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### INCIDENTAL CAPTURE OF A NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*) IN A MAMMAL TRAP

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On 28 December 1985, an adult-female Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) was captured in a box-trap (Tomahawk #108). The trap was set on a stream side trail to capture Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) preying on ducks caught in banding traps. A Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) carcass was used for bait. We have found no records of harrier captures in live traps of this type.

During the 24 hr prior to the Northern Harrier capture, temp ranged from mid-teens to upper 50s. There had been a full moon the two previous nights. No snow was on the ground.

The Northern Harrier was captured at Caprock Feedlot, approximately 10 km SW of Bovina, Parmer Co., Texas (34°20'N 102°25'W). Available wetland habitat where harriers were observed quartering for prey included feedlot-effluent lagoons and an intermittent stream with pools of permanent water. The location is utilized extensively by wintering waterfowl (Fedynich 1987) and experiences recurrent waterfowl epizootics (Wallace et al. 1986; Fedynich and Godfrey 1988). Consequently, waterfowl carcasses provide an easily accessible source of food for scavengers.

Previous reports have documented harriers opportunely feeding on both live waterfowl (Schipper et al. 1975; Godfrey and Fedynich 1987) and waterfowl carcasses (Errington and Breckenridge 1936; Blohm et al. 1980). Our observation further documents opportunistic use of carrion as food in the Northern Harrier diet.

Throughout the winter, Northern Harriers commonly were observed quartering for prey. Northern Harriers may be attracted to sites that have large waterfowl concentrations, thereby increasing their chances of preying on waterfowl infected with *Pasturella multocida*. Morbidity and mortality from *P. multocida* has been reported in several endemic scavengers (Rosen and Morse 1958; Zinkl et al. 1977; Taylor and Pence 1981). However, the effects of Northern Harrier scavenging on carcasses infected with *P. multocida* are uncertain and further study is indicated.

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