

reluctant to enter even though he entered several times in what seemed to be an encouraging manner. A week later, a Starling pair were nesting in this recently vacated flicker nest.—KENNETH W. PRESCOTT, *New Jersey State Museum, Cultural Center, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, 18 December 1969.*

**The junco as a food item for the Rough-legged Hawk in Alaska.**—On 9 August, 1969, I found a male Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) dying from injuries apparently inflicted by a motor vehicle at Mile 1280 on the Alaskan Highway, 34 miles southeast of Tok Junction, Alaska. The stomach contained a partially digested mass of fur, feathers, and bones. Both forelimbs and several ribs of an immature Arctic ground squirrel (*Spermophilus undulatus*) were found in the stomach. The scapulae of the ground squirrel were broken, but the remaining bones were intact except for some separation at the epiphyses.

The right and left feet and the premaxillary portion of the upper jaw of a junco (*Junco* sp., cf. *J. hyemalis*) were also present and were identified by me by direct comparison with appropriate skeletal material. Feathers associated with these bones were matted, partially decomposed, and discolored. The presence of fur and feathers gives additional support to statements made by Leffler (Bull. Kansas Ornithol. Soc., 17:9-10, 1966) and Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 167:274, 1937) that Rough-legged Hawks do not pluck their prey.

Leffler (op. cit.) discussed feeding habits of *B. lagopus* and presented the fourth published American record of bird remains in the stomach of this species. Bannerman (The birds of the British Isles, 5:138, 1956) indicated that about 12 per cent of the prey records for *B. lagopus* in Norway were avian. Additional records are presented by Witherby (Handbook of British birds, 3, 1948) and Dementiev (Birds of the Soviet Union, 1, 1966). The fifth American record reported in the present paper provides further data on the bird-eating habits of *B. lagopus*. Perhaps when sufficient stomachs of New World representatives of this species are examined, the presence of birds as food items will not be found to be unusual.—SANFORD R. LEFFLER, *Department of Zoology, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99163, 16 February 1970.*

**Common Grackles prey on big brown bat.**—On 4 July 1970, I took a subadult big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) alive from a dog, and left it hanging in a bittersweet bush in my backyard, where the bat was found by three Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*). One grackle pulled the bat down onto the lawn. Another chased the first away, and pecked at the bat's chest. The first grackle then attempted to seize the bat, whereupon the second grackle flew out of the yard with the small bat carried easily in its beak.

Hawks, Mississippi Kites, and owls often feed on bats but, to my knowledge, no other birds except Blue Jays mentioned by Hoffmeister and Downes (Southwestern Nat., 9: 102-109, 1964), Allan (J. Mammal., 28:180, 1947), and Elwell (J. Mammal., 43:434, 1962), a Roadrunner reported by Herreid (Condor, 62:67, 1960), and these Common Grackles have been observed preying on bats.—CLAUDINE F. LONG, *Department of Biology, Wisconsin State University, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481, 8 July 1970.*

**Herring Gull predation on common water snake in Lake Erie.**—Many herpetologists have studied the common water snake, *Natrix sipedon*, in the western part of Lake Erie, for these snakes often differ from water snakes on the adjacent mainland of Ohio and Ontario. Water snakes from the islands of western Lake Erie tend to be