

In summary, differences between *A. u. couchii* and *A. u. arizonae* are less than previously reported. (1) Nest helpers occur in both races. (2) Some individuals of *A. u. couchii* produce unspotted eggs like those of *A. u. arizonae*. (3) Rootlets and other materials are used in lining the nest cup in both forms. Real differences in other traits do exist; e.g. immature *A. u. couchii* are black-billed, whereas immature *A. u. arizonae* are pale-billed; a rattle call is present in *A. u. couchii* but is absent in *A. u. arizonae*.

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Mobbing Red-winged Blackbirds force American Kestrel into water.—On the morning of 20 June 1973, while returning from our small mammal study sites on the Farm River estuarine marsh, New Haven County, Connecticut, we watched a highly unusual outcome of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) mobbing an American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). When first seen, the kestrel was flying away from the shore at a height of approximately 1.5 m above the water surface, pursued closely by a small flock of Red-wings that flew above and around the falcon. The Red-wings repeatedly scolded, buzzed, and stooped towards the kestrel's head. Although we noted no actual contact, their aggressive actions from above forced the kestrel towards the water. The Red-wings quickly followed the kestrel down and the latter, while trying to evade their renewed attacks, fell into the water.

The kestrel immediately swam towards the near shore, approximately 8 m dis-

tant, by simultaneously moving both wings up and forward, then down and backward. The stroke propelled it rapidly through the water while keeping its head and upper body well above the surface. The Red-wings continued to scold and circle above the kestrel although none attempted to buzz or stoop towards it. At our approach the flock of 11 males and 2 females flew into nearby trees. The kestrel reached shore and climbed out of the water onto a loop of rope. Its plumage was completely soaked and the bird, a male, was unable to fly. We put it in a cage until its feathers were dry and then released it.

We have been unable to find a comparable incident involving these species. Nero (1956, *Wilson Bull.* 68: 129) saw individual male Red-wings triumph over kestrels that had intruded into their territories but thought such encounters rare.

Several observers have recorded interactions between flocks of Starlings (*Sturnis vulgaris*) and flying raptors, and Gersdorf (1966, *Z. Tierpsychol.* 23: 37) reported incidents in which such flocks drove Eurasian Sparrow Hawks (*Accipiter nisus*) into reed beds and open water where some of the hawks drowned. Bent (1950, *Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus.* 197: 209) and Mueller (1968, *Auk* 83: 352) consider the Starling's reactions to the raptor as constituting an attack and Mueller suggests that the reaction is the aerial equivalent of the mobbing response of many breeding passerines to a sitting hawk or owl.

We feel that the reaction of the Red-wing flock to the kestrel also was an aerial mobbing attack. Whether the Red-wings were actually trying to force the kestrel into the water is, of course, speculative but it is of interest to note that John Raymond (pers. comm.) watched one male Red-wing force another male Red-wing into the water during a territorial dispute on the same marsh earlier this year.—DWIGHT G. SMITH and DANIEL H. HOLLAND, *Biology Department, Southern Connecticut State College, New Haven, Connecticut 06515*. Accepted 9 Nov. 73.

Black-browed Albatrosses on fresh water.—On 10 December 1972 while visiting the Argentine portion of Tierra del Fuego, David L. Pearson and I saw six Black-browed Albatrosses (*Diomedea melanophris*) on Lago Fagnano, a large freshwater lake in the south central part of Isla Grande, Tierra del Fuego. We watched the birds for several hours flying, sitting on the water, landing, and taking off. I had previously encountered this species along the coast of central Argentina and near Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego. In addition, two of the birds flew back and forth along the lake shore passing within 25 m of me several times so I was able to make certain identification. While in the water, three of the birds dipped their bills into the water in what appeared to be feeding movements. The same type of movement was subsequently noted in feeding flocks of Black-browed Albatrosses in salt water on 12 December 1972. I could find no reference in Murphy (1936, *Oceanic birds of South America*, vol. 1, New York, Macmillan) or in Humphrey et al. (1970, *Birds of Isla Grande (Tierra del Fuego)*, Washington, D. C., Smithsonian Inst.) of albatrosses utilizing inland freshwater lakes for feeding or resting except a reference to two letters that Murphy received from Roberto Dabbene. They noted that P. W. Reynolds "discovered large white albatrosses nesting on the slopes of the mountains near Lake Cami (Lago Fagnano) in the interior of Tierra del Fuego. To reach this locality from the Strait of Magellan the birds pass up Admiralty Sound. Mr. Reynolds does not know to what species these great albatrosses belong, but Dr. Dabbene believes that they are *Diomedea epomophora*." Nothing further is known about this colony, and Humphrey found