

Hawk mentioned by Alexander Wetmore, in his note "A Duck Hawk views the inaugural ceremonies." ("The Auk," XLVI, No. 2, April, 1929, p. 235.) This particular Hawk is of interest in its relation to the Starlings coming in on their evening trips to roost.

One evening I took my stand on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue opposite the Post Office Building, where it perches. As the sun became low and the first Starlings began filtering in from the city in little groups, the Duck Hawk high on the Post Office tower became an interested spectator. To him it was another great parade, but it evidently thrilled him and moved him as no 4th of March parade composed of humans ever will. He finally decided to sit quiet no longer and launched forth almost beside a big, compact, incoming flock of Starlings sweeping past him toward 7th Street. They too became aware of him, but they did not seem much disconcerted, appearing only to pull their ranks a little closer, and quicken their pace somewhat. To keep up with them he was forced to do rather active flying, and much turning, for the Starlings returned and swept up the Avenue again and back past the clock, the Duck Hawk in close attendance. At first he looked only like an innocent pigeon entangled with their movements, but it was another story. The Starlings knew their business, however, and kept on the wing in a very compact group as if almost inclined to defy this dangerous enemy. Nothing was done, and he finally tired of the game, returning to his high perch on the Post Office Building. As other birds swept by it seemed to me dangerously close to him, he would turn his head and watch them intently. Finally he launched out with another flock down the Avenue, and as this began to disintegrate with swift downward descents into the trees, he suddenly dropped, too, following a particular bird, but the strike was unsuccessful. The numbers dropping around him seemed to be somewhat disconcerting. Again he retired to the high stone cliffs of the Post Office Building. Although many other Starlings swept by, and some seemed to pause as if inclined to harry him, he merely craned out his neck quizzically and kept his perch.—H. A. ALLARD, *U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

A Spring Flight of Broad-winged Hawks.—Hawks flights are of common occurrence during the fall, but unusual enough in the spring to be worthy of record. On April 21, 1929, my wife and I motored with Miss Margaret Livingston and Philip A. Livingston to Top Rock, situated on the Delaware River near Kintnersville, Pa. About noon we noticed several Buteos circling above us, which proved to be Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo p. platypterus*). A moment later several more appeared, flying in the same direction,—southeast. Suddenly we became aware that the air was literally filled with Hawks as far as one could see to the northwest. All proved to be *platypterus*. They were flying rather low, but rapidly,—evidently bound for some particular objective. My notes state there were approximately seventy-five birds observed.

Mr. Julian K. Potter has called my attention to a flight of Broad-wings

reported in the July–August “Bird Lore” by Mrs. C. S. Hegeman, observed by her on April 20, flying north over Verona, N. J. Mrs. Hegeman states, “there were easily seventy-five hawks.” Inasmuch as these flights were only one day apart and the estimates as to numbers agree, it would appear that it was the same flock, which turned about in an effort to escape a terrific rainstorm which was brewing in the direction from which they came.—JOHN A. GILLESPIE, 313 Sharp Ave., Glenolden, Pa.

Winter Nesting of the Barn Owl.—In ‘The Auk,’ January, 1926, Messrs. Julian K. Potter and John A. Gillespie record the autumnal nesting of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*) in the lower Delaware Valley, stating that “a search of available literature discloses only one other winter nesting record.” They doubtless refer to Bendire’s record of the birds that nested in the tower of the Smithsonian Institute. The following incident, however, may indicate that the Barn Owl nests in winter more frequently than has been supposed.

On October 10, 1926, while a gang of workmen were felling a grove near Calcium, Berks County, preparatory to the construction of a reservoir, one of the trees, containing a Barn Owl’s nest, fell into a stream and two young Owls were washed from the cavity. One of these was swept away in the current while the other was rescued and brought to the Reading Museum. This one appeared to be about three weeks old.

Over two months later I heard that another family of Barn Owls occupied a tree some three-quarters of a mile from the former site. On the bitter cold night of January 12, 1927, I visited the tree in question and found that conditions made it impossible to climb to the nest without running a great risk of plunging into the icy waters of the Ontelaunee Creek. The constant calling of the young and the repeated visits of the old birds, however, left no doubt in my mind that there were indeed several young in the nest.

While these may have been the parent birds of the October tragedy, the latter tree is an old site, and has been continuously occupied either as a nest or roosting place for some years so that I am led to believe that it was an entirely different pair.—EARL L. POOLE, Reading Public Museum.

Great Horned Owl vs. Barn Owl.—The keeper of our local Zoo recently placed two Barn Owls (*Tyto alba pratincola*) in the same cage with two Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*). The following morning when he went to look after the birds he found the two Great Horned Owls but only *the feet* of the Barn Owls. No other creature could possibly have gained entrance to the cage so it is to be deduced that the large Owls ate the smaller ones.—LEO A. LUTTRINGER, Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Red-headed Woodpeckers in Migratory Flight.—On September 16, 1929, a flight of Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) was observed passing over the marshes at the head of Sandusky Bay,