

inducing alarm; W. Schleidt (1961, *Z. Tierpsychol* 18: 534) has shown that alarm reactions are even greater to a "goose" model than to a "hawk" model when the goose model is more rarely used. I have one direct observation bearing on this matter. Barred Forest-Falcons (*Micrastur ruficollis*) commonly follow army ants and elicit some scolding but quick returns from small birds, for these forest falcons, although sometimes attacking birds, generally eat insects. In contrast, one Bicolored Hawk that swooped through a group of ant-following birds at Belém, Pará, completely terrified them. Birds hid under logs and froze in dense bushes or the edges of a tidal channel the habitat was tidally flooded woodland or varzea, an edge habitat where this hawk is commoner than within forest); there was not a sound or movement for several minutes after I chased the hawk away. Thus it may be that the hawklike appearance of the kite is enough to scare mobbing birds quickly, especially if it reinforces the image with a quick rush at them.

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Use of gravel by Purple Martins.—On many occasions during April, May, and June 1975, Sam D. Wolfe and I watched Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) alighting on a paved asphalt road within the city of Sherman, Texas, where they gathered and swallowed small bits of gravel and slivers of glass. The site was a relatively quiet street with little traffic. The birds, while on the ground, were quite fearless and approachable. They apparently relished the gravel and repeatedly returned after being disturbed. Both male and female martins engaged in this activity. Several martin houses were nearby.

I have never seen martins display similar behavior elsewhere in the city, although I have watched numerous colonies as part of my martin studies, nor have I been able to find any published reports in the literature of Purple Martins using gravel in such fashion. The martin's fondness for eggshells is well documented, and these may be important mineral resources for the birds. I suggest that small bits of gravel are helpful to Purple Martins, as for many other birds, in digesting hard-shelled insects.—CHARLES R. BROWN, *2601 Turtle Creek Drive, Sherman, Texas 75090*. Accepted 27 Jun. 75.

Nesting Bald Eagles attack researcher.—Because of the large and relatively stable Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) population on Kodiak Island, Alaska, studies on nesting, productivity, and other aspects of the species' life history have been a part of a continuing research program on the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (Hensel and Troyer 1964, *Condor* 66: 282; Troyer and Hensel 1965, *Auk* 82: 636). One of my duties as wildlife aide during the summers of 1967 and 1968 was climbing into eyries, most of them in large cottonwoods, to band 5- to 7-week-old eaglets and to collect food habits data. I wrote the following account from field notes recorded at the time of the incident.

On 20 July 1968 my approach to the Karluk Weir nest to check for food remains caused both adults to take wing as is usual when disturbed; however, they remained silent and flew rather close. Starting to ascend the tree on previously driven spikes, I was about 2 m off the ground when I felt a blow against my lower back similar to