

To the writer this decrease in the number of eagles in this region does not mean that the species is being unduly persecuted. The factors at the root of the decrease probably are an increase in the number of people living in the area and the felling of the pines used as nesting sites.—JOSEPH C. HOWELL, *Contribution no. 78 from the Zoological Laboratory, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma.*

**Turkey Vulture in Vermont.**—On August 19, 1940, while motoring through Halifax and Whitingham, Vermont, I saw near the village of Jacksonville, about three miles north of the Massachusetts line, a Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*, flying westward slowly and unmistakably. Perhaps it was the same wandering bird as had been seen at Pelham, Massachusetts, August 4 (Margaret Morse Nice) and Squam Lake, New Hampshire, August 10 (K. W. Burke). Only two Vermont records were given by Forbush in his 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States' (2: 89, 1927), and only four—and of these only one is complete, with date, locality, and observer's name—are known even now to Wendell P. Smith, the State Ornithologist. But in recent years, principally in late April, the species has been seen remarkably often in western Massachusetts, and one can predict that it will visit southern Vermont more and more frequently.—SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.*

**Osprey kills itself.**—On a late autumn day in 1924, Dr. Charles W. Creaser (now of Wayne University, Detroit, Michigan) and the writer observed an Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*) flying over an oxbow lake off the Kaw River a few miles upstream from Lawrence, Kansas. Erratic movements of the bird attracted attention; it was being pursued by smaller birds that flew above it and made diving attacks upon it. The Osprey dodged and struck at its assailants with its feet. Suddenly it dropped downward, tumbling over and over, and fell upon the water. Floundering, it remained afloat until, after considerable delay, we had reached it in a rowboat. The bird had pierced its wing above the elbow with a claw of its left foot, and broken the humerus. The flesh of the arm had been torn and bruised by frantic, but unavailing, efforts to extricate the talon; pieces of broken bone had lacerated muscles and skin. Although still defiant toward its captors, the bird was apparently dying presumably because of shock, chill, and loss of blood.—R. CHESTER HUGHES, *Zoological Laboratory (Paper no. 77), Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma.*

**Spring and winter hawk censuses from Illinois to Oklahoma.**—On two trips by car in 1940—from March 8 to 20 and December 21 to 27—counts were kept of all hawks seen; my husband, although the driver, watched for birds on his side of the road, and from March 8 to 13 we had the assistance of Dr. Alfred Lewy. A summary is given in Table 1 of the total number of these birds recorded in three States during favorable weather. The return trip December 26 to 27 was made through continuous rain in Oklahoma and Illinois and no hawks were visible.

The totals for each trip—one hawk for 18.5 miles in spring and one in 16 miles in winter—do not differ much. The counts in Missouri are about the same at each season, but in Illinois hawks were twice as numerous in March as in December, while in Oklahoma, on the contrary, they were four times as numerous in winter as in spring. It looks as if the hawk population had shifted to the north in March. However, on 652 miles in Louisiana from March 9 to 17 a total of 42