

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. Sutherland, 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