

Another female was captured on day 4 of incubation and had a body mass of 515 g. This female lost 8.7% of her initial body mass during a 33-day incubation period. Our data, though limited, indicate that female Hooded Mergansers lose relatively little body mass during incubation compared to other North American anatids (see review, Gatti 1983).

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Nonfish prey of wintering Bald Eagles in Illinois.—Many Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) winter in Illinois (Fawks 1979), where they feed primarily on fish (e.g., Southern 1966, Fischer 1982, Harper 1983). However, few reports have been published documenting their use of mammalian and avian prey in the midwestern United States (Lingle and Krapu 1986, Stalmaster 1987). This paper describes the almost exclusive use of nonfish prey in an upland population of Bald Eagles, and discusses related management implications.

TABLE 1
PREY ITEMS DETERMINED FROM 489 BALD EAGLE PELLETS COLLECTED IN
1981-1985 FROM TWO UPLAND NIGHT ROOSTS IN ILLINOIS

	Number of pellets containing prey ^a	Percent of pellets containing prey ^b
Birds		
Unidentified Passeriformes	17	3.5
Eastern Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella magna</i>)	4	0.8
Ring-necked Pheasant (<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>)	2	0.4
Mammals		
Domestic Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	362	74.0
Eastern Cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>)	196	40.1
Eastern Fox Squirrel (<i>Sciurus niger</i>)	13	2.7
Opossum (<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>)	7	1.4
Eastern Grey Squirrel (<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>)	3	0.6
Domestic Cow (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	3	0.6
Raccoon (<i>Procyon lotor</i>)	2	0.4
Prairie Vole (<i>Microtus ochragaster</i>)	2	0.4

^a Some pellets contained more than one prey item.

^b Including taxa found only once each: Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Unidentified Anseriformes, *Microtus* sp., carp (*Cyprinus carpio*).

During the winters of 1981-1985, regurgitated pellets were collected from two Bald Eagle night roosts. The roosts were located in Pike County, Illinois, 13 and 20 km from the Mississippi River in upland forests dominated primarily by oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and maples (*Acer* spp.). Both roosts combined were used by as many as 90 eagles in one evening. The remains of eight species of mammals and five species of birds were identified in 489 pellets; 99.2% (485/489) of the pellets contained mammals, and 5.3% (26/489) contained birds (Table 1). We never saw eagles attempting to capture live prey, but we often observed them scavenging carrion. As many as 30 eagles were seen feeding on domestic pig (*Sus scrofa*) carcasses at one time in the vicinity of both roosts, which were located in close proximity to livestock operations. All prey except pigs, domestic cows (*Bos taurus*), and voles (*Microtus* spp.) were observed as road kills in areas frequented by eagles. Although no remains were found in pellets, we also saw eagles feeding on skinned carcasses of Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) discarded by trappers. A bias toward nonfish prey species may exist in our pellet analysis as fish skeletons are more completely digested than those of other vertebrates (Todd et al. 1982). However, in approximately 1000 h of observations on foraging eagles, none was seen to feed on fish. In addition, fish were unavailable to the eagles because streams in the immediate area were completely frozen during the winters. This corroborates our data from pellet analyses that mammalian species were the primary prey rather than fish.

There are two implications related to these findings. First, eagles may die from secondary poisoning if livestock have been treated with pesticides. Farmers often use organophosphate insecticides in autumn for control of warbles in livestock (Henny et al. 1985). DeVries (pers. comm.) stated that in 1984 five Bald Eagles died in Iowa after scavenging domestic pigs treated with the pesticide fenthion. Second, upland areas should not be excluded when censusing wintering Bald Eagles (also see Russell 1968). In 1984 we saw 100 eagles in one

upland area of Illinois shortly after the midwinter Bald Eagle census conducted by the National Wildlife Federation. Since this census covered areas primarily along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, eagles in upland habitat may not have been counted, resulting in an inaccurate estimate of eagles wintering in Illinois.

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Breeding-season diet of Northern Saw-whet Owls in southwestern Idaho.—The Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) is a common inhabitant of forested lands from central Canada south to the central United States (Godfrey 1986). Despite its wide range, very little is known of its breeding biology (Cannings 1987). Catling (1972) noted that food habits data from the breeding season are “very meagre.” Indeed, we know of only one large sample of Northern Saw-whet Owl food habits from the breeding season (Cannings 1987).

Eight Northern Saw-whet Owl nests (1 in 1986 and 7 in 1987) were found in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area (BOPA) in southwestern Idaho. Unlike typical Northern Saw-whet Owl nesting habitat, the vegetation of the BOPA is shrub-steppe desert dominated by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). Trees are scarce and are confined to watercourses and farm settlements. All Northern Saw-whet Owl nests were in nest boxes, either in native riparian willows (*Salix* sp.) or in groves of exotic Russian olives (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) and black locusts (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Three of the nesting females in 1987 mated with the same male (Marks et al., unpubl. data).

We present data on diet composition and prey size of these owls during the breeding