

Harlan's Hawk from Utah: first record for the Great Basin.—The Harlan's Hawk (*Buteo harlani*) is known to breed chiefly in Alaska and Northern British Columbia and winter chiefly in the Great Plains region south to Louisiana (A.O.U. Check-list 1957: 106). On 4 November 1967 Everett C. Peck collected a single Harlan's Hawk at a farm located 6 miles west of Delta, 4600 feet elevation, Millard County, Utah (lat 39° 21' N, long 112° 41' W). The area is typical open farm community interspersed with occasional windrows of several species of deciduous trees: principally boxelder (*Acer negundo*), cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), and white poplar (*Populus alba*). The bird was shot from a large white poplar in one of the windrows.

The specimen, now in the University of Utah collection (No. 20931), was a bird in little-worn juvenal plumage with an ossified skull. The sex of the bird could not be positively determined, but it was thought to be a female. Its identification as a Harlan's Hawk was corroborated by Dr. Richard Banks of the U.S. National Museum.

This specimen constitutes the first record for the Harlan's Hawk in Utah, as well as the Great Basin as a whole; and although the status of the Harlan's Hawk is at present equivocal (Mayr and Short, Publ. Nuttall Ornithol. Club, 9:38, 1970), the specimen presents data on the vagrancy of a morphologically distinct form.—GARY L. WORTHEN, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044, 1 May 1972.*

Status and habits of *Megapodius pritchardii*.—The Malau (*Megapodius pritchardii*) lives only on the small, isolated island of Niuafu'ou in the Tongan archipelago. Due to its isolation and the volcanic nature of the island there has been some concern as to the future of this species. My wife and I were on Niuafu'ou from November 1967 through August 1969 and were able to spend some time observing these birds. Friedlander (Ornithol. Monatsber., 7:37-40, 1899) and Kellers (Smithsonian Inst. Publ., 3111:71-74, 1931) reported briefly on observations on *Megapodius pritchardii*, but the species remains poorly known.

The Malau appears to be in no immediate danger of extinction. There is a limited amount of natural predation from Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) and feral cats but the most significant predator is *Homo sapiens*. There is a law in Tonga which prohibits the taking of Malaus or their eggs or chicks but this law is generally disregarded in the frontier area of Niuafu'ou. The birds are not being decimated by this human predation because of the difficulty in reaching the majority of their nesting sites. Since Malaus are only taken in the vicinity of nests they generally lead a relatively unmolested life. I suppose that there would be a definite increase in pressure if the human population were to increase significantly above its present limit of 800 or so. Prior to the 1946 evacuation there was a human population of roughly 1500 and the Malau was said to be more numerous at that time than it is at present.

Niuafu'ou is roughly circular in outline with a land area of 13.5 square miles. At least 3.5 square miles are unsuitable habitat for the birds due to extensive lava flows. The Malaus seem to be concentrated around the inner slopes of the caldera and the central lake. There also are a few breeding areas on the southwest seashore. The birds seem to prefer the steep, wooded slopes to the more level areas of the island.

Malaus lay their eggs only in certain specific areas. Six of these areas are regularly visited by egg collectors and there are several other areas which are known but are seldom visited due to the extreme difficulties involved. These sites are quite different. Some are near the lake shore on cinder slopes with little vegetation, others are on the caldera rim in dense forest, and some are between these extremes. The common factors are loose soil composed mainly of volcanic ash and proximity to a volcanic heat vent.