

SWAMP HARRIER TAKING SILVER GULL. During a visit to the St Kilda Saltfields (approximately 30 km N of Adelaide) on 7 May 1996, we witnessed an aerial attack on a Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* by a Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*. After flying into a small flock of gulls, the harrier caught one bird in mid-air and brought it down into one of the shallow ponds on the northern boundary. The harrier stood on the gull for a few minutes to submerge and drown it. Then the harrier plucked the gull, leaving a trail of feathers blowing along the surface of the water. Swamp Harriers take a variety of prey in flight, including groundbirds, waterbirds, frogs,

snakes and rabbits and have been recorded taking coot and grebes from open water (Holland 1984).

REFERENCE

Holland, D. 1984. *Eagles, hawks and falcons of Australia*. Thomas Nelson Australia, Melbourne.

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Received 31 July 1996; Accepted 13 Jan. 1997