

perches engaged in territorial song, establishment of territorial boundaries, call notes, preening and resting. Birds seemed to prefer natural perches to artificial perches.

No difference in average male density between areas with and without perches in unburned prairie (31 ♂♂/ha in both) was observed. In the burned prairie, however, area without perches had a density twice as great as the area with perches (56 ♂♂/ha vs 27 ♂♂/ha). This difference was believed to be due to large numbers of Dickcissels and Red-winged Blackbirds attracted to a stream in the area. When the data with all birds were tested, differences in density between the two areas were significant (Wilcoxon signed ranks test, $P = 0.008$); however, when Dickcissels and Red-winged Blackbirds were deleted from the analyses, the difference was not significant ($P = 0.11$) indicating that these two species had measurable impacts on the observed densities.

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Juvenile Peregrine Falcon swoops on Roseate Spoonbills.—On 26 September 1979, I observed an immature Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) swoop down on two Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) which were foraging about a meter apart in an impoundment on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Brevard Co., Florida. My watch began at the impoundment at 08:00, and the falcon was noted in a dead white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*) at 09:20. At 10:04 the falcon left the tree and headed directly toward the spoonbills, which were 20 m away, in a gliding-flapping flight. As the falcon approached the spoonbills, they stopped feeding, stood erect, faced the falcon and flashed their wings. The wing flash consisted of opening the wings to the wrist and allowing the remainder of the wing to droop with the primaries near the body. After the wing flashes, the falcon turned abruptly and landed in a nearby mangrove tree. Approximately 10 min later, the foraging spoonbills were 10 m apart when the falcon swooped down on one bird. The reaction of the spoonbill was the same. Although both spoonbills continued to feed for an additional 10 min before departing, they continuously watched the falcon which remained in the area for about an hour.

The Roseate Spoonbill is a relatively large bird to be taken by a Peregrine Falcon, and this episode may have been a "mock attack" or play. However, it is possible the swoops were an attempt by the falcon to flush the spoonbills so it could take one. George (Raptor Res. 13:88–90, 1979) observed an immature Peregrine Falcon strike a Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) and Cade (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool. 63:151–267, 1961) found a Peregrine could take a 1400 g Black Brant (*Branta bernicla*) and a 1300 g Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). Palmer (Handbook of North American Birds, Vol. 1, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 1962) states the Roseate Spoonbill weighs up to 1600 g, and one immature bird weighed 1169 g. Because no other flight intention movement was observed, and the posture of the spoonbills was different from a high intensity threat display (body axis parallel to the ground, wings held above the body and neck outstretched [pers. obs.]), it is possible the wing flashes gave the falcon information on the size of the birds or may have served to increase their effective size. Cade (1961) observed a similar behavior in a molting Canada Goose to ward off a Peregrine Falcon.

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