

N. J., May 17, 1892 (Stone Birds of New Jersey etc. in, Ann. Report N. J. State Mus. 1908, p. 132). It is therefore a source of satisfaction to be able to add another record; that of a female which I collected at the mouth of the North River, Marshfield, Mass. while in company with Mr. Joseph A. Hagar, on 27 May, 1930. The skin is now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

The bird was with an enormous flock of small Sandpipers, an overwhelming number of which were *Ereunetes pusillus* (Linn.). It seems only fair to state that neither of us picked out the bird in life; its capture was due entirely to one of those curious twists of fortune. I was looking especially for White-rumped Sandpipers, and seeing one a little apart from the main flock, shot it. While I was picking it up Mr. Hagar retrieved two wing broken "peeps" one of which was a Semipalmated, the other a Western Sandpiper.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*

**Buteo platypterus in Porto Rico.**—It was recently my privilege to accompany Mr. H. J. Coolidge, Jr. on a brief visit to Porto Rico. On March 12, 1930, we were the guests of Col. George W. Lewis, Chief of the Insular Police, on an ascent of El Yunque, the principal mountain mass lying in the northeast part of the island.

A short distance below the summit I heard the familiar squeal of a Broad-winged Hawk and a few moments later two birds, presumably a pair, were seen a short distance ahead. One of the birds swooped down over the party within easy gun shot, and so close that the characteristic field marks were plainly distinguishable. Perhaps it was just as well that I had no gun with me, for the bird presented a most tempting target, but would almost certainly have been lost in the tangles on the steep mountain slope below the trail.

The Broad-winged Hawk has not been seen in Porto Rico for thirty years. Wetmore (*Birds of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands* 1927, p. 323) mentions an individual seen by Dr. C. W. Richmond near Utuado, April 6, 1900, but the bird has not been encountered by any ornithologist since that time.

In the absence of specimens from Porto Rico it is not possible to state definitely to which subspecies the bird should be referred, though it is extremely doubtful whether it belongs to *B. p. insulicola* Riley, of Antigua and Barbuda, the nearest race in point of distance. It is far more probable that it is the same as the bird resident in Cuba which was described by Mr. F. L. Burns as *Buteo platypterus cubanensis*, a form usually regarded as indistinguishable from the typical race of North America, but which seems to merit recognition on the basis of slightly smaller size.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*

**Mass Occurrence of the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) in the Mountains of North Carolina.**—On August 1, 1930, the writers had the unusual privilege of seeing seven Duck Hawks in the air at one

time over Grandfather Mountain, N. C. The section of the mountain where this occurred lies in Avery Co. We had been on "The Nose," one of the higher peaks of the mountain, and an hour or so earlier had seen one adult Duck Hawk fly past at high speed and disappear toward the Tennessee line. As we started down the trail over "The Nose" and rounded a small shoulder of the peak a high-pitched scream greeted us, and, looking up, we got a beautiful view of an adult Duck Hawk at a range of not over two hundred yards. The bird was in such good light that we could easily get the black "moustache" markings and distinguish the various other color markings of a mature bird, even the pinkish suffusion on the breast showing distinctly. But we could not spare many minutes for this bird, for just behind it was another, and then another, and still another, and then three more following these at a short distance, making seven Duck Hawks in plain view at once. It was not a strung out flight; all seven were more or less together, and once four of them were in the field of the glasses at the same time. There were both adult and immature birds in the group. They passed in a generally southerly direction parallel with the line of the mountain, most of the time high in the air but at times coming quite low and close to the peak on which we stood. After a scream or two from the first bird, none of them made any further sound. Even our wonder at the sight of so many individuals of this rather rare Hawk was forgotten at the remarkable aerial maneuvers which some of them then performed. Every now and then two of the birds separated from the general group to indulge in acrobatics. One circled higher and higher until almost out of sight and then, with wings half closed and set, dropped for half a mile with terrific speed at the other bird, banking with a lightning-like turn just in time to avoid a collision, and pulling the other bird over and over with the rush of air. Again and again this happened, several couples performing this feat, until finally the whole group passed out of sight, leaving us almost breathless at the sight that we had witnessed. Mr. Forbush, in his 'Birds of Massachusetts,' calls attention to the fact that often a family of Duck Hawks will linger together about an aery long after the young are grown. It seemed to us rather likely that these seven birds belonged to two such family groups. He also says, "When the fledglings have become skilful in flight, both young and adults in practice or in play often strike at birds which apparently they have no intention of capturing." The performance that we witnessed seems to have been a variation of this habit in that the Duck Hawks were striking at one another in play rather than at other birds.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*, JAMES J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

**Urban Burrowing Owls.**—When I first came to San Diego from New York State in 1921, a surprising discovery, among many interesting new bird experiences, was the occurrence of Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea*) in well-settled parts of the city. A certain individual roosted daily in a pepper tree in front of the Central Y. M. C. A., almost