Fall Hawkwatching: When & Where. A Guide to the Best Times and Sites in Our Region

Paul M. Roberts

For several hundred years, relatively few migrant hawks were reported in Massachusetts, an area that for the past century has been one of the most heavily birded areas in the country. That is because, while small numbers of hawks might be found almost anywhere and at any time during migration, to see large numbers of hawks you generally have to be actively looking for them at the right time and place and invest some focused effort.

You are more likely to see good numbers of hawks if you specifically hawkwatch, rather than look for them in the course of other birding. On September 13, 1978, as more than 10,000 Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) streamed over Wachusett Mountain in a three-hour period, a visitor to the summit of that mountain looked up and asked what we were looking at. I handed him a pair of binoculars and only then did he notice the largest "river of hawks" ever reported in Massachusetts until that time. In fact, four observers with binoculars, looking specifically for hawks, did not notice that flight until hundreds or more birds had already passed directly overhead. In general, to see large numbers of hawks, you must be looking for them.

The best time to look for most hawks is during the fall migration (Fig. 1). That is when thousands of birds that breed to our north and northeast, and their young of the year, move through Massachusetts in significant concentrations. This migration starts in August with relatively small numbers of migrating hawks, particularly Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus*

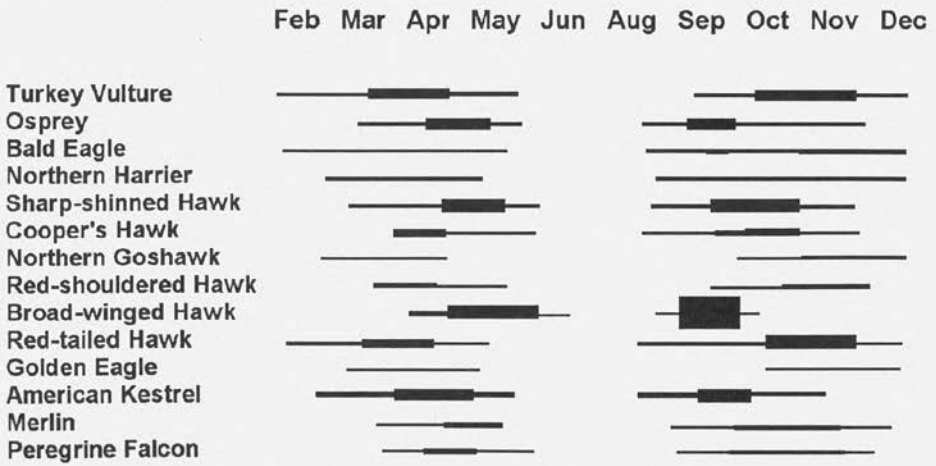
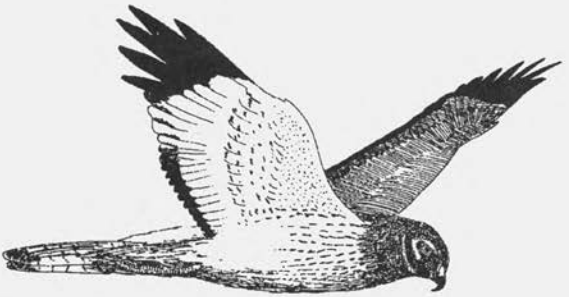


***Figure 1**: Size and timing of raptor migration through Massachusetts — the thickness of the lines indicates the relative size of the flights.*

leucocephalus). The most hawks, in terms of absolute numbers, can be seen in September before the summer is technically over. Most numerous is the Broad-winged Hawk. At some locations, several days each fall, hundreds, occasionally thousands, of Broadwings may be seen at a single site in one day, primarily between September 10 and 24. The next most commonly seen September migrants are the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), American Kestrel, Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), and Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Bald Eagle counts peak in September, although their numbers are relatively small compared with those of the others.



The total number of migrant hawks ebbs, but the variety improves in late September and early October, when you are likely to see more of the larger, less common raptors. These include Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii)*, Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), and small numbers of the migrants that tend to peak later in October or early November. Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) are likely to be the most abundant migrant then. During this period you are also likely to have your best chances to see Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), and Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), along with the occasional Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) or adult male Northern Harrier and, once in a lifetime, a Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*). These late migrants are often found wintering in Massachusetts. By mid-to-late November few concentrations of migrating hawks will be seen, although southbound movement continues in small numbers into the new year.

