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

TABLE 1

ROADSIDE CENSUSES OF HAWKS FROM ILLINOIS TO OKLAHOMA

	March	*Mile-age*	*Total seen*	*Miles per hawk*	*December*	*Mile-age*	*Total seen*	*Miles per hawk*
Illinois	8,20	658	55	12	21	264	10	26
Missouri	8,19,20	346	12	29	21,22,27	408	13	31
Oklahoma	17–19	420	10	42	22–25	403	44	9
		1424	77	18.5		1075	67	16

hawks was seen, an average of one to 16 miles (Nice, Indiana Audubon Year Book, 17: 6–13, 1940).

In December we saw no hawks on 114 miles in northern Illinois; the 10 birds on 150 miles in central Illinois (from Bloomington to vicinity of St. Louis) gave an average of one to 15 miles. In Missouri no hawks were seen on the wooded black-jack and post-oak plateau portion of route 66 through the Ozarks; the habitat is unsuitable, and the detection of birds of prey by the observer in an automobile would be difficult. The hawks were noted in the valley of the Mississippi River and in open, farming country in southwestern Missouri on route 60.

The numbers of four genera of hawks recorded are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

KINDS OF HAWKS SEEN IN SPRING AND WINTER

	Accipiter		Buteo		Marsh Hawk		Sparrow Hawk	
	Spring	*Winter*	*Spring*	*Winter*	*Spring*	*Winter*	*Spring*	*Winter*
Illinois	1	0	4	0	12	1	38	9
Missouri	0	1	2	4	0	1	10	7
Oklahoma	0	2	4	19	2	8	4	15
Total	1	3	10	23	14	10	52	31
Number per 100 miles	.07	.3	.9	2.3	1.3	1	3.7	3

At both seasons *Falco sparverius* was the most abundant hawk, constituting 67 per cent of all individuals seen in spring, and 46 per cent in winter. *Buteos* made up 34 per cent in winter, 13 per cent in spring; *Circus hudsonius* 15 per cent in winter, 18 in spring. Of the 126 hawks seen on the *whole trip* of 2605 miles in March, 50 per cent were Sparrow Hawks, 25 Marsh Hawks and 22 *Buteos*—Red-tails, Red-shoulders and two Broad-wings. The number of miles per hawk averaged 20.7. When we compare the number of each genus seen per hundred miles in spring and winter, we find a significant difference in the *Buteos,* for the winter population was two and a half times as high as that in spring.

In December we found a fair population of wintering hawks from central Illinois south to central Oklahoma. In March we met migrants in Illinois, but we reached Oklahoma after the winter population of American Rough-legs and many Red-tails had left for the north.

In northwestern Ohio, Hicks and co-workers (Ohio Wildlife Research Station, Releases 116, 119, 122, 124), found an average of one hawk per 36 miles in September 1938, on a total of 5314 miles and one in 22 miles in September 1939, on 2780 miles. In June 1938, they recorded one hawk in 76 miles on a total of 9330 miles and the following June one in 55 miles on a total of 22,770 miles. Hawks, of course, are much easier to see in fall, winter, and early spring than in summer.

Roadside censuses of hawks can give us valuable information as to their numbers in different parts of the country at different times of the year.—MARGARET M. NICE, *5708 Kenwood Ave., Chicago, Illinois.*

Pectoral Sandpiper in North Carolina in winter.—On December 9, 1940, a male Pectoral Sandpiper (*Pisobia melanotus*) was collected at Mattamuskeet Lake, New Holland, North Carolina. The bird was in an extremely emaciated condition. While no evidence of mechanical injury was noted, the entire intestinal tract showed evidence of inflammation. It seemed obvious that the bird had been unable to proceed south at the time of the regular migration. I have, on a number of occasions, skinned belated birds and found them in the same condition, due either to disease or injury, and believe that more frequently than we suspect unusual seasonal records of migrants may be due to this cause.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

Avocets in Maryland.—The first-known occurrence of Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) in the State of Maryland was recorded by the writer on September 30, 1940, on the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. A pair of the birds was seen on the morning of that day wading in shallow water and probing about for food at the edge of a three-square (*Scirpus olneyi*) marsh bordering the Blackwater River on the refuge and about 100 yards from the headquarters buildings. Subsequent observations on various days showed that the birds moved about quite freely, although they always remained within several hundred yards of the place in which they were first observed. They frequented a small freshwater pond nearby, and as the water was somewhat lower than usual, a good supply of small minnows and similar food was readily available. The two birds appeared to be unafraid of spectators, as on one occasion an outboard motorboat approached within about twenty feet of the birds without causing them to take flight. They remained together until October 17. On the next day, but one Avocet was observed and it remained at the same feeding grounds until November 2, 1940, when it, too, left. The writer was able to approach the two birds close enough to take a picture of them, which is now on file in the records of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. Sight observations were also made and confirmed by Dr. David E. Davis, Robert W. Allen, Alan W. Souder, Robinson Watters, John H. Sutherlin, and George Tonkin.—DAVID V. BLACK, *Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Cambridge, Maryland.*

Franklin's Gull an addition to the Florida list.—Howell (Florida Bird Life, p. 474, 1932) includes the Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan,* in the hypothetical list on the basis of a sight record by Pangburn (Auk, 36: 395, 1919), who reported one bird seen on February 26, 1918, at St. Petersburg. On July 1, 1937, Wm. I. Lyon banded