

forehead. Although a superficial laceration was inflicted (evidently a grazing scratch by a talon), the eagle did not strike with any appreciable force.

The attack could probably be interpreted as an act of territorial defense, since Sebesta was standing near the base of the nest tree. However, field investigators who have spent considerable time in the vicinity of Bald Eagle nests (e.g., Broley, Herrick) report few incidents of these birds actually pressing an attack. Bent (1937, *Life History of North American Birds of Prey*, Pt. I, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 167) characterizes the Bald Eagle as an "arrant coward" and states that he had "never had one even come within gunshot range when . . . near the nest." Bendire (1892, *Life History of North American Birds*, U. S. Natl. Mus. Spec. Bull. 1) cites three instances of eagles swooping at men attempting to rob nests, but no actual contact was made on any of these occasions.

It is perhaps significant that the eagles at this particular Yellowstone nest always appeared more agitated and remained closer to the nest when intrusion occurred than in the case of any other nesting pair under surveillance.—JOSEPH R. MURPHY, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.*

Aggressive Behavior by a Wintering Myrtle Warbler.—The abnormally cold weather of 1957–1958 accounted for the death of many passerine birds wintering in southeastern United States (*Audubon Field Notes*, 12: 269–276, 342–348). Insectivorous birds seemed to suffer from lack of food in Gainesville, Florida, as the following observations indicate. On 2 February 1958 a weakened Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*), taken from a main street in Gainesville, quickly recovered when fed fruit and dog food. On 21 February an emaciated but seemingly uninjured Myrtle Warbler (*D. coronata*) was found dead near my house. Throughout much of the winter a larger than usual number of emaciated birds were brought to the biology department at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

The behavior of a Myrtle Warbler, described in the following account, seems to have been affected by the abnormal temperature fluctuations. For 15 days, beginning with 8 February 1958, temperatures remained below 21° C (70° F) with nightly decreases to below 4° C (39° F). The warbler took up residence in an area of approximately 25 × 80 meters encompassing my backyard and portions of those on either side on 9 February. For the next 14 days the bird could be seen during any daylight hour searching the lawn for food, particularly in an area of green grass caused by warm drain water from a washing machine, or sitting on an exposed perch from which it would fly for passing insects. No other Myrtle Warblers were seen in the area, although a few infrequently visited the tall pines of the flatwoods behind the yards. When Palm Warblers (*Dendroica palmarum*) or Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) attempted to forage in the area, the Myrtle Warbler attacked them and usually succeeded in driving them away. On the contrary, Robins (*Turdus migratorius*), Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*), and White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), attracted to the yard by bread and seed, a food source not utilized by the warbler, were not attacked. The Myrtle Warbler is known to drive off birds larger than itself, including Robins and Cardinals, when they are competitors for food (Kilham, *Auk*, 78: 261, 1961); therefore it seems these three species were tolerated because they were not competing. On 23 February the cold weather subsided; a low of 4° C (40° F) and a high of 23° C (73° F) was recorded for this date. The next day the warbler was in the yard in the early morning, but when a flock

of foraging birds, which included Myrtle Warblers, visited the nearby pines, it joined them and was not seen again.

Possibly the unusual environmental conditions (abnormally low temperatures and a consequent shortage of insects) caused the Myrtle Warbler to form a winter "territory," and when conditions returned to normal (*i.e.*, temperatures increased) the bird reverted to the more typical flock-foraging behavior.—GLEN E. WOOLFENDEN, *Biological Sciences, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.*

Three Unusual Raptor Records from Wyoming.—Although the Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, breeds as far west as central Alberta (A.O.U. *Check-list*, 1957), McCreary (*Wyoming Bird Life*, 1937) made no mention of this species in Wyoming. During the week prior to 23 May 1961 an immature female Broad-winged Hawk was observed on several occasions in a cemetery just east of the University of Wyoming campus, Laramie, Wyoming, at an elevation of 2,400 meters. On 23 May 1961 the bird was captured and placed in the collection of that university.

McCreary lists the Richardson's Pigeon Hawk, *Falco columbarius richardsonii*, as a "moderately common" migrant in most of Wyoming and as a summer resident in the northwestern part of the state. In the writer's experience this species is not a common migrant in the Laramie area. Breeding pairs of Richardson's Pigeon Hawks have been reported only once or twice in Wyoming (McCreary, 1937; Glen A. Fox, pers. comm.). A nest, definitely determined to be that of *F. c. richardsonii*, was found in a Douglas Fir on a steep canyon wall 10 km east of Laramie on 1 June 1961. The nest contained five eggs. Both adults were very demonstrative during the presence of the observer. On 4 July 1961 the nest was revisited, and it contained one large downy young approximately three weeks old. The young bird was unexplainably absent four days later although the adults were still present. This represents the first breeding record of this species in southeastern Wyoming.

While the Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus anatum*, has been reported from Wyoming on several occasions (McCreary, *op. cit.*), during two years of field work on the Prairie Falcon, *Falco mexicanus*, the writer had failed to record a single observation of the Peregrine. Beebe (*Condor*, 62: 145-189) expressed the opinion that Peregrines are limited in arid regions by the detrimental effects of low atmospheric moisture. Indeed, breeding Peregrines are extremely rare in Wyoming. Migrants are also apparently very uncommon. However, on 6 September 1961, a subadult female was observed for several hours just west of Laramie. This bird was unusually dark and large and was seen a week later in the same locality. During both observations a Prairie Falcon appeared, once chasing the Peregrine. On 14 September 1961 another Peregrine was seen west of Laramie. This bird was in the typical plumage of an adult female.—JAMES H. ENDERSON, *Department of Zoology and Physiology, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.*

Loggerhead Shrike Kills House Finch.—On 15 January 1961, while travelling south on Ganesha Blvd., Pomona, Los Angeles County, California, a Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*, was observed carrying a freshly killed female House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*. When observed, the shrike crossed the road in front of my automobile, and was only capable of flying approximately one meter above the ground due to the prey it was carrying.

When the House Finch was examined, the body was still warm and lesions were observed in the neck region.—MURRAY M. EELLS, *Science Department, Azusa High School, Azusa, California.*