RULES FOR SUCCESS

There are two rules for successful hawkwatching. First, hawkwatch as often as possible. The more often you get out, especially during September and October, the more likely you are to see lots of hawks and become familiar with their field marks. The second rule is to hawkwatch under the conditions most favorable to hawk migration at your watch site.

Weather Considerations

In the fall, the best migration conditions can occur the day of, and up to two days after, the arrival of a high-pressure system or cold front. The cold, clear air riding over the warm earth on a cool, sunny day facilitates the formation of thermals, or columns of warm air that rise high above the ground. Broad-winged Hawks, with a migration of 3000-5000 miles or more, heavily rely on thermals to help them migrate. A number of hawks can use the same thermal, leading to concentrations hawkwatchers call "kettles." With scarcely a wing beat, a few hawks – or hundreds – might soar, or

kettle, together in a thermal, soaring up hundreds, perhaps thousands, of feet to a point where the thermal is dissipating (often marked by puffy cumulus clouds). These kettles often seem to boil to the limits of vision. The hawks then use the altitude gained in this leisurely manner to glide silently yet quickly toward their destination. When they peel off from the top of a high thermal, their gradual descent can cover miles before the birds seek another thermal to ride aloft. Though Broadwings are heavily dependent on thermals for migration, any other species of hawk can use the same thermal. In fact, concentrations of Broadwings are good markers for other hawks migrating in the area, identifying an easy way for other hawks to continue their migration on the cheap.

Moderate to weak winds, generally under twenty mph, blowing anywhere out of the north, from northwest to northeast, and clear skies are best for good thermal and hawk activity inland. In eastern Massachusetts, many of the biggest fall flights have been seen on northeast winds, typically the result of a backdoor cold front. (We generally think of a cold front as producing northwest winds, which it usually does as it moves in from the west or southwest. The winds that occur on a cold front actually depend on where the cold front comes from in relationship to your location. A backdoor cold front is one which has passed north of you and then suddenly drops south, so that you are at four or five o'clock on the high, and the winds are out of the northeast rather than the northwest.) A backdoor cold front in September is ideal for hawk migration, producing the best soaring conditions and a tailwind in the direction the birds are moving. That is when you are most likely to have real thermal streets, ideal conditions for monster flights.

If the winds are quite strong out of the north quadrant, inland observers might find more birds flying relatively low along ridges rather than soaring over the summits of isolated hills or monadnocks. Most hawk species are not as dependent as Broadwings on thermals, and they frequently use winds deflected off ridges to give them lift. The best fall coastal flights tend to be seen on the day of or day after strong northwest winds.

Don't assume hawks migrate only when the winds are from the northwest to northeast. I believe Broadwings try to migrate at least a little every day if the weather permits, whatever the wind direction. "Keep moving" is the rule. If the winds are adverse, or thermals weak or nonexistent, Broadwings will still continue to move, one by one. They just won't go very far. Without thermals or other good lift there is nothing to bring Broadwings together in large numbers for the benefit of hawkwatchers.

When rain or strongly adverse winds, such as hurricanes or an early northeaster in Maine have held up migrants, they will fly under far less than ideal conditions. I don't think Broadwings typically fly in rain, but on one rainy day in New Hampshire in the last third of September, after several days of bad weather, thousands of Broadwings were seen streaming between rain showers. In 1980 the biggest flights of the year were seen on southeast winds.

It is important also to examine the weather north/northeast of you. For example, if a cold front, particularly a backdoor cold front, has cleared out of Maine and much of New Hampshire, hawks there can be moving in big numbers after several days of rain. If the front ran out of gas, there could be a stationary front over southern New Hampshire or northern Massachusetts, giving us a low cloud cover and stagnant air. Broadwings moving on the cold front, however, will be anxious to move as far as possible while weather permits. What this means is that even if Massachusetts does not have strongly favorable migratory conditions, hawks may continue to pedal uphill for a while, flying southwest although the flight conditions are deteriorating. Under such conditions, hawkwatchers can have large flights low, often beneath the summits of montane sites. Some of the most spectacular flights have occurred under such conditions, with hundreds or thousands of birds giving up the day's flight and settling into the surrounding woods for the night. If you wait for ideal weather, you could miss some spectacular flights. (Of course, you could also spend considerable time looking at apparently vacant skies!)

