TABLE 1
HUNTING SUCCESS OF A GROUP OF SHORT-EARED OWLS

Date	Adult male		Adult female		Immature	
	Success	Failure	Success	Failure	Success	Failure
24 January 76	5	1	0	0	1	6
27 January 76	2	0	1	0	0	3
28 January 76	0	1	3	4	0	0
29 January 76	1	0	0	1	0	0
30 January 76	4	3	3	4	1	2
Totals	12	5	7	9	2	11

5.099, df = 1, $P < 0.01$). This analysis, though the sample size is small, shows the young *A. flammeus* had not attained hunting skills equal to the two adults.

We conclude that the hypothesis of Ashmole and Tovar (1968) may be contradicted, and disparate life-history characteristics may be related to the lengthy attainment of adult hunting skills. The species first mentioned (all fish-eaters) apparently have a stable food resource and can reliably support themselves and a small brood over a long period of time, whereas the owl must track an unpredictable food resource, breeding only when a rich food resource is found. After breeding, when food supplies may decline in an area, adult *A. flammeus* appear to lead their young (if this group was a family group), intentionally or otherwise, to resource-rich areas, which may constitute an indirect form of post-fledging parental care that is adaptive by increasing the probability of young attaining enough food to survive. If the group we studied was not a family group, then perhaps young follow adults to resource-rich areas. Such a behavior implies that effective resource-tracking may have a learning basis in "nomadic-type" birds.

Acknowledgments.—We thank D. L. Beaver, L. Harper, R. J. Raitt, and three anonymous reviewers for comments on the manuscript.—THOMAS G. MARR AND DOUGLAS W. MCWHIRTER, *Dept. Zoology, Michigan State Univ., East Lansing, Michigan 48823.* (Present address TGM: *Dept. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Univ. Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721.*)*Accepted 20 Feb. 1981.*

Wilson Bull., 94(1), 1982, pp. 83–84

Observations at a Laughing Falcon nest.—Little is known of the breeding biology of the Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*), a species occurring from Mexico to southern Argentina. Several nests of this species have been found (Wolfe, Condor 56:161–162, 1954; Skutch, Animal Kingdom 63:115–119, 1960; Haverschmidt, Birds of Surinam, Oliver and Boyd, London, England, 1968; Mader, pers. comm.), but little has been published on activities at the nests.

On 15 July 1979, we located a nest containing a single nestling in the crotch of a tree (*Bombax* sp.) along the Río Limón, east of Hacienda Boca Chica, 22 km north of Olmos, Dpto. Lambayeque, Perú (5°30′S, 79°43′W), at 400 m. Both slopes of the valley were covered with dry, deciduous forest. The nest was in a crotch formed by three large limbs radiating

upward from the main trunk about 12 m above the ground. Two epiphytic cacti on the north side of the nest provided protection from the mid-day sun. No nest material was apparent, coinciding with observations of others (Brown and Amadon, Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World, McGraw-Hill, New York, New York, 1968; Wolfe 1954).

Evidently the nestling was several weeks old as judged by its size (nearly as large as the adult), its ability to feed itself, and the amount of whitewash at the nest-site. The nestling closely resembled the adult in plumage, but the rectus was yellower than the adult's. During the period of observation (11:20–16:36) the adult(s) brought three snakes to the nestling.

The first snake, originally 45 cm long, was delivered (less the anterior 8 cm previously eaten by the adult) at about 11:28. The nestling received an intact snake of the same size at 15:31. At 15:40 an adult arrived at the nest with a larger snake, similar in appearance but lacking its head.

The usual nest-site of this falcon is in a tree cavity, although it has previously nested in the crotches of trees (Haverschmidt 1968, Brown and Amadon 1968). In the apparent absence of cavities it has used old nests of other raptors in southwestern Ecuador (Grossman and Hamlet, Birds of Prey of the World, C. N. Potter, New York, New York, 1964). In the locality where we observed the nest, large trees that could potentially provide cavities were scarce. This may explain why the above nest was in a crotch of a *Bombax*.

On the west slope of the Peruvian Andes the Laughing Falcon was previously recorded only from Lechugal, Dpto. Tumbes, ca. 210 km north of our observation (Hellmayr and Conover, Catalogue of Birds of the Americas 13:242, Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois, 1949). J. William Eley and Thomas S. Schulenberg (pers. comm.), however, saw this species in late October 1977 on the Río Quiróz, southwest of Ayabaca, Dpto. Piura, suggesting that this falcon may be local but widespread in the little-known canyons of northwestern Perú.

We thank J. V. Remsen, Jr., J. P. O'Neill, M. D. Williams and T. S. Schulenberg for comments on the manuscript. We are most grateful to John S. McIlhenny, H. Irving and Laura R. Schweppe, and Babette M. Odom for their support of our fieldwork. Antonio Brock E., Marc Dourojeanni R., Susana Moller H., and Carlos Ponce P. of the Dirección General Forestal y de Fauna, Lima, Perú, continue their support and issued the necessary permits. We acknowledge the continued collaboration of Aero Perú.—MARK B. ROBBINS AND DAVID A. WIEDENFELD, *Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893.* *Accepted 9 Dec. 1980.*

Wilson Bull., 94(1), 1982, pp. 84–85

Evidence of Bald Eagles feeding on freshwater mussels.—A 1978 study of the winter habitat of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in the Coconino National Forest, Arizona, indicated repeated and potentially heavy use of a freshwater mussel (*Anodonta corpulenta*) in the eagles' diet. As many as 10 eagles (five adults and five immatures) were observed at Upper Lake Mary near Flagstaff when the junior author collected field data between 27 February and 10 March. However, only 2–3 eagles were present in the area through most of the winter. No foraging activity was seen, but a variety of circumstantial evidence was collected, suggesting more than casual use of this mussel.

Innumerable shell fragments and pieces of mussel tissue, as well as 4–5 broken shells and three intact shells with the contents removed, were scattered on the snow beneath favored eagle perch trees along the shoreline. Pieces of shell also were found in five of seven identifiable eagle castings. In the shoreline mud, where mussels were trapped and exposed after a rapid lowering of the water level, eagle tracks were abundant; however, no sign of other birds or mammals was observed there or in the snow beneath the perches. In Texas, win-