RAPTOR RESEARCH

ing in a hayed alfalfa field 15 cm tall. The hen and brood were 25 m from a 6-m-wide strip of small grain 40 cm tall. I remained in a mobile-receiving vehicle some 110 m from the brood and observed with binoculars. I gave a chick distress call to determine the exact location of the hen. When the radio signal became constant at 19:20 (indicating no movement), I observed the hawk which had apparently just landed about 5 m from the hen near the edge of the grain strip. The hawk preened until 19:22 when it flew away from the brood, over the grain strip, and landed 100 m away. At 19:27 the hawk returned, flying near to the ground, landed, and sat motionless at the edge of the grain strip near the crouched hen and brood. At 19:30 the hawk flew toward the brood, hovered briefly about 1 m off the ground and then dropped sharply, apparently attacking a chick. Immediately the hen flew at the hawk, and feathers were observed flying about from an apparent struggle on the ground. The radio signal indicated considerable activity for 1 or 2 minutes and then became constant as though the hen had been killed. At least 2 chicks then flushed and flew 100 m out into the alfalfa. At 19:34 the hawk took flight, carrying a chick, and once again the hen flew at the hawk, following it for 10-15 m, but no aerial contact was noted. The hawk flew 150 m and landed, probably to eat the chick.

It is probable that the strip of small grain provided ambush cover for the hawk. I had not seen it approach initially, and perhaps the hen had not either. The short cover of the hayfield likely enhanced detention of the brood by the hawk and made possible the subsequent predation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED: RECORDINGS OF RAPTOR VOCALIZATIONS

We are in the process of developing and testing a technique for censusing diurnal and nocturnal raptors. The technique is based on responses to recorded raptor vocalizations. We are interested in access to recordings of all North American woodland hawks and owls for which the following information is available: Location and behavioral context within which the recording was made and, if possible, age and sex. We would be happy to respond to any inquiries and to establish correspondence with anyone who is involved in related work. Direct correspondence to: Dr. James A. Mosher, Appalachian Environmental Laboratory, University of Maryland, Frostburg State College Campus, Frostburg, Maryland 21532.

The Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been asked to determine the population status of the Cooper's Hawk and the Golden Eagle in the eastern United States and to identify research and management needs. We would appreciate historic and current information about productivity, habitat use, and sources of mortality and disturbance. Please contact:

> Dr. Mark Fuller Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory Laurel, MD 20811 301/776-4880 x281