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SHORT-TAILED HAWKS NESTING IN THE SKY ISLANDS OF THE SOUTHWEST

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ABSTRACT: Credible sightings of the Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) in southern Arizona, Sonora, and southwestern Chihuahua commenced in the 1980s and since then have become increasingly numerous throughout the sky islands of Arizona, New Mexico, Sonora, and Chihuahua. In this report we summarize previously unpublished sightings and breeding records from this region and compare aspects of the species' breeding biology in Arizona and Florida. In 2007 we intensively monitored one successful nest in the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona—the first fully confirmed nest in the western U.S.—and in 2009 we documented, but did not monitor, another active nest in the Sierra la Madera of Sonora—the first nest known in northwestern Mexico. Like other described nests of the species, both nests were placed near the tops of tall live trees, fully exposed to the sky. Both had broods of two nestlings, the maximum brood size known for the species. Both young fledged from the 2007 nest in the Chiricahuas, matching the productivity of three other probable nestings in the same locality that were documented by sightings of pairs of juveniles in 2003, 2006, and 2010. Together with sightings of single juveniles in 2001, 2004, 2005, 2008, and 2009, these records suggest a very high level of local breeding success. The diet at the 2007 nest was predominantly small birds (83% of 137 identified prey), similar to the diet of the species elsewhere. The majority of Short-tailed Hawks observed so far in the sky islands, including all individuals we have seen (with the exception of one bird in northwestern Chihuahua), have been of the light morph.

AN APPARENT HYBRID PHILADELPHIA × RED-EYED VIREO ON SOUTHEAST FARALLON ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

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ABSTRACT: Interspecific hybrids in the Vireonidae have seldom been reported, and the hybrid combination of the Philadelphia (*Vireo philadelphicus*) and Red-eyed (*V. olivaceus*) Vireos has been reported only twice before. We here report an apparent hybrid that remained on Southeast Farallon Island 7–13 September 2008. Its breast color, head pattern, head shape, and measurements were intermediate between those of the Philadelphia and North American subspecies of the Red-eyed. Details of the wing structure eliminated the Warbling (*V. gilvus*) and South American subspecies of the Red-eyed as possible parental species.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: FIRST NESTING RECORD FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY AND CURRENT BREEDING STATUS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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ABSTRACT: The Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) is extremely rare and apparently irregular as a breeding species in southern California. Nesting has been confirmed only 13 times, twice at Mt. Abel, Kern County (1989 and 1990), five times at Mt. Pinos, Kern/Ventura counties (1904, 1960, 1989, 1990, and 2009), once in Ventura County (1919), once in the San Bernardino Mts., San Bernardino County (2004), three times in the Cuyamaca Mts., San Diego County (1937–1938), and once at Big Pine Mt., Santa Barbara County (2009). The nest at Big Pine Mt. was notable not only in being the first for Santa Barbara Co. but in being built in an exposed situation in a dead burned tree in partially burned forest.

DIET OF THE WESTERN SCREECH-OWL IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

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ABSTRACT: We studied the diet of the Western Screech-Owl (*Megascops kennicottii*) at the northern edge of its range, in southeast Alaska. To describe the diet in the breeding season we collected pellets from beneath roost trees or nest cavities of 10 radio-marked owls, their mates, and their young. Mammals (found in 46 of 48 groups of pellets, 98%) and invertebrates (81%) were the most frequently taken prey, birds (23%) the least. We tallied 115 mammalian and 25 invertebrate prey items (all insects). Mammalian prey were either rodents (*Cricetidae*) or shrews. To eliminate bias associated with pellet analysis and to describe the diet during the nonbreeding season, we analyzed stomach contents of 15 owl carcasses salvaged from September to February. Insects (47 of 57 prey items; 82%), particularly beetles and caterpillars dominated the contents of these stomachs numerically; mammals constituted only 5 of 57 items (9%). Thus in southeast Alaska Western Screech-Owls feed to a large extent on small mammals, primarily deer mice (*Peromyscus*), and supplement that diet with insects, especially in the winter.

NOTES

A POSSIBLE HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF A MATED FEMALE BY A MALE AMERICAN DIPPER

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BOOK REVIEW

The Contra Costa County Breeding Bird Atlas, by Steven Glover. 2009. Mount Diablo Audubon Society, Walnut Creek, CA. 260 pages, 56 black and white illustrations by Dana Gardner. Two color maps and numerous black and white maps. Paperback \$26.80 (with shipping and taxes). Purchase through www.diabloaudubon.com. ISBN: 978-0-615-30194-5.

**VIRGINIA P. JOHNSON RECEIVES WFO'S ALAN M. CRAIG
AWARD**

FEATURED PHOTO

**DOCUMENTING REPEATED OCCURRENCES OF INDIVIDUAL
BIRDS WITH DIGITAL IMAGES**

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