Just such a situation occurred on one of our 20,000 hawk days. As I started driving to Wachusett Mountain, the skies were leaden. I debated turning around at Concord and going to work, but it was the fifth anniversary of our first big flight at Wachusett. I persevered, in honor of that event. When I got to the mountain, I discovered most hawkwatchers had looked at the skies and pressed snooze alarm or reported to work. Between 11 a.m. and noon, EST, 2600 hawks exploded over the summit. Between noon and 1 p.m. the impression of those birds was obliterated by a storm tide of 16,000 hawks sweeping low across the mountain, the most spectacular hawk flight I have ever witnessed (*Fall 1983 Eastern Massachusetts Hawkwatch [EMHW] Report*). Always remember that hawks don't listen to forecasts. They go with what is, and sometimes they press the envelope.

Time of Day

What time of day should you hawkwatch? It depends. On good days small numbers of hawks may be seen moving at sunrise, if not earlier. This is especially true at coastal sites, such as Lighthouse Point in Connecticut. Many coastal sites appear to have the bulk of their birds between 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. EST, with a small flurry again at the end of the day. Inland, you tend to see not so many birds in the early hours, but they might be very low and afford excellent views. You are likely to see more hawks as thermals develop. Prime time inland is essentially 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST, but decent flights can occur anytime until around 5 p.m. EST, when you may see birds settling into the woods for the night.

Be careful about rushing to judgment and leaving early. One mid-September day when weather conditions at Wachusett Mountain seemed ideal, we saw only several hundred hawks for the first 4.5 hours of coverage. Many disappointed observers left around noon. I was ready to return to the office for a half day of work myself, but I dawdled, slowly changing my shirt and putting on a tie. I was in the midst of changing from gym shoes to wingtips, wearing one shoe of each persuasion, when someone shouted "kettle out over the Uncanoonucs," signaling the arrival of a flood surge of hawks unlike anything I had seen before – 20,000 birds. (Those treasured wingtips saved my life! Suicidal urges can be powerful when one misses a great flight.) The hawks had just been blocked farther north than we had thought. On more than one occasion, most hawkwatchers have left by around 3 p.m. daylight time, only to have the few remaining observers (one of whom is often Eliot Taylor) tally flights of several thousand, often coming in low and slow. When you see hawks depends on where they were the day before . . . .

Locations

Where should you go hawkwatching? Massachusetts birders are fortunate in having many excellent sites from which to chose (Fig. 2). Three of the state's premier hawkwatching sites are discussed in some detail below. Go to any of these three locations in September, on a weekend in October and early November, or on a weekday with a nice cold front, and you are likely to find another hawkwatcher or two. Additional pairs of eyes are quite valuable, and their experience may be helpful in identification. Wachusett Mountain averaged over 12,000 hawks a season over 24

