

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir:

In their note "Mate fidelity and nesting site tenacity in the Killdeer" (1975, Auk 92: 149), Sarah Lenington and Terry Mace state, "Although the Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) is a common breeding bird throughout much of temperate North America, little information is available about its breeding." This statement is decidedly misleading, and I would call their attention to my 366-page dissertation entitled "The Killdeer (*Charadrius v. vociferus*) in the breeding season: ecology, behavior, and the development of homiothermism," submitted to the University of Michigan for the degree of Doctor of Science in 1959. The abstract appeared in "Dissertation Abstracts" in 1959 (L.C. Card No. mic 59-4891). A copy of the dissertation is obtainable in microfilm and Xerox from University Microfilms, Inc., 313 North First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A. Enlargements $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ inches are also available. The dissertation included detailed chapters on vocalization, courtship display and copulation, nests (location, construction, and materials), eggs and their care, behavior of young and parental care, development of homiothermism in young Killdeers, and behavior toward intruders (with detailed study of agonistic behavior and analysis of injury feigning). It included 121 figures.

Sincerely yours,
DR. MUNIR K. BUNNI
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NOTES AND NEWS

A limited number of Student Membership Awards are made available each year by the A.O.U. Students at any stage of their academic training who are not now and have never been A.O.U. members are eligible. In 1975, 39 of 103 applicants were given A.O.U. Student Membership Awards. The recipients came from 22 of the United States and 3 Canadian provinces.

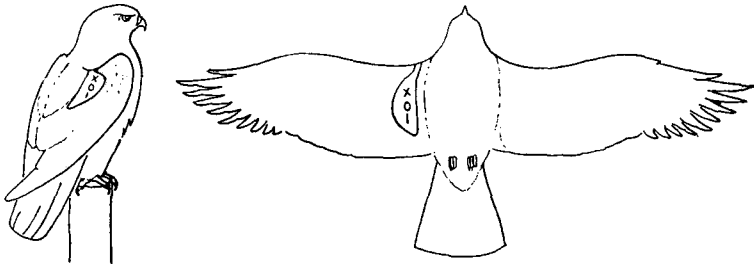
Application forms will be mailed in November to ornithologists who normally have contacts with students. Application forms will also be available at that time from the SECRETARY or from the CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AWARDS, DR. RUSSELL P. BALDA, *Department of Biological Sciences, Box 5640, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001*. The deadline for receipt of applications by the committee is 10 December 1975.

The committee made two Marcia Brady Tucker Travel Awards totaling \$500 to attend the A.O.U. meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The recipients were Phillip F. Elliot, Kansas State University, Manhattan; and Joseph L. Suchecki, University of Connecticut, Storrs. Eight applications were received.

The Pacific Seabird Group will hold its annual meeting 11-14 December 1975 at Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California. In addition to a general papers session dealing with marine birds and their environment, two symposia are scheduled: "Biology and taxonomy of marine Charadriiformes," chaired by Dr. Joseph R. Jehl, Jr.; and "Seabird conservation problems on the California coasts," chaired by Dr. Daniel Anderson. For further details contact: PAUL R. KELLY, 816 Sutter Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94303.

Inflation is skyrocketing the costs of publishing *The Auk* as well as other activities of the A.O.U. Can you help by contributing to our Endowment Fund? Any amount—or consider: Patron (\$1000) may be made in four annual installments of \$250, or better yet, Benefactor (\$10,000) may be made in four annual installments of \$2500. Or remember us in your will!

Color-marked Swainson's Hawks.—Nestling Swainson's Hawks have been fitted with red, green, or blue vinyl patagial wing markers in the Columbia Basin of south central Washington. The crescent-shaped markers are visible on flying and perching birds (see figure) and contain the symbol X or A followed by two numerals (e.g. X08, A23). Each hawk will carry a single patagial marker on its right wing. Post-fledging behavior, migration, and nest site selection are several of the more important points being studied.



Should you see any of these birds, please write: RICHARD FITZNER, *Ecosystems Department, Battelle Northwest Laboratories, Richland, Washington 99352*. Include date, time of day, and location of the observation, plus name of observer(s), color of marker, and if possible, the numbers printed thereon. Also include the number of Swainson's Hawks associated with the marked individual(s).

The Smithsonian-Peace Corps Environmental Program, now in its fourth year, often has openings for ornithologists to serve in developing countries. One current opening is for a Curator of Ornithology at the National Museum in Nairobi, Kenya. The Volunteer, who will be working with a collection that has an almost complete set of East African species, will supervise the work of the curator-in-training and three skinner/preparators. To qualify, the applicant should have a graduate degree, a background in taxonomic ornithology and 1-2 years of museum experience. For information on this and other assignments, write: DR. JAMES SHERBURNE, *Smithsonian-Peace Corps Environmental Program, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560*.

Christmas Count data banks.—For the cost of querying our data banks, we have available all the information in the 1962-71 Christmas Counts. For more information write C. E. BOCK, *Department EPO Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80302*, or phone (303) 492-7184.