

may be minimal behavioral effects on foraging. I do not mean to suggest, however, that if the 5% "rule" is observed, caution need not be exercised. Where possible, animals to which transmitters are attached should be observed to confirm "normal" behavior.

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Attempted polygyny by a Merlin.—The Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) typically is a monogamous raptor (Palmer, *Handbook of North America birds*, Vol. 5, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 1988). Here I report a polygynous nesting attempt by a male Merlin observed 18 April–27 May 1988, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This color-marked male occupied two different nesting sites (A and B), about 450 m apart, each with a different female. I made sporadic observations totalling about 20 h (10 h at each nest). I saw the male make six prey transfers at nest A and four at nest B. I also observed him copulate twice with female A and once with female B, and I observed him going into both nests, presumably to incubate. During the same period, I made 14 trips to nest A and 15 trips to nest B to collect food remains presumably brought to the nests by the male. The male appeared to have deserted nest B in the fourth week of May. The female remained near the nest until early June, after which she also deserted. Four young were raised successfully at nest A (the hatching date of the oldest young was approximately 1 June).

Polygyny is rarely reported in raptors but is suspected in many of them (Newton, *Population Ecology of Raptors*, Buteo Books, Vermillion, South Dakota, 1979). Although polyg-

yny is rarely reported in Merlins, (Roberts, in Newton, *op. cit.*), this is the first report of polygyny where the two nests were far enough apart so that they might be occupied by two different pairs (Type C polygyny). This is apparent from the fact that another pair was nesting 400 m from nest B and that two different pairs were nesting about 350 m apart at another location in the city.

Acknowledgments.—I thank L. W. Oliphant for comments on the manuscript and Geoff Peat for field assistance. This note was written while the author held a Univ. of Saskatchewan graduate scholarship.—NAVJOT S. SODHI, *Department of Biology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 0W0, Canada. Received 28 Sept. 1988, accepted 5 Dec. 1988.*

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A possible foraging relationship between Black-billed Magpies and American Kestrels.—While studying the behavior of American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) in Washoe County, Nevada, I observed a possible foraging relationship between Black-billed Magpies (*Pica pica*) and kestrels. On 20 occasions, June 1987–January 1988, I observed lone magpies flying from distances of up to 100 m away and perching within 2 m of solitary kestrels. During 15 of these observations, magpies remained at their perch and seemed to observe perched, non-feeding kestrels. During the remaining observations, however, magpies perched for 30–90 sec., then slowly approached feeding kestrels along the kestrels' perch to approximately 30–40 cm before kestrels flew carrying their prey. On two occasions, magpies followed kestrels to subsequent perches and repeated the behavior.

It is possible that magpies which perch near hunting or feeding kestrels utilize food leftover by kestrels. This idea is supported by one observation of a magpie eating food left by a female kestrel. It is well documented that magpies occasionally cooperate to harass larger, less agile raptors and steal their prey (Ryser, *Birds Of The Great Basin*, Univ. Nevada Press, 1985).

In addition, some researchers have suggested that magpies watch hunting coyotes in anticipation of a kill (Ryser 1985). Similar hunting relationships have been reported between certain raptorial species (Bourne, *Ibis* 102:136, 1960; Merchant, *Raptor Research* 16:26–27, 1982). However, this may be the first observation of a corvid systematically seeking a hunting or feeding raptor with the intent of securing food. This strategy may be energetically more efficient than chasing smaller more agile kestrels for the entire prey.

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Loggerhead Kingbirds feeding on Sesarma crabs.—Kingbirds (Tyrannidae) are known to use a variety of foraging behaviors (see Fitzpatrick, *Condor* 82:43–57, 1980). They have been observed to capture lizards (Pinchon, *Faune des Antilles Francaises: les Oiseaux*, Museum d'Historie Naturelle, Fort-de-France, Martinique, 1963; Wunderere, *Herpetologica* 37:104–108, 1981) and fish (Lefebore and Spahn, *Wilson Bull.* 99:291–292). Berries are also included in their diet (Fitzpatrick 1980).