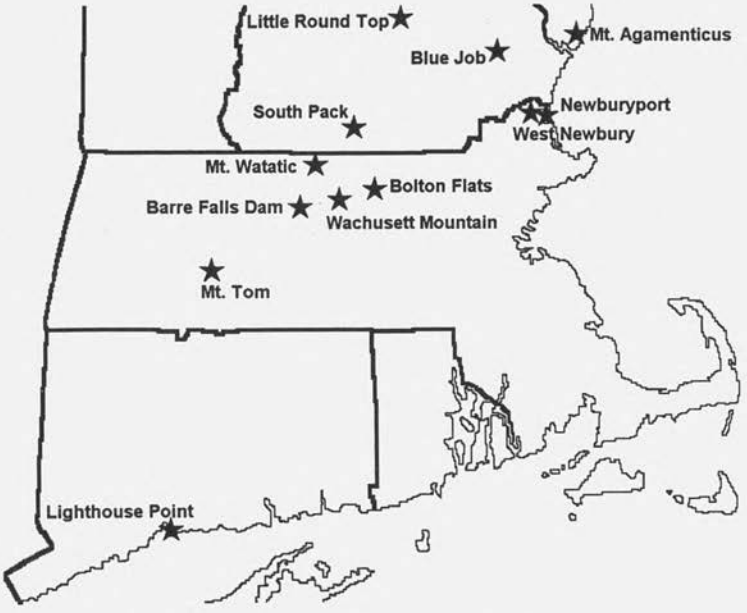


Figure 2: Southern New England hawkwatch locations cited in the text

years, and that total represents primarily September counts, since later coverage is sporadic. With better coverage in October and early November, the average would likely be much higher. Mount Watatic has averaged 7700 hawks a season over fourteen years and 11,400 over the past five years. (Watatic numbers basically reflect more extensive coverage in the second half of the season.) Mount Tom averages around 2500 hawks with only several days' coverage a year, primarily during Broadwing season. No doubt many more hawks would be seen at either site with additional coverage.

You need not go to a major site to see a good flight, however, especially in September. Massachusetts has many excellent but lesser-known and infrequently covered hawkwatch sites, some of which are briefly described below. There are also excellent sites in Maine, New Hampshire, and Connecticut, only several of which are listed here.

Be Prepared

When you go hawkwatching, take clothing more than adequate to keep you warm. It can turn quite cold on windy, exposed hawkwatch sites. Also take adequate food and drink. If the hawks are flying, you won't want to leave the site in pursuit of physical sustenance. It's also advisable to take binoculars, a spotting scope, a compass, a notebook, and one or more friends with you. The more eyes the better. The compass will help you find the site and evaluate the view as well as determine flight directions. The notebook is for recording the numbers you count, the time you see each bird or kettle, and what you observe about the hawks, including questions you have about the birds you can't identify. Using your binoculars and scope, you should regularly scan the sky in all directions, including directly overhead and behind you. It's amazing how many hawks can pass by unnoticed, only to be seen flying away from you! Finally, you should take several field guides with you, so you can look up those questionable birds.

With time, patience, good judgment, and a bit of luck, you can discover the unique rewards of hawkwatching.

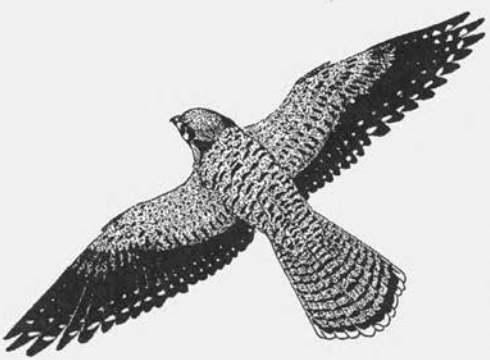
MASSACHUSETTS HAWKWATCH SITES

Wachusett Mountain State Park, Princeton, MA

The best-known site in Massachusetts is Wachusett Mountain (2004 feet), a monadnock offering excellent views in all directions. The primary advantages of Wachusett are its proximity to many eastern Massachusetts birders — it is only an hour west of Boston – and that you can drive to the summit (the road opens at 9 a.m. Memorial Day through the last Sunday in October). The summit also accommodates people more comfortably than can Mount Tom, which can be both an asset and a liability on weekends when foliage is at peak. If you prefer to hike, there are a number of beautiful trails to the summit. When the road is closed, the Pine Hill Trail is the shortest, quickest, and of course steepest route to the summit, requiring about twenty minutes.

In fall, the best observation site is from the northeast edge of the summit parking lot, scanning the sky from Gardner in the northwest to Boston in the east and Worcester to the south/southeast. A second lookout only several dozen yards away, just to the right of the fire tower, provides a good view to the west and northwest.

Another good site is the Oxbow, located just a relatively short walk (quarter mile) from the Visitor Center on the "down road" only a few hundred feet from its merger with the "up road." When winds are strong, thermals are often blown apart, encouraging hawks to tend to rely more on orographic lift, created by wind deflecting off surfaces like mountain slopes or ridges. Also, some species, such as sharpshins, tend to be ridge fliers, using orographic lift to help them migrate and often to hunt in the process. Even under prime thermal conditions in September, with Broad-winged Hawks kettling by hundreds or thousands, a number of sharpshins, kestrels, and other hawks may skirt the summit. (Hawkwatching from Little Wachusett, to the south of Wachusett, long ago revealed that at times a number of hawks don't go over the summit, or past the Oxbow.) Late in the season, when you're looking for birds such as Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks that don't migrate as far as Broad-winged Hawks, the Oxbow may offer excellent views of hawks that might not be seen from the summit.



