

Southwest Biological Science Center Weekly Highlights March 6, 2006

Breeding biology of Red-tailed Hawks in an altered desert grassland: USGS SBSC research ecologist Bill Halvorson co-authored, with his former graduate student Royden Hobbs and colleague USGS Wildlife Ecologist Steve DeStefano, a paper that will be published in the first issue of volume 40(2006) of the Journal of Raptor Research. The study showed that the invasion of mesquite into the southwestern desert grassland has likely improved conditions for red-tailed hawks by increasing the availability of nest sites and hunting perches. (Bill Halvorson, Tucson, AZ, 520-621-1174)