

USE OF CABLE IN FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*BUTEO REGALIS*) NEST

by

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Ferruginous Hawks commonly construct nests of sticks up to one inch in diameter which are taken from shrubs such as juniper, shadscale, and sagebrush around the nesting site (Weston 1969:29). Cow or horse dung and paper are apparently not uncommon nest materials, and old rubbish and bones are sometimes used (Bent (1937:285–287). Barbed wire, corn stalks, and plastic have also been reported to be minor parts of nests (Lokemoen and Duebbert 1976). An unusual piece of rubbish was used in construction of a Ferruginous nest, containing two large, half-fledged young and one addled egg on 10 June 1974, located near U.S. Highway 6-50 in Skull Rock Pass, Millard County, Utah, 49 miles (78 km) southwest of Delta. A 2-foot (0.6 m) length of ½-inch (1.3 cm) steel cable, presumably from a construction site about ½ mile (0.8 km) from the nest, was interwoven into the nest structure (fig. 1). The nest location (fig. 2), atop a 15-foot (4.6 m) boulder (The Skull Rock) in a shadscale (*Atriplex*) community, may have been deficient in the large sticks typically used in nest construction but did provide the isolation necessary for nesting success of this species.

Literature Cited

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Figure 1. Ferruginous Hawk nest in Millard County, Utah.



Figure 2. Ferruginous Hawk nest showing 1.3 cm steel cable interwoven with coarse sticks in nest.