

their talons. Between attacks, the bird on the rabbit would shield it with outstretched wings. When a second adult arrived, they competed while the juvenile watched from the ground.

After about an hour, all three were driven away by a yearling wild tom cat (*Felis catus*), which was not fully grown. While the cat fed, the harriers circled above. About 20 minutes later, the cat ran into the scrub when I released the camera shutter. After 15 minutes, an adult male ferret (*Mustela furo*) appeared and began to feed on the rabbit. The cat reappeared, approached, bared its teeth and hissed, but the ferret took no notice. Both then fed, face to face. Eventually the cat departed, 10 minutes later the ferret departed, and the juvenile harrier returned to feed (the adults having long gone).

These predators should not have been unusually hungry. Rabbit numbers were high enough for the pest destruction board to poison the area 2 months later.

PETER COOK, 2 *Fraser Crescent, Twizel*



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