barn owls during times of food shortage. However, this behavior usually is difficult to witness. More observations at raptor nest sites are needed to document the fate of nestlings that mysteriously disappear from their nests and to determine how frequent this behavior is and under what circumstances it occurs.

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## OSPREYS (*Pandion haliaetus*) SCAVENGING FISH ON ICE

The diet and foraging behavior of ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) have been studied extensively in North America (A.C. Bent 1937, *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 167:352–379; T.C. Dunstan 1974, *Wilson Bull.* 86:74–76; J.E. Swenson 1978, *J. Wildl. Manage.* 42:87–90; A. Poole 1989, Ospreys, Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, U.K.; S.P. Fleming et al. 1992, *Auk* 109:649–654), and other parts of the world (Y.A. Prevost 1982, Ph.D. thesis, Univ. Edinburgh, Scotland; S. Cramp and K.E.L. Simmons 1980, The birds of the western Palearctic, Vol. 2, Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, U.K.). Live fish, caught by plunging into shallow water, comprised over 99% of the diet in each osprey population studied thus far (Poole 1989). In this paper we provide details of ospreys scavenging dead and dying fish, caught by fishermen, from the ice surface during the first week of nest site occupation in Canada.

Between 1 April and 6 April 1993, two ospreys were noted on artificial nest platforms in the Honey Harbour area of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron (44°51′N, 79°49′W). Ice cover was complete during this period on all water bodies within at least 8 km of these nest sites, and the main melt did not occur until the second week of April. In 1991 and 1992 the first ospreys were noted in this area on 7–8 April, and some of these birds flew up to 12 km to reach open-water fishing areas.

On at least three separate occasions in the 1–6 April period in 1993, the two ospreys were seen by one of us (EC) soaring and hovering above ice-fishing holes in a small bay 2 km from the nest sites. Fishermen were catching large numbers of black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*) at this time, and usually left 15–30 cm fish on the surface of the ice. Since many different ice holes were fished by up to 50 people on some days, dead and dying black crappies were sometimes left unattended beside ice holes for up to 30 min. On several occasions both ospreys swooped down to the ice surface about 100 m from the nearest fishermen, and each flew off with a black crappie.

Ospreys have been noted previously to pick up dead or dying fish from the water surface or from shoreline rocks (Bent 1937, Dunstan 1974), but these appear to be the only published accounts of such behavior. We know of no other accounts of ospreys taking fish from the ice surface, but elsewhere in Lake Huron, fledgling ospreys occasionally take fish scraps thrown to them by fishermen (W. Davis pers. comm.). Ospreys regularly use large fish carcasses for nesting material (Bent 1937, Poole 1989), and we have noted this behavior in the Great Lakes. We have also recorded a male osprey picking up and eating a dead largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) floating at the water surface in Georgian Bay.

Ospreys arriving back at nest sites in northern parts of North America are often confronted with extensive ice coverage of foraging areas during the pre-laying period. These observations of freshly caught fish taken at ice-fishing holes reflect the osprey's adaptability in foraging techniques, and its remarkable tolerance of human presence.

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## UNUSUAL PARENTAL BEHAVIORS BY MALE NORTHERN GOSHAWKS

The parental role of male raptors during nesting is typically limited to providing food for their mates and young It is uncommon for male raptors to participate directly in brood rearing, such as brooding or feeding nestlings (L.