

County, Florida between 1957 and 1963. Over half of these I determined to be *T. p. waynei*, the others were identified as the more northern nominate race (Table 1). In central Florida at least 14 *waynei* specimens have been picked up under the WDBO-WFTV television tower near Bithlo, Orange County (northeast of Orlando), by W. K. Taylor—3 on 30 September 1970, one on 25 September 1971, and 10 on 8 October 1971. Although these birds were undoubtedly migrating towards a wintering ground farther to the south when they struck the tower, this point is the southernmost record for *waynei*.

The collections reported here, and those cited from the literature, definitely establish the wintering range of *T. p. waynei* to extend at least south through Georgia and into central (and possibly southern) Florida.

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Short-eared Owl robs Marsh Hawk of prey.—On 5 July 1974 at 2030 on the Buena Vista Marsh in Portage County, Wisconsin, we watched an adult Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), rob an adult female Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus hudsonius*) of her prey. The hawk, hunting low over a field, caught a small mammal within 300 m of her nest. She rose to clear a willow clump on the way back toward her nest. An owl burst up from the willows and, rolling over on its back, grabbed the prey from beneath the hawk and flew off with it. The hawk, at first startled, took chase. The owl, still carrying the prey, turned and stooped at the Marsh Hawk. Both birds circled up and made shallow stoops at one another for about 2 min. The owl maintained a height advantage with neither bird striking the other. They got farther and farther apart. The owl then returned to the ground with the prey, possibly to feed one of its young that was perched nearby. The hawk perched on a scrub willow momentarily, then took wing again and stooped several times at the young Short-eared Owl. At last the Marsh Hawk left and disappeared behind

willow clumps in a field about 1 km away. A male Marsh Hawk, presumably her mate, was hunting less than 300 m away in full view but did not come to the female's aid.

Meinertzhagen (1959, *Pirates and predators*, London, Oliver and Boyd, p. 137) notes that in England the Hen Harrier (*Circus c. cyaneus*) will chase ground roosting Short-eared Owls. Jung (1930, *Auk* 47: 537) describes an aerial fight between a Short-eared Owl and a Marsh Hawk, presumably territorial. Marsh Hawks have been seen robbing Short-eared Owls on the Buena Vista Marsh at least twice; I saw it once, as did Berger (1958, *Wilson Bull.* 70: 90). Clark (1970, unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Ithaca, New York, Cornell Univ.) recorded two successful and six unsuccessful attempts at piracy by Marsh Hawks on Short-eared Owls but only one reversal, unsuccessful, for the owl. We have found no references to successful prey robbing by Short-eared Owls. The incident occurred at dusk, which may have enabled the owl to surprise the hawk.

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Spring lek activity of the Lesser Prairie Chicken in west Texas.—The lek, defined here as the traditional display ground used for arena behavior (cf. Johnsgard 1973: 102), is the focal point of many life activities of prairie grouse, and sampling lek populations is thus the common method of estimating prairie grouse numbers (Hoffman 1963, Jackson and DeArment 1973, Hamerstrom and Hamerstrom 1973). As Lesser Prairie Chickens (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) are currently listed as a threatened species (U.S. Fish Wildl. Serv. 1973: 134), continued monitoring of their lek populations is essential. Elsewhere, Jones (1964) described the seasonal lek activity for both Greater (*T. cupido*) and Lesser Prairie Chickens. In Oklahoma, Copelin (1963) noted initial Lesser Prairie Chicken lek activity in late February and continuing until mid-May; intense territorial disputes developed in March and early April with most copulations occurring in the last 10 days of April and the first week of May. For censusing purposes, all population counts on leks in that study were conducted after 15 April. Hoffman (1963) reported lek activity in Lesser Prairie Chickens from mid-March through mid-June in Colorado with the peak occurring in late April and early May.

As little is known of peak lek activity periods of the Lesser Prairie Chicken in west Texas, we initiated a study in the spring of 1972 to compare morning (AM) and evening (PM) lek counts, and to contrast counts made at intervals during the spring. Also, observations of hen activities on leks were made each spring from 1972 to 1974 inclusive.

This study was conducted in Yoakum County, Texas, on the southern High Plains in west Texas. Leks were located from the last week of February and until March of 1972. Three population counts were made on each of five study sites. The first count was made the first 2 weeks of April, the second count during the last 2 weeks of April, and the third count was conducted within the first 3 weeks of May. Morning counts were made every 15 min beginning 30 min before sunrise until 3 h afterward. Evening counts were made from 3 h before sunset until 30 min after