Directions: Take Route 2 to Route 140 (south) in Westminster. Take Route 140 south several miles to Wachusett Lake, where you turn right onto Mile Hill Road, following the signs to the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area. Drive past the ski area to the reservation entrance partially up the mountain on your right. Restrooms and water are available in the Visitor Center to your left. Immediately inside the reservation, turn right again onto the all-weather road to the summit. Don't have an extra large coffee on your way to the hawkwatch. There are no facilities on the summit. The drive to the restrooms is about three miles roundtrip. You can pretty well guarantee that when you drive to the restrooms, the flight or the bird of the day will occur.

Mount Watatic, Ashburnham, MA

Mount Watatic (1832 ft) has emerged as one of New England's top hawkwatching sites, due to the efforts of Tom McCullough and, more recently, Petti Staub. The bad news is that a moderately long, steep hike is required to reach the site. The good news is that means there is no auto congestion and relatively few people at the watch on any one day. Fall hawkwatching is best done from East Watatic, the bare knob to the southeast of the summit. Watatic, the southern terminus of the twenty-mile-long Wapack range or ridge, is an excellent site for observing thermal and ridge fliers.

Directions: From Boston, take Route 2 west to Route 31, then 31 north to Route 12. Follow Route 12 to Ashburnham, turn right onto Route 101, and take it to Route 119. Turn left onto Route 119. After 0.7 mile you will see the first trail on your right, at the power lines. This is the shortest but steepest and most rugged way to the summit. The half-mile hike takes thirty minutes. I recommend continuing 0.8 mile west on 119 to an off-road parking area and an old logging road on your right. Two easier trails to the summit begin here. The beautiful Blueberry Ledge trail is 1.1 miles long and takes about forty-five minutes. The Nutting Hill trail is 1.9 miles and takes an hour. (Recent, controversial construction has affected the summit.) East Watatic is quite exposed to strong winds; pack adequate clothing and beverage. Water and restrooms are not available on the mountain.

Mount Tom State Reservation, Easthampton, MA

The first major hawkwatch site identified in New England (1936), Mount Tom, at 1202 feet, offers beautiful views of the Connecticut River Valley. In the fall, Goat's Peak Tower is the best observation point. It is essential to use the tower, and that is one of the drawbacks to Mount Tom. On weekends, when a good flight is anticipated, the tower can be crowded. On such occasions some hawkwatchers will migrate to Skinner State Park, across the Connecticut River from Mount Tom, to hawkwatch.

Directions: Take Interstate 91 north from Interstate 90. Take Exit 17W onto Route 141, continuing 1.7 miles to the reservation entrance, Christopher Clark Road, to the east. Take Clark Road 2.9 miles. Not far beyond the park headquarters, you'll see a large parking lot to your right. Park here, and walk up the surfaced road that climbs the hill at the rear of the lot. A fairly steep ten-minute hike will take you to Goat's Peak Tower. Restrooms are available at the park headquarters.

OTHER MASSACHUSETTS SITES

Barre Falls Dam, Barre Falls

Recently discovered by Bart Kamp, Barre Falls has the potential to be a very good site. From the east, take Route 2 west to Route 68 south in Gardner. Follow Route 68 through the center of Hubbardston to Route 62 west. Follow Route 62 west about 3 miles to the entrance to Barre Falls Dam on the left. About a half mile down on the left is an unpaved parking lot, which is the hawkwatch site. Restrooms can be found further down the road, next to the picnic area.

Bolton Flats, Lancaster

Many hawks tend to fly along the Interstate 495 ridge and cut southwest across the flats. This is one of the most promising sites in Massachusetts. From Interstate 495 in Bolton, take Route 117 west. Cross Route 110, and turn right into the Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area parking lot. Scout along Route 117 for good views to the north and east. *In October this is a hunting area, so hawkwatch only on Sundays in the late fall.*

Downtown, Newburyport

Downtown Newburyport between Cashman Park and the public parking lot east of the Route 1 bridge offers excellent opportunities. Some observers, like Jim Barton, have had good numbers of Osprey coming from coastal New Hampshire and turning westward up the Merrimack here. On October 3, 1998, Rick Heil observed a flight of 250 hawks, including an amazing 71 Ospreys, 57 Northern Harriers, 5 Merlins, and 13 Peregrine Falcons (*Fall 1998 EMHW Report*). The assumption is that hawks migrating close to the coast follow the southwest-oriented curve of the New Hampshire coast and continue southwest through Newburyport rather than swing southeast toward Plum Island.

