

Ferruginous Hawk attacks Great Horned Owl.—At 0815 hours on 22 February 1966 I observed a Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) hunting over a fallow field in central Dundy County, Nebraska. Meanwhile, as my car approached to within about 100 yards of a tree planting in the vicinity, a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) flew a short distance from this shelter to a telephone pole. The hawk had been progressing toward the road and was about 50 yards from the owl when it landed on the pole. The owl took flight, but after flying only 10 yards it was struck from above by the hawk. Upon impact the owl dropped a few feet in altitude, but continued in a gliding flight. This looked like an accidental collision between the birds.

The second attack seemed notably "deliberate." The hawk gained altitude until it was about 10 feet above the owl and, with legs and feet outstretched and tail fanned, delivered a direct attack at the owl's back. The owl reacted in the same way as before. A third attack was as obviously intentional as the second but appeared to have less effect on the owl. The owl continued gliding for 20 to 25 yards and settled into a dense cover of sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), sand lovegrass (*Eragrostis trichodes*), sweet clover (*Melilotus* sp.), and sand sunflower (*Helianthus petiolaris*). The owl seemed to have full control of its flight and appeared uninjured. The hawk made one circle about 20 feet above the place where the owl had settled and then flew away. I do not know if the presence of my vehicle or the inaccessibility of the owl resulted in the departure of the hawk.

E. S. Cameron (*Auk*, 31: 163, 1914) described a similar encounter between these two species, in which, however, the hawk was defending its nest and the owl was driven away. P. L. Errington (*Wilson Bull.*, 44: 189, 1932) observed a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) attacking a Great Horned Owl, but again the hawk was nesting in the vicinity. In the incident I observed, the time of year eliminates defense of nest or young by the hawk as a causal factor for the attack. Although the owl would not be considered normal prey, the hawk apparently responded to the seeming vulnerability of the owl, a response not atypical for buteos (see P. L. Errington and W. J. Breckenridge, *Wilson Bull.*, 50: 121, 1938).—JOHN P. WEIGAND, *Nebraska Game Commission, North Platte, Nebraska*. Present address: *Montana Fish and Game Department, Great Falls, Montana*.