

same area reported above. However, the hawk is not pure white but light cream-colored and apparently does not have a black oval around the eye (John E. Cely in letter to Lewis, 11 June 1979). Lewis has affirmed (letter, 14 June 1979) that the bird he saw was not a Red-tailed Hawk.—JRH]

## Red-tailed Hawk Capturing Fish

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The Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is a widely distributed and successful predator, taking prey ranging through mice, snakes, squirrels, and rabbits to birds virtually as large as itself. Nonetheless, we were quite startled to observe one taking fish from the surface of a lake.

At 0930 on 2 May 1979, William Brown and I were boating across Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, Wake County, N.C. The weather was fair with a southeasterly wind of about 5 knots. A Red-tailed Hawk appeared over the lake gliding approximately 40 m above the surface. As we watched, the bird stooped suddenly and snatched an object from the lake. The hawk then turned and flew directly over our boat at not more than 20 m altitude. The prey item was clearly a fish.

The actions of the hawk suggested that it was an experienced fisher. Its manner of flight indicated a posture of searching, and its capture technique was similar to that of a fishing eagle. Both feet were thrust downward and forward in synchrony, and, as far as we could determine, no part of the bird other than the talons was wetted. Dead and moribund Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculata*) and Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) are a fairly common sight at Lake Wheeler in midspring and seem to represent a largely unexploited food resource. At least one Red-tailed Hawk had learned to use this abundant and easily taken source of prey.

## Spring Record of the Hudsonian Godwit in Inland South Carolina

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While jogging late in the afternoon of 26 April 1979, Valega noticed three shorebirds on the athletic fields at Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. He approached within 20 or 30 yards of the birds and noticed their upturned bills and a black-and-white tail pattern when they flew, even though he did not have binoculars with him. After returning to his hotel room, he checked his field guides and was convinced that the birds were Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemastica*). He then called LeGrand, and both observed two remaining birds with binoculars and telescope late the next afternoon. Sidney Gauthreaux and LeGrand observed the two godwits on 28 April in extreme detail, and the birds were last seen on 30 April.

Throughout their stay at Clemson, the godwits remained in a very limited area of the field, a closely mowed lawn, and returned to it when flushed. They probed deep into the damp, spongy ground with their bills, and they were surprisingly tame for such large birds. Frequently feeding in association with the godwits were several Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus*