

in charge of the remainder, and in that capacity resented in a ferocious manner my handling of the rest. One of the parents also made a half-hearted effort to frighten me by diving towards me. It took good care, however, to remain well out of reach. In the nest at the time were two gray gophers, one of them partly eaten, showing in spite of five almost fully grown young that the parents were able to keep the larder well supplied. I would like to draw attention here to the habit these birds have of going far afield for their hunting. In the case of nest No. 2 the nearest gray gopher colony was fully two miles away, while to secure them in numbers entailed a journey of four or five miles, and there is reason to believe that the hawks went even further than this. That they usually flew directly to their hunting grounds was also evident from the fact that in no instance were striped gophers found in the nest, though those rodents were met with more than once in its vicinity. While the hawks keep the nest and its immediate surroundings free from refuse, I was, nevertheless, able to secure a few pellets, which, as is well known, all birds of this kind disgorge. An examination of these revealed much gopher hair, a few feet of those animals, and two feet of a meadowlark, both in the same pellet, showing that they doubtless belonged to one bird.

As I left the nest its defender still stood erect on its edge watching my every movement, like a sentry on duty, and thus he remained until distance hid him from my sight.

On July 5th, a parent hawk which was flying very high, suddenly made one of those dives for which the birds are remarkable. In a moment it was among a brood of young turkeys, and but for their remarkable instinct in hiding, and my presence soon after, would have undoubtedly carried off one of them. As it was, the hawk continued on its journey southward to the usual hunting grounds.

On July 17th I visited nest No. 1 for the last time. I found it inhabited by four almost fully-fledged young. I had, in fact, just taken a photograph, and was searching for pellets beneath the nest, when the strongest bird flew out, but finding its weight still too great for its wings, it came to earth rather suddenly some 40 yards away, not, however, with sufficient force to be injured, as was indicated by the vicious manner in which it met me as I approached. Its onslaught was most determined, and I was obliged to defend myself with a spade, which the hawk struck repeatedly with its claws, but never with the beak. When exhausted with its efforts at jumping, it threw itself upon its back and strack out with both feet. Having finished my observations I retired, the hawk actually making after me, evidently considering that I was being driven from the field. The