

several in the vicinity. I presume the honeycreeper chanced upon the behavior pattern and repeated it when it worked.—DENNIS R. PAULSON, *Burke Museum DB-10, Univ. Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195. Received 11 Nov. 1987, accepted 15 Feb. 1988.*

*Wilson Bull.*, 100(3), 1988, p. 504

**Osprey hunting on ground for small mammals.**—Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) are known hunting specialists that feed primarily on fish. Their hunting technique involves plunging feet first into water to capture prey. In contrast, here we report an Osprey successfully hunting on the ground for ground squirrels (*Citellus* sp.). The observation was made 27 June 1987 approximately 2 km south of Henry Lake, Idaho. The Osprey was observed walking along a dirt road for approximately 30–40 m. Every several meters it would turn its head to the right and either stop or continue to walk. Suddenly, it turned to the right, opened its wings and glided about 2 m, hitting the ground with its legs extended. The Osprey then hopped back toward the road with a ground squirrel in its talons, and flew off with its prey. The species of ground squirrel is unknown. However, ground squirrels were abundant in the area. Several Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) also were seen feeding on ground squirrels. Therefore, we assume that the Osprey opportunistically adopted this particular hunting technique to utilize a locally abundant food resource. Although our assessment is subjective, the Osprey did appear to be accomplished in this hunting procedure, suggesting that the technique had been utilized previously. In addition to their regular diet of fish, Ospreys may feed on birds, frogs, crustaceans, and small mammals (Wiley and Loher, *Wilson Bull.* 85: 468–470, 1973). However, there are few actual sightings of Ospreys capturing mammals, and their hunting procedures are not well known. Proctor (*Wilson Bull.* 89:625, 1977) observed an Osprey capturing a small vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) in a salt marsh. In that case the bird was observed to “hover in the same pattern it would in catching a fish and then plunge to the ground.” In contrast, we observed a rather unusual pattern (for Ospreys) of hunting by moving along the ground. Thus, at least two different hunting patterns may be used by Ospreys to catch small mammals. Since, in this instance, the observation was on hard ground rather than in a salt marsh, it is possible that the normal diving method of Ospreys precludes efficient swooping onto prey on hard ground, thus resulting in this particular bird’s adopting the walking hunting technique.—JOHN H. WERREN AND C. JEANNE PETERSON, *Dept. Biology, Dept. Pediatrics, Univ. Rochester, Rochester, New York 14627. Received 15 Dec. 1987, accepted 18 Feb. 1988.*

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**Unusual Greater Sandhill Crane egg.**—Normally, the eggs of a given species of bird are uniform and fixed in coloration so that a species can be identified by its eggs (Welty 1975). Furthermore, individual birds ordinarily lay eggs of consistent color and pattern (Littlefield 1981, Harrison 1984). Although variations do occur within species, a contrary phenomenon occurs when a bird that normally lays pigmented eggs lays white eggs lacking in color (Welty 1975). This has been documented previously in at least 34 North American bird species (Gross 1968), but until now has not been observed in Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*). Here we describe the white egg of a Greater Sandhill Crane (*G. c. tabida*) found on Modoc National Wildlife Refuge (N.W.R.), Modoc County, California, during 1986.

The 2543-ha Modoc N.W.R. surrounds the confluence of the north and south forks of