

Medina County, Texas (Edwards Plateau). Some 13 trips have been made there, and flights checked carefully. Other observers at Texas bat caves, whether interested in the bats themselves, or the caves which harbor them, have commented on the predation on these mammals by certain birds of prey. Several of them mention the Duck Hawk. However, as far as the writer has been able to find, none refers to the habit of this superb falcon of occasionally feeding on the wing.

While many instances of predation were noted in 1949, such habit was not observed by the writer until 1950. The method of securing prey varies. At times, the falcon will dive headlong into the stream of bats in a spectacular stoop; again it may fly straight through the "living river," and emerge with a bat in the talons. Also, at times, it flies parallel to them, then swerves sideways, makes a "zoom" and reaches outward and forward with the talons, so seizing a bat. One was seen in early August to miss such a strike then, almost instantaneously, reach sideways with the right foot, and seize a bat.

In at least half a dozen instances during 1950, the falcon was seen to begin feeding on the bat at once. Reaching the foot forward and the head downward and back, it devoured the edible portions quickly, releasing the wings which fluttered downward. During this manoeuver the falcon's wings were at right angles to the body, and the bird was soaring. It was exactly the technique of the Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, in aerial feeding.

Predation by such birds at Ney Cave has been recorded by D. G. Constantine "Great Bat Colonies Attract Predators" and K. E. Stager "Falcons Prey on Ney Cave Bats" (National Speleol. Soc., Washington, D. C., Bull. 10: 100, 98, April, 1948). The bat preyed upon is the Mexican Free-tailed Bat, *Tadarida mexicana*. The population of Ney Cave has been estimated at between 20 and 30 million bats. It seems rather obvious that raptorial predation on these animals at this locality is inconsequential, though regular. The writer has never witnessed aerial feeding of the Duck Hawk previously, though he has seen it make many kills.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston 50, S. C.*

**Food of the Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, in Interior Alaska.**—On September 24, 1950, a Peregrine's aerie was discovered on some bluffs overhanging the Tanana River near the old town site of Chena, Alaska. A single, adult falcon, probably a male to judge by its small size, was seen to fly down the river and perch on one of the bluffs. Another trip was made to this site on September 30, and on subsequent days, but the Peregrine was not seen again, and it was assumed that the bird had migrated.

Investigation of the bluffs revealed a number of feeding shelves and scrapes that were well-covered with droppings, pellets, and the remains of prey. This seemed to indicate that a family of Peregrines had occupied the bluffs during the past summer, and in as much as the Indians living along the river are acquainted with a pair of Peregrines that has nested in past years on some bluffs about five miles farther down the river, this seems even more likely.

The remains lying about the bluffs were collected on October 1, and the data from these are presented in the accompanying table. Unfortunately it is not known how many Peregrines occupied the bluffs during the breeding season or how long the material had been accumulating below the aerie. The data do, however, give some interesting information on the relative use of various birds as food by the Peregrine Falcon.

Kill items included such things as dried wings and feet, dried heads, loose primary and secondary feathers, tail feathers, and breast feathers. Each kill item has been tabulated, but where two or more items appeared to belong to a single prey animal, these have been recorded as one individual.

## SUMMARY OF PEREGRINE KILLS

<i>Species</i>	<i>Number kill items</i>	<i>Number individuals represented</i>	<i>Percent total prey</i>
Holboell's Grebe, <i>Colymbus grisegena</i> (?)	1	1	2.4
Green-winged Teal, <i>Anas carolinensis</i>	6	4	9.7
Buffle-head, <i>Bucephala albeola</i> (?)	1	1	2.4
Sparrow Hawk, <i>Falco sparverius</i>	1	1	2.4
Spruce Grouse, <i>Canachites canadensis</i>	1	1	2.4
Ruffed Grouse, <i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	1	1	2.4
Lesser Yellow-legs, <i>Totanus flavipes</i>	6	4	9.7
Gulls, <i>Larus</i> spp.	11	8	19.6
Hawk Owl, <i>Surnia ulula</i>	1	1	2.4
Northern Flicker, <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	1	1	2.4
Alaska Jay, <i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	5	5	12.5
Hudsonian Chickadee, <i>Parus hudsonicus</i>	1	1	2.4
Gray-cheeked Thrush, <i>Hylocichla minima</i> (?)	1	1	2.4
Rusty Blackbird, <i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	1	1	2.4
Pine Grosbeak, <i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	1	1	2.4
Robin, <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	4	2	4.9
Unidentified passerines	9	7	17.0
TOTAL	52	41	100

In order that the figures represented in the table may have more meaning, the following generalizations are offered on the relative abundance in the Fairbanks area of the species listed in the table. These generalizations are based on personal observation but are not the result of any extensive or systematic counting technique.

1. The Green-winged Teal, *Anas carolinensis*, is the common nesting duck in this area. 2. Next to the Wilson's Snipe, *Capella gallinago*, which does not appear in the table, the Lesser Yellow-legs, *Totanus flavipes*, is the most common member of the Scolopacidae seen in the spring. 3. The Short-billed gull, *Larus canus*, and the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*, are both common migrants along the interior rivers. 4. The Alaska Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis fumifrons*, is the fourth most common resident passerine bird, being exceeded in numbers only by the Chickadees, *Parus* spp., the Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator*, and the Redpolls, *Acanthis* spp., in ascending order. The Robin, *Turdus migratorius*, is the most common migratory passerine bird.

The rather high incidence of forest and woodland birds, species whose habitat preferences normally preclude most of them from the Peregrine's diet, which appears in this table may be due to the fact that the Tanana River provides an open hunting area nearly a mile wide where these bluffs are located. Any forest-inhabiting species attempting to fly from one side of the river to the other would be highly vulnerable to the hunting tactics of the Peregrine.—TOM CADE, *College, Alaska*.

**Sora, *Porzana carolina*, in Connecticut in Midwinter.**—On January 3, 1950, Mr. Allan Barker captured a Sora in a muskrat trap in Glastonbury, Hartford Co., Connecticut. According to Chandler S. Robbins of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at whose suggestion this note is written, this represents the second Connecti-