sharply with its inactivity during the hours of full daylight.

10731 N. WESTERN, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73114, 8 NOVEMBER 1975.

HARRIS'S HAWK IN SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA

BY JOHN W. AULT III

On 9 October 1972, at a place known locally as Mulkey's Crossing, 5 miles east and 3 south of Eldorado, Jackson County, southwestern Oklahoma, I saw a dark hawk perched in a tree along the north edge of the flood-plain of the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River. At first the bird seemed to have no conspicuous field-marks, but when it took flight I could see the white of its upper tail coverts, tail base, and tail tip, then, as it banked, the bright red-brown of its wing coverts, convincing me that it was an adult Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*). The sighting was noteworthy since, according to Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds, pp. 114-15), there was only one other record of the species for the state — that of a single bird seen by John G. Newell near Oklahoma City, central Oklahoma, on 29 January 1962 (1962, Audubon Field Notes, 16: 345). Paucity of Oklahoma records has been puzzling in view of the fact that Harris's Hawk actually nested in southwestern Kansas in 1963 (Parmelee and Stephens, 1964, Condor, 66: 443-45).

The terrain in which I saw the bird in Oklahoma was broken and rocky, supporting a growth of buffalo-grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*) and scattered mesquite trees (*Prosopis juliflora*), though hilly fields just to the north were planted in sorghum grains. At the time of the sighting, Victor J. Heller and I were engaged (under the auspices of the Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit) in a project dealing with the ecology of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*). Our duties took us afield daily, so I was hopeful of seeing Harris's Hawk again.

On 30 November 1972, Heller and I saw two adult Harris's Hawks perched in a large tree 35 yards from the road about 7 miles southwest of Eldorado,

again near the Red River. As we approached the birds, Heller saw a third Harris's Hawk, which he believed to be immature. When all three flew, one of the adults crossed the road low enough to make the rusty wing patches and black-and-white tail pattern clearly visible. At this spot the terrain was similar to that of Mulkey's Crossing, though less rocky.

On the evening of 25 February 1973 Heller and I saw two adult Harris's Hawks 3 miles west and 3½ south of Eldorado. One was perched in a shelter-belt, the other on the crossbar of a telephone pole. Winter wheat, plowed cotton fields, and mesquite pasture characterized that area.

The following spring and summer William S. Bartush assisted with the dove-trapping program. Although he, Heller, and I all kept a constant lookout for the hawks, hoping to find a nest, our efforts were fruitless.

As fall approached, I fully expected to see Harris's Hawk again. On 30 October 1973, I saw a single adult 4 miles south and 1 east of Eldorado. It was perched on a fencepost 30 yards from me, feeding on a small rodent held in its feet. When it flew, it glided downslope, giving me a clear view of its upperparts. On 12 November, while travelling with John A. Morrison, leader of the wildlife research unit, I saw an adult bird again at Mulkey's Crossing. Dr. Morrison and I both saw three adult birds perched on brushpiles and poles in that same area on 14 November, and on the following day I again saw three adult hawks there.

On the morning and early afternoon of 22 November, George M. Sutton and I tried in vain to find the hawks where I had seen them the preceding week. Late in the afternoon, however, not far from the north bank of the Red River, we happened upon two adult birds perched side by side on a telephone pole crossbar 7 miles southwest of Eldorado. Shortly after they took flight we saw the diagnostic fieldmarks. They circled over us for two or three minutes, 200 feet or so above ground, then soared west out of sight upriver.

The final sighting for 1973 was on 14 December when Jimmy W. Tinsley took me 7 miles northeast of Eldorado to see an "adult" bird perched on a telephone pole about 30 yards from the road. Such tameness did not strike me as being unusual, for on most of my sightings I had been able to approach to within 50 yards before putting the birds to flight. Tameness must have led to this particular bird's death, for later that day Tinsley found it dead along that same stretch of road.