Page School, Route 113, West Newbury

The Page School appears to be most productive on the day of or following strong northwest winds. As many as 5000 hawks have been seen here in a single day. Take Route 113 west from Interstate 95 in West Newbury. Cross the Artichoke Reservoir (Garden Street on left). In about .8 mile after Garden Street, the entrance to the Page School will be on your right. Drive left around to the back of the school building. On weekdays, when school is in session, please stop at the school office to request permission to hawkwatch.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Little Round Top, Bristol

Little Round Top, the most historic site in New Hampshire, is covered primarily during the Broadwing season. Best conditions at Little Round Top are winds from the east or southeast, the opposite of what is desired at most New England sites. Take Exit 23 off Interstate 93, heading west toward Bristol. In the center of the village take Route 3A south for a very short way, looking for the Rescue Squad building ahead. Take High Street, just to the right of that building (3A goes to the left). Continue uphill on High Street to the crest of the hill, and turn right onto New Chester Mountain Road, marked by a sign for Slim Baker Lodge, and usually with a sign saying "hawkwatch." New Chester Mountain Road dead ends in a parking area. Walk up the trail through the woods to a small fire road that ends on the summit near a big wooden cross and an outdoor chapel. The watch site is on the promontory just below the cross. The walking time is five to fifteen minutes, depending on your condition. The trail has some short but moderately steep sections.

South Pack Monadnock, Miller State Park, Temple

South Pack has a road to the summit, which offers a spectacular view of New Hampshire and a beautiful ridge trail to North Pack. The site is covered only sporadically, primarily on weekends in Broadwing season. South Pack is located in Miller State Park, three miles east of Peterborough on Route 101 or about ten miles west of Milford. The entrance to the park is on the north side, just west of the Temple Mountain ski area. Drive to the top of the mountain. A fee is charged (about $2.50 per person). You can hawkwatch from the northeast corner of the picnic area at the

parking lot or follow the Wapack trail markers north for several hundred yards for views to the northwest. Restrooms, water, picnic tables, and grills are available.

Blue Job, Strafford/Farmington

Blue Job (pronounced the same as the Biblical Job), an isolated monadnock in the middle of the coastal plain, offers an excellent vantage point for potential big flights. Take Exit 13 off the Spaulding Turnpike (Route 16) onto Route 202 west. At the first blinking light turn right onto Estes Road. At end of Estes Road go left (west) onto Route 202A. At about one mile the road bears sharply left and another road goes straight ahead. Take this road (Crown Point Road) straight ahead for about 4.5 miles. It has several uphill sections. Look for the Blue Job parking lot on the right, opposite a red house. From the parking lot, take the recently upgraded fire road/trail at the locked gate. (Do not take trails on the right side of the parking lot.) When this road/trail climbs steeply right, take the narrow trail that veers off to the left. There one should follow a well-worn trail and cairns to the granite north summit. The Fire Tower can be seen on the south summit to the right. This moderate 20 to 30 minute walk rewards the visitor with nearly 360 degree spectacular views: Mount Washington to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast. Alternatively, from Route 4 east of Concord, turn left onto Route 202 in Northwood. Continue through Barrington, and after the Barrington/Rochester town line, look for a left turn onto Estes Road, just beyond Dry Hill Road. Proceed as above from Estes Road.

MAINE

Mount Agamenticus, York

Agamenticus, on the coast of Maine and easily visible from Plum Island, is typically best on the day of or following strong northwest winds. The site is particularly good for accipiters and falcons, and occasionally Broadwings. Drive north on Interstate 95 to Exit 1, the last exit before the York tollbooth. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left, crossing back over the interstate. Shortly after crossing over Interstate 95, turn right onto Chase's Pond Road, heading north and paralleling the interstate. After 3.8 miles, Chase's Pond Road joins Mountain Road and curves to the west. In 2.7 miles, just before Mountain Road turns to dirt, there is a short, paved road on the right that leads steeply up to the summit. Park in the gravel parking lot and look for hawks from the grassy hilltop area.

CONNECTICUT

Lighthouse Point Park, East Haven

Lighthouse is the best fall site in New England to see accipiters and falcons well. Generally best on any winds from the north, from northwest to northeast, it is *the* best

spot to observe Cooper's Hawks in good numbers and to make comparisons with Sharp-shinned Hawks. To reach the park, head north on Interstate 95 from New Haven, and take Exit 50 (Woodward Avenue, Lighthouse Point). Turn right onto Townshend Avenue, and proceed about 2.1 miles to Lighthouse Road. Turn right onto Lighthouse Road, which leads into the park, and keep to your left, going toward the bathhouse. Hawkwatching is generally done in the large field between the parking lot and the bathhouse. If heading south on Interstate 95 toward New Haven, take Exit 51 (U.S. 1, Frontage Road, Lighthouse Point), which merges with Frontage Road, and runs parallel to Interstate 95 for about a mile. Turn left at the light onto Townshend Avenue, and continue as described above. Restrooms are available. Fast-food outlets are nearby. You might want to bring a lawn chair or chaise lounge for comfort.

DISCOVER A NEW SITE

To see as many hawks as possible, it is important to hawkwatch as often as possible. That is easier to do if you have a hawkwatch site close to your home. If one of the sites described above is not close to your home, or you are reluctant to drive far, explore for hawkwatching sites near you. The abundant Broad-winged Hawk, perhaps the raptor easiest to see in migration, tends to move on a broad front, so that during September flights might be discovered almost anywhere in the state except the southeast corner, the Cape, and the islands. Linda Nachtrab often hawkwatches from her home in Maynard (*Bird Observer* 28 (6): 386), while Tom Piro hawkwatches on lunch hour in Groton. Dave Brown and Craig Jackson began a very productive hawkwatch close to home in the Middlesex Fells in the heart of greater Boston (Malden).

In the fall, look for a site, preferably a mountain, hill, ridge, or open area with a view to the north stretching from the northwest to the northeast. Explore under favorable weather conditions in peak season to give the site a fair test. Scan the sky regularly with good binoculars. Don't be disappointed if your site isn't productive the first day or two. Hawk flight paths are determined by a combination of weather, topography, and timing over thousand of miles, so they are irregular. Check your count for the day against reports on MassBird or the Mass Audubon Hotline of counts elsewhere that date.

REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Hawkwatching can be great fun, especially when you see good numbers of hawks. However, your counts can also help everyone understand the nature and magnitude of hawk migration. Keep a complete record of what you see in a notebook, recording every hour the direction and estimated speed of the wind, visibility, and percent of cloud cover. Note each hawk seen by species if possible, but don't hesitate to record "unidentified raptor" when you aren't sure of the identity. (I record hawks by the minute, including other birds seen at the same time, in a notebook and transfer summaries to the report form at night.) Complete and submit an official report form on your hawkwatching. Official daily report forms can be obtained from <http://www.hmana.org> (click on forms) or by writing Paul Roberts at 254 Arlington

Street, Medford, MA 02155 or calling 781-483-4263. Submit your report forms to the same address or via email to phawk@world.std.com. Your data will then be included in reports developed for each season by the Eastern Massachusetts Hawkwatch, the NorthEast Hawkwatch (NEHW), and the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). These three organizations publish seasonal reports on hawk migration in their progressively larger regions, and your data will also be entered into a hemispheric database of hawk migration counts. You can have a lot of fun and contribute to our understanding and conservation of birds of prey.

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Paul M. Roberts*, of Medford, MA, is Director of Communications for Analogic Corporation of Peabody, one of the world's largest designers and manufacturers of medical imaging equipment. Paul began hawkwatching in the early 1970s, and in 1976 founded the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, which he led for over twenty years. He served several years as Editor of* Bird Observer, *was chair of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) for four years, and is currently President of the NorthEast Hawkwatch. In 1995, he received the Maurice Brown award from HMANA for his service to further hawk migration study and conservation. He lectures to bird clubs and teaches courses for several Massachusetts Audubon sanctuaries on hawks, shorebirds, and waterfowl.*