

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.

The first young left the nest either late on October 23 or early October 24. On the 24th, it was found in a tree about 20 yards from the nest and alternately flew and hopped until it had returned to the tree nearest the nest tree.

Rain again made the road impassable from October 24 to November 6, but we walked to the grove from the nearest paved road on October 30. There were two adults soaring near the grove and one bird on the nest. Whether it was an adult or an immature could not be determined, since it was well down in the nest with only its back visible. On November 6, three Harris' Hawks were flushed from the windmill about 200 yards from the nest. Two were mature, but the third disappeared into the grove before it could be seen well. One young hawk was standing on the side of the nest. It made no effort to fly, and its craw seemed to be full—as it was on every occasion when the breasts of the young hawks could be seen, though trips to the nest were made at various times of day between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

On November 10, two adult hawks and one immature were in the east side of the grove about 300 yards from the nest. The other young hawk was standing on the edge of the nest. Its wings, head and tail appeared fully feathered; its breast was still very streaked. It left the nest either late on November 10 or early on November 11, and both young hawks were found in the grove on November 11. One called from a tree about 50 yards from the nest and then flew reasonably well. The tail and upper sides of the wings had an adult appearance. The breast was still quite streaked and the undersides of the wings were lighter in color than the adult underwing, with less differentiation between the color of the flight feathers and that of the wing linings.

Both immatures were still in the grove on November 13, but were not found again until December 21, when they and two adults were at a tank .7 mile from the grove. On December 31, two adults and two immatures were seen in the grove, and a group of four was seen on January 7, 1959, about three miles from the grove.

Bent (1937. *U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* no. 167) gives the latest egg dates for Harris' Hawks as June 21 (p. 147). The incubation period is "said to be 4 weeks" (p. 143), but no reference is made to any known nest. If that incubation period is correct, these eggs must have been laid on or about August 25, two months later than any eggs noted in Bent. No reference to later egg dates has been located elsewhere, and correspondence with several residents of south Texas has produced no later dates.—ANNE L. LESASSIER, 1611 W. Indiana, Midland, Texas, and FRANCES C. WILLIAMS, c/o City Carrier 102, Midland, Texas, January 27, 1959.

**Laughing Gulls following the plow.**—It has long been known that several members of the genus *Larus* throughout the world habitually feed in soil turned up by a plow. This practice has been associated with such insect-eating gulls as Franklin's Gull (*L. pipixcan*), Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*), California Gull (*L. californicus*), Black-headed Gull (*L. ridibundus*), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*), Mew Gull (*L. canus*), and others. (See, e.g., Bent, 1921, "Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns," Washington; and Witherby, *et al.*, 1944, "The Handbook of British Birds," Volume V, London.)

To my knowledge, this has never been recorded for the Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*), except for a brief reference to Laughing Gulls ". . . seen . . . scattered over . . . newly-ploughed fields, regaling on . . . worms, insects, and their larvae . . ." by Wilson (Brewer, 1854. "Wilson's American Ornithology." New York). However, no reference was made here to the act of following the plow in operation.

At various times between April and July of 1955 and 1956, I frequently observed Laughing Gulls following plows on the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia. These were