

So engrossed were we with the numbers of Sparrow Hawks that the recording of only three Pigeon Hawks (*F. columbarius*) suggests that some of this species were overlooked. Other hawks recorded were: Sharp-shinned (*Accipiter striatus*) 613, Cooper's (*A. cooperii*) 6, Red-tailed (*Buteo jamaicensis*) 7, Red-shouldered (*B. lineatus*) 4, Marsh (*Circus cyaneus*) 82, Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) 14, and Peregrine (*F. peregrinus*) 4. Our total for the day was approximately 25,600. This estimate is conservative particularly in view of the fact that birds flying before 09:00 are not included.

We also noted four Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), 15 flocks of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) with 50 to 250 in each flock, several flocks of Robins (*Turdus migratorius*), one of about a thousand birds in such a compact mass that it seemed to bounce along in a gusty wind like a ball, a flock of 13 Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), and overwhelming numbers of small passerines mostly sparrows and warblers.—ERNEST A. CHOATE, *Cape May Point, New Jersey 08212, 20 December 1971.*

Osprey carrying a mammal.—During our investigation of the Peace River near its confluence with Branch Creek in Hardee County, Florida, on 6 January 1972 at 14:00, we were surprised to observe an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) unmistakably carrying a mammal in its talons. The mammal was approximately the size of a squirrel or small rabbit. The bird flew over at a height of 30 feet about 75–100 feet downstream from our position. It paralleled the river for a short distance before disappearing into the bordering woods.

Ospreys are known to be almost exclusively piscivorous, but occasionally are reported to take crustaceans, amphibians, and birds (Brown and Amadon, *Eagles, hawks and falcons of the World*, Vol. 1, p. 198, 1968). Bent (*Life histories of North American birds of prey*, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 167:368–369, 1938) mentions that Ospreys have been known to take beetles and reptiles on rare occasions. Sindelar and Schluter (*Wilson Bull.*, 80:103, 1968) reported an Osprey carrying what was believed to be a Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*).

We assume this occurrence occurred as a direct result of a large phosphate slime spill