Dr. Sutton, who prepared the specimen as a study skin (UOMZ 7495), found it to be a fairly fat *subadult* female weighing 967.9 grams. Molt was in progress over the entire body. The crop and stomach held the remains of at least two cotton rats (*Sigmodon hispidus*).

Since 14 December 1973, Harris's Hawk has been seen near Eldorado several times, as follows: on 16 October 1974, one adult 2½ miles north and ½ mile west of town (Tinsley); on 1 October 1975, one adult 7 miles southwest of

town (Ault); on 14 October 1975, two adults 5 miles east and 3 south of town (Heller and Bartush); on 16 October 1975, two adults at the same place (Tinsley and Ricky S. Hill), and later that day three adults at the same place (Ault). All of these sightings were, be it noted, in the fall.

4213 BEDFORD DR., LAWTON, OKLAHOMA 73501, 29 OCTOBER 1975.

GENERAL NOTES

First winter record for Green Heron in Oklahoma.—On four occasions between 4 January and 2 March 1975 competent observers saw what they believe to have been the same Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) along a swift, steep-banked, 12-foot wide stretch of Sandy (Lebos) Creek near a wooden bridge 2 3/4 miles south of Eldorado, Jackson County, southwestern Oklahoma. Woody cover there, primarily salt-cedar (*Tamarix gallica*) and hackberry (*Celtis* sp.), is dense close to the stream. On 4 January John W. Ault and Jimmy W. Tinsley first saw the bird, which flew upstream from the bridge. On 7 January (sunny day; temperature near 60° F. at noon; light south wind), Tinsley, Robert E. Morgan, and Jack D. Tyler flushed it from the very same spot, this time noting its orange legs and blue-gray upperparts. On 25 January Tinsley and William S. Bartush saw it again along the same stretch of the creek.

On 2 March it was collected. The specimen (immature female, Cameron University Museum of Zoology No. 545) weighed 238.9 grams. The ovary measured 6 × 12 mm. The stomach contained nothing but traces of vegetable matter, though food in the form of fishes and insects must have been readily obtainable since neither the creek nor farm-ponds of the vicinity froze much during the comparatively mild winter of 1974-75. During the first week of January the air temperature at Eldorado climbed to 50° F. on several days.

The Green Heron is said to inhabit Oklahoma from 1 April to 5 November (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, p. 3). The species has not heretofore been reported from anywhere in the state in winter. There is one winter record for Arkansas, that of a single bird seen at Fort Smith, just east of Sequoyah County, east-central Oklahoma, on 27 December 1971 (Armstrong, 1972, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 5: 26-27).—Jack D. Tyler, *Dept. of Biology, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501*, and John W. Ault III, *4213 Bedford Drive, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501*, 5 March 1975.

Rufous Hummingbird winters again in northeastern Oklahoma.—From mid-October 1974 to 26 January 1975 a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) wintered in Bartlesville, Washington County, northeastern Oklahoma. On 25 October my neighbor Norma Drehman called to say that she "still" had a hummingbird coming to her feeder. Thinking the bird to be a Ruby-throat (*Archilochus colubris*), I did not look at it until mid-December, when Mrs. Drehman called to say that it was still there. On 16 December I was able to inspect it at a distance of about three feet through a sliding glass door. Noting its strongly rufous sides, axillars, and wing linings, gorget with red speckling, and 5 mm. wide red central spot, green back, rufous rump and tail base, white spot back of the eye, and white-tipped outer tail feathers, I decided that it was a Rufous, probably a male in first winter feather. My proximity to its "flower" caused it to dart toward me repeatedly, uttering a *ding,ding,ding* challenge. On 14 January Ella Delap, Odie McReynolds, Goldie Scheeler, and Madge Hildreth confirmed my identification.

The Drehman backyard is surrounded by thick privet hedge (*Ligustrum vulgare*). Inside its southeast corner is an evergreen vine of trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). "Rufous" frequently flew to this corner, and we believe he roosted there. He