

517) compare with the wing-loading of *Buteo lagopus* indicated by Brown and Amadon (1968: 56)? The wing area per gram given by the first author is 2.33 square centimeters per gram while the second authors list the wing-loading as 0.40 grams per square centimeter. One must convert  $1/2.33 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ per g}$  to a decimal fraction in order to arrive at a comparable figure (0.43). As the term, by its name, suggests the load of weight placed on the wings it seems reasonable, to me, that grams per square centimeter is to be preferred for reporting wing-loading. It would be a further convenience if all wing-loadings were reported in the metric system although Saville (1957: 215) in his classic paper reported them in pounds per square foot. This obviously necessitates further conversions before making comparisons. Finally it should be noted that authors (e.g., Earhart and Johnson, loc. cit.; Hochbaum, loc. cit.) have attributed to Poole (1938) the reporting of "wing-loading" while Poole (1938) uses the wing area per weight throughout his work and the term wing-loading does not appear.

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**Bald Eagles stealing fish from Common Mergansers.**—Wintering Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) concentrate along a several kilometer stretch of open water below a hydroelectric dam across the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Most of the eagles I watched foraging there during January and February 1971 scanned the river from the air or from perches high in bordering trees and then swooped to the surface for fish. However on 4 February from 09:00 to 10:45 I saw eagles stealing fish from Common Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*). In contrast to their usual high perches, the fish-stealing eagles perched at low elevations (1-2 m), or stood on the shoreline ice 25-30 m from about 50 mergansers fishing in midstream.

A merganser normally swallowed its catch within a second or two of surfacing. Eagles took off and flew only toward those that had been manipulating fish at the surface for a longer period ( $> 5-10$  seconds). The mergansers dove when the attacking eagle was within 1-2 m, apparently either carrying the fish down with them or releasing it near the surface to be grasped by the successful pirate. Two of eight attempted steals by adult eagles were successful, as was one of three

attempts by immature birds. Successful eagles flew to high perches to eat; unsuccessful birds generally took up station again near the ducks.

Bald Eagles are known to steal fish from the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) (Brown and Amadon, Eagles, hawks and falcons of the world, vol. 1, New York, McGraw-Hill, 1968, p. 289) and some of the African *Haliaetus* apparently steal from herons, pelicans, and kites (Meinertzhagen, Pirates and predators, London, Oliver & Boyd, 1959, p. 124), but I know of no previous reports of such piratical habits directed against mergansers. While *H. leucocephalus* is said to prey on waterfowl (Bent, Life histories of North American birds of prey, part 1, U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 167: 345, 1937; Brown and Amadon, *ibid.*: 289), these birds were apparently after fish only. They never attacked mergansers not fishing nor those that swallowed fish just after surfacing. My thanks to James W. Grier for editorial comments.—THOMAS C. GRUBB, JR., *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Present address: Department of Biology, Livingston College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903.* Accepted 8 Apr. 71.

#### First records of Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*) for Arizona.

—On 7 November 1970, during a period of fair weather, two Heermann's Gulls (*Larus heermanni*) were noted resting on the water of an irrigation pond along Ina Road about 7 miles northwest of Tucson, Pima County, Arizona. One of the birds, a second year male, was collected. The other gull, an immature or subadult, could not be secured. The specimen, the first record for Arizona, weighed 518 g, was in light contour feather molt, and had light subcutaneous fat deposits. Its stomach was empty, but the gull was not the least emaciated, and in apparently healthy condition.

On 27 November 1970, the day following the passing of a severe storm front, two more Heermann's Gulls, an immature and a subadult, were noted at the city sewage pond along Ruthrauff Road about 4 miles northwest of Tucson. The two birds arrived over the pond singly and loosely associated themselves with a flock of 37 other gulls, mostly immature and subadult Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*), a few immature and subadult California (*L. californicus*), and two Bonaparte's (*L. philadelphia*), which also had formed at the pond that same day. The subadult spent most of the day resting on the water and by evening had left for points unknown. The immature flew to the previously mentioned pond along Ina Road, where it was secured. Also a male, it weighed 519 g, was not in molt, and had heavy deposits of subcutaneous fat.

Phillips, Marshall, and Monson (The birds of Arizona, Tucson, Univ. Arizona Press, 1964) considered the presence of this gull in Arizona hypothetical, mentioning only a single sighting on the Colorado River by Gale Monson on 13 November 1955. Since the publication of their book, several more sightings have been reported, the most reliable being that of a single subadult seen on Ina Road Pond on 19 October 1969 by B. Wiedemanns and four other local observers. These sightings and my specimens suggest Heermann's Gull should now be considered at least a rare fall straggler in Arizona.

The two specimens have been deposited in the University of Arizona Bird Collection where Stephen M. Russell confirmed their identification.—LAWRENCE N. HUBER, 6832 East 38th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85710. Accepted 7 May 71.