

to the large cage the male attempted copulation but the female was not receptive until the latter part of March when copulation became frequent. On May 6 the first egg was laid but soon was broken. By the time a sixth egg (May 25) had been laid the female was setting much of the time, the male replacing her occasionally. None of the eggs hatched.

Each year the birds began to show an interest in the nest box during the last days of February and did a little courting. Laying began about the middle of April and continued into May until five or six eggs had been laid. In one season, of three eggs which remained unbroken, one was not fertile but the other two contained embryos. None ever hatched.

At 86 months of age the male died of encephalitis. The remaining female survived five years more, dying at the age of 115 months. A year before this she began to refuse all food but white mice, although she appeared in good condition. A week before death, her appetite began to fail and she would sit on her perch with eyes closed. An autopsy was performed but no pathology was found.—FRANK A. HARTMAN, *Department of Physiology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, December 15, 1958.*

Chipping Sparrow copulates with House Sparrow.—On the afternoon of July 17, 1959, an adult male House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) was feeding approximately 15 feet from a small Scotch pine in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This tree contained a nest of a pair of Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*), in which was one young bird. One of the Chipping Sparrows, a male judging from its bright rufous crown, flew from the tree and alighted, facing the House Sparrow and some two feet from it. The House Sparrow, with partially extended wings and upturned bill, immediately hopped toward the Chipping Sparrow in the attitude usually associated with food-begging by young House Sparrows. The Chipping Sparrow retreated approximately one foot from the advancing House Sparrow, then turned and advanced toward it. While the House Sparrow was still crouched with partially extended wings, the Chipping Sparrow hopped to its side, mounted the now passive bird and attempted copulation. I could not ascertain if actual cloacal contact was achieved. No longer than four seconds passed from the time the Chipping Sparrow mounted until it fluttered off and returned to the nest tree. The House Sparrow, after approximately 30 seconds, flew to a nearby building.—THANE S. ROBINSON, *Department of Biology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, August 7, 1959.*

Caspian Tern and Black Skimmer in Newfoundland.—On July 10, 1958, Tordoff and an ornithology class from the University of Michigan Biological Station found a single pair of Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*) nesting in a large colony of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) at Rogers City, Presque Isle County, Michigan. These terns very likely were the same individuals found nesting there in 1957 (Pettingill, 1958. *Jack-Pine Warbler*, 183–184). With the adult terns we found two large young capable of short flights. We captured and banded (FWS 566-32953) one of the young.

On September 30, 1958, this tern was shot by Mr. Edwin Keeping at Boxey, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland. Southern wrote to Keeping to confirm the information received from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Office. The recovery date sent to us by this office was October 9, which seems to be the date the report was received rather than the date the bird was taken. In addition to supplying details on the tern, Mr. Keeping also sent to us for identification part of another bird—the bill and anterior part of the crown and face of a Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*), probably a male judging by bill size. Keeping had taken the skimmer at Boxey on September 30, 1958. The specimen has been sent to the National Museum of Canada for permanent preservation.

The Caspian Tern is an “uncommon summer resident” in Newfoundland and probably

breeds in the Fortune Bay area (Peters and Burleigh, 1951. "The Birds of Newfoundland"), but the northeastward journey of our banded bird is noteworthy. It is possible, of course, that the tern was carried to Newfoundland from some coastal point to the south by 1958's hurricane Helene. The Black Skimmer, judging by records available for the Fifth Edition (1957) of the A.O.U. Check-list, has not been reported previously from this province. However, W. Earl Godfrey informs us that over two dozen Black Skimmers were seen alive or found dead in Newfoundland in late September and early October, 1958, displaced victims of the same hurricane Helene.—HARRISON B. TORDOFF AND WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, *The University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, August 20, 1959.*

Notes on a late nesting of Harris' Hawks near Midland, Texas.—The A. O. U. "Check-list of North American Birds," (5th ed.) 1957, gives the following southern resident ranges for the two subspecies of Harris' Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*): (1) *P. u. harrisi*: from southern Texas (Eagle Pass, San Antonio, Giddings) south into Mexico, etc. (2) *P. u. superior*: from southeastern California, Arizona, and southern New Mexico (Carlsbad) south to Baja California, Sonora and Sinaloa. Neither of these ranges includes Midland, Texas, which is on the southern edge of the Llano Estacado, approximately 300 miles north and west of Eagle Pass and 200 miles east of Carlsbad.

Since the winter of 1956-1957, Harris' Hawks have been observed continuously on the Clarence Scharbauer "South Curtis" ranch, three miles north of the city limits of Midland. No observations were made on the ranch prior to that winter and no nest that could be attributed to that species was found prior to 1958.

On October 1, 1958, an adult Harris' Hawk was flushed from a nest in a soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*) grove at a water tank supplied by windmill, 2.2 miles north of the ranch house. The down-covered head of one young was seen at the edge of the nest. A young bird had been heard calling from the nest on September 23 and 26, but on neither day was an adult bird seen. On October 6, the young hawk was able to stand in the nest and, from a continuous up and down movement of the head, was either preening itself or feeding on something in the nest. On October 8, there were two down-covered young in the nest. On that date, and again on October 9, we flushed the adult from the nest at a distance of about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile.

The nest was approximately 15 to 18 feet above ground near the top of a soapberry tree, placed in the bend of one upright limb, and supported by another limb. The tree was 10 inches DBH. The nest was about two to two and one-half feet in diameter, and made on the outside of thick twigs and branches from soapberry, mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*) and hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), all of which were readily accessible to the nest site. The only food items seen near the nest were rabbits, including one full-grown rabbit and assorted parts.

From October 10 to 19, the road to the nest was impassable because of mud. On the 19th, the adult flushed at $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Both young were well down in the nest with only their heads visible. The heads were almost feathered, though some down could be seen. On October 20, one of the young was standing on the edge of the nest. The wings seemed to be completely feathered; the head almost feathered, with some down feathers remaining; and the breast buffy with brown to black streaks. Both young were standing on the nest on October 21, and one appeared slightly older than the other. Two adult hawks were in the grove, and three adults were elsewhere on the ranch. On the 22nd, there was a definite white band seen at the end of the tail of the older young. Before this date, the tails had not been seen. The adult hawk flushed from the nest at a distance of about 100 yards on October 23 and flew only a short way into the grove.