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MOUSE TRAP RECOVERED IN HARRIER NEST

by

Dale Gawlik
3218 Post Road
Stevens Point
Wisconsin 54481

An annual vole (*Microtus* sp.) index is an important part of Hamerstrom's study of the Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) in central Wisconsin (Hamerstrom, F., *Auk* 96:370-374, 1979). Vole trapping on her study area began in 1964 and 28,911 trap nights have been accumulated by Hamerstrom and her coworkers through 1981. On 4 July 1981 I found evidence that a harrier had stolen a trap.

On 1 July, 120 traps were put out at about 2000 hours. When they were picked up at about 1200 hours 2 July, 1 trap was missing. Tufts of vole hair were found within 10 cm of the missing trap. On 4 July at 0945 hours I visited a harrier nest about 2.2 km from the trap-line. The nest has been deserted within the past 2 days, and an empty sprung trap lay upside down near the center of the nest. I believe it unlikely that the harrier carried an empty trap. It seems reasonable to conclude that the harrier was attracted to the trap by the presence of a vole in it. The vole may have been dead at the time it was taken since in a few instances harriers have been known to feed on carrion (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. No. 167, 1937:86; Randall, *Wilson Bull.* 52: 165-172, 1940; and Errington and Breckenridge, *Am. Midland Nat.* 17: 831-848, 1936). It is also possible that the vole may have been alive when the trap was taken because a few live voles have been found in sprung traps in previous years (Hamerstrom pers. comm.).

PRECOCIOUS NEST DEFENSE BEHAVIOR BY A SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

by

Robert N. Rosenfield
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481

and

Andrew Kanvik
House 10161 Highway 10
Amherst, WI 54406

On 22 July 1981 we observed 3 fledged Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) in trees within 20 m of their nest in Door County, Wisconsin. They were food-calling (for a description of calls, see Beebe, F.L., *Occas. Pap. B.C. Prov. Mus.* 17. 163 pp., 1974) and we anticipated the return of an adult with prey for them. To capture adults, we placed a mist net within 3 m of the nest tree and 1 m of a tethered live Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) (Hamerstrom F., *Proc. Int. Ornithol. Congr.* 13: 866-869, 1963). We