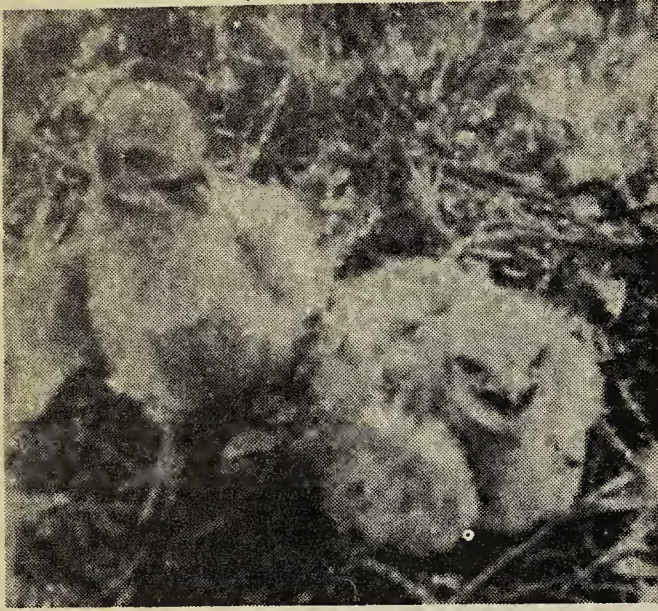


YOUNG RAPTORS

Photos by **Bill Horseman, Saltcoats**



Young Red-tailed Hawks, about two weeks of age—1958.



Young Great Horned Owl, about seven weeks old—1958.

Attempted Predation by Peregrine Falcon

Attempted Predation by Peregrine Falcon Observed at Regina

Since observations of the hunting tactics of raptorial birds and the response of their prey are only infrequently reported, chance observations of such nature are well worth recording. On May 9, 1958, at 1.50 p.m., as Fred W. Lahrman and I were checking shorebirds on a small pond about two miles south of Regina a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) suddenly appeared in rapid flight over the pond. Separate flocks of about 35 Long-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) and an equal number of Pectoral Sandpipers (*Erolia melanotos*) flew up off the water before we actually saw the Peregrine. Both flocks kept in compact groups while milling rapidly back and forth over the surface of the pond. The Peregrine made several rapid passes at the flock of Dowitchers which swerved rapidly before its attacks, then suddenly, as a group, hit or dived into the water. Upon emerging one Dowitcher flew off by itself and the Peregrine at once flew after it. Just as the Peregrine closed in on it the Dowitcher dived into the water and the hawk overshot its posi-

tion. Almost immediately afterward the Peregrine flew rapidly away from the pond. Presumably, this was the same Peregrine which was seen here and in the vicinity on several other occasions. Previously it had been noted to make one or two rapid flights across a pond which held hundreds of shorebirds and to fly away without any bounty.—Robert W. Nero, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.

Attempted Predation by Peregrine Falcon Observed at Toronto Island

I was interested to read of Mr. Fred Lahrman's observation of a Lesser Yellowlegs submerging to escape a Prairie Falcon (**Blue Jay**, XV, 146). I witnessed a similar occurrence at Toronto Island on Sept. 17, 1957, when a young Peregrine Falcon dived at a mixed flock of shorebirds and a Semipalmated Sandpiper ended up in the lake. Three times the Falcon swooped down and tried to pick it out of the water and each time the sandpiper submerged. When the hawk left it returned to the beach, dishevelled and exhausted. After some minutes of rest, however, it revived and began to fluff and preen its drying plumage.—Roy Wallace, Toronto.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) Record for Saskatchewan

By A. F. Oeming, Edmonton

On 11 October, 1957, my friend John Matthews of Edmonton while on a goose shoot near Luseland, Saskatchewan, observed an American hunter down a large falcon. The bird had stooped down on some ducks that were feeding near the hunter's goose decoys. Matthews was unable to observe the killing through his binoculars and upon walking to the scene of the killing he discovered the dead bird to be a large immature-plumaged female Gyr Falcon. The

bird was of slate grey coloration and weighed 57 ozs. In weight, color and age it was identical to the Gyr Falcon shot near Whitford Lake, Alberta, the previous fall.

INFORMATION WANTED— The writer would appreciate information on this species from anyone who has seen them during the fall and winter in Saskatchewan. Data as to color, location and activity at time of observation would be most appreciated. Of special interest would be any report of such a bird repeatedly seen in a particular area. Send information to Albert F. Oeming, Edmonton Zoological Society, Rm. 6, 10126-100 Street, Edmonton,

Prairie Falcon Nesting Records in Sask.

By Richard W. Fyfe, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History



Photo by R. W. Fyfe

Walter Knudsen and Chris Willoway examining Prairie Falcon nest site 280 feet above the valley floor at the Big Muddy.

The first and only reported nesting of Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) in Saskatchewan is that of a set of four eggs collected at Battle Creek (which flows from the Cypress Hills) by J. E. Bowman on May 3, 1914 (Godfrey, 1950. *Birds of the Cypress Hills and Flotten Lake Regions Saskatchewan*). To the present time no further nest records

have been recorded although these birds are occasionally seen and are listed as occurring in this province (Taverner, 1945, *Birds of Canada*; Bent, 1938, *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*).

On July 1, 1958, in Big Muddy Valley, three nest sites of Prairie Falcons were found by Walter Knudsen, Chris Willoway and myself. All three