

10 min after their chick had been captured. The pair of cranes remained in the area for 1 week after the incident but the chick was never seen again.

These observations establish the ability of the red fox to prey on Sandhill Crane chicks up to 1 week of age. The extensive use of upland fields and wooded pastures as feeding sites by cranes with young chicks increases the opportunity for encounters with fox. In the case of Bennett's observation, the ability of the fox to surprise the cranes with a short run from cover was probably very important in his success. The normal distraction behavior of the adults afforded no protection in this situation. Although observations described here are chance encounters, we believe that fox predation may play a more important role than previously believed in the loss of young Sandhill Crane chicks in Wisconsin.

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Owl predation on a mobbing crow.—On 29 November 1962, at 16:30 on an overcast afternoon in a hilly wooded area near Amherst, Virginia, I watched a flock of Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) mob a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). I was 200 m distant and had 7× binoculars. The loud cawing of the crows drew my attention. The owl was located 10 m up in a tree. The crows flew around the tree, dove at the bird, and perched on nearby branches, as they directed their vocalizations at the predator. After I had observed this activity for 5 min, the owl quickly extended its left foot and grasped a crow which had ventured within reaching distance. At this action, the cawing and diving became more frenzied. The owl held the crow in its talons and pinned it against its lower body and the limb for 30 sec. I didn't observe struggling from the crow. The owl still in possession of the captured bird then flew out of sight into the woods pursued by the noisy flock of crows.

Current thought views mobbing as relatively safe and of correspondingly low risk to those participating in the action. I am unaware of any examples in the literature which reference a mobbing bird actually falling prey to a predator during the mobbing event. This incident demonstrates the relativity of the current theory in relation to mobbing behavior.—RENDER D. DENSON, *Dept. Biological Sciences, Box 5640, Northern Arizona Univ., Flagstaff, AZ 86001*. (Present Address: *Kramer, Chin and Mayo, Inc., 1917 First Ave., Seattle, WA 98101*). Accepted 9 Dec. 1977.

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Ruddy Turnstones destroy Royal Tern colony.—The Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) occasionally eats eggs of other birds. Parkes et al. (*Wilson Bull.* 83:306–308, 1971) summarized 3 reports of such behavior by the Old World subspecies (*A. i. interpres*) and presented 2 instances involving the New World subspecies (*A. i. morinella*). We report here a seemingly extreme instance of this behavior.