

extending in all directions to the horizon drifted masses of cumulus clouds with patches of blue sky between. Looking far out to the northwest two Hawks, perhaps a mile away, were seen wheeling over the valley at a slightly lower level than our point of observation. Then, as if from nowhere, other Hawks rapidly appeared, swooping, turning and soaring upwards in irregular steep spirals. More and more individuals appeared until the specks resembled a swarm of large insects, black against the pearl gray clouds. The total number was estimated to be between thirty and forty. Now they soared slowly, now flew with rapid wing beat at great speed. Each individual chose his own course without evidence of leadership. In from five to ten minutes (the exact time unfortunately was not noted) the flight had gained great altitude and to our astonishment the highest birds began to disappear in the clouds, some of them reappearing and again diving into the mist. Finally the whole flight had spiralled upward into the cloud mass and was lost to view. Once, half a minute later, a few specks wheeled out toward us and for a moment could be dimly seen through the edge of the cloud. That was the last glimpse.

Continuing to the top of the mountain we asked the forester stationed there his estimate of the height of the clouds, he thought them to be about 7,000 ft., for the top of Mt. Washington was clearly visible.

One of the interesting points about the flight was the speed with which it gained altitude—roughly 3,000 or 4,000 ft. in five or ten minutes. It seems probable that these Hawks were assembling for the migration and that, like a bombing squadron, they found it advantageous to rise above the cloud curtain before starting south. In fact as they circled upwards the whole flight was already moving in a southerly direction.

They must have been one of the larger Hawks, probably *Buteo*, though without field glasses we could not identify the species.—H. S. & H. B. FORBES, *Milton, Mass.*

Goshawks and Snowy Owls.—The present season is a remarkable one for the number of Goshawks (*Astur atricapillus*) and Snowy Owls (*Nyctea nyctea*) which have been killed along the Atlantic Coast from Canada south to Maryland. Three taxidermists in Maine are reported to have mounted upwards of one hundred Snowy Owls, and others have been brought into New York, Philadelphia and Washington. Two flew directly at some duck hunters in a skiff on the Chesapeake and were shot, while one or more have come onto ocean liners while still some distance off shore.

The Goshawks have been even more abundant and one gunner in northern New Jersey has personally handled over one hundred. This would seem to be the greatest flight of these birds for at least forty or fifty years.¹—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Nesting of Short-eared Owl in Illinois.—The item contributed by Mr. Pierce Brodtkorb published among the "General Notes" in the July

¹ See end of "Notes and News", beyond.

issue of 'The Auk,' with the title "Short-eared Owl Breeding in Illinois," suggests a record which perhaps has not found its way into print.

In the early part of May, 1910, when calling at the home of Mr. Benjamin T. Gault, at Glen Ellyn, Illinois, I was shown a skin of a newly hatched Short-eared Owl which he had just prepared. It was taken from a nest of seven or eight eggs which, when found a few days before, were on the point of hatching. It is my recollection that Mr. Gault said that it was his first breeding record for the species and that the nest had been found not far from his home. It is upon this and doubtless other records that Mr. Gault lists the species as a breeder in northern Illinois in his list of the birds of the state.—EDWARD H. FORD, *Washington St., Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Pileated Woodpeckers Wintering in Cleveland County, Oklahoma.—The most exciting find of our 1925 Christmas census was a Pileated Woodpecker; it was the first time we had seen this fine bird in central Oklahoma. On January 1, 1926, the female *Phloeotomus pileatus pileatus* was found in the same deep woods near the South Canadian River and I was fortunate enough to be able to watch her for over an hour. I heard her loud cry and saw her hammering at a bare place on the side of a cottonwood branch; she would pound for a while and then insert her beak and appear to bore. All at once I noticed a Flicker creeping quietly up the limb; when within a foot of the great stranger it stopped and waited. The Pileated soon changed her position to the top of the branch, whereupon the Flicker unobtrusively slipped into her place and inserted its bill into some of the holes. All at once Pileated discovered the interloper and made several dabs with her beak; the Flicker made a few dabs in return, then dropped to a lower limb. The Pileated flew with a cry to another cottonwood, while the Flicker hurried back to the interrupted feast.

Later the Pileated Woodpecker, taking no notice of me, flew to small trees and alighted on a fallen log; she was incautious and noisy. In the distance I heard a loud *Wick-up wick-up wick-up*; she answered *pup-pup-pup-pup-pup*.

On February 1, I caught only a glimpse of this same bird although we sometimes heard them and saw evidences of their recent work when we visited these woods. It was not until April 6 that we saw one again; this time it was the male. April 21, was the last date on which I recorded one of these Woodpeckers.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Norman, Oklahoma.*

Say's Phoebe at Brooklyn, N. Y.—It has been my good fortune to add to the already long list of birds of Dyker Heights Park, Brooklyn, a sight record, under very favorable circumstances of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis sayus*).

The bird was observed at close range, feeding on insects of some sort quite near the ground in a patch of weeds near the two ponds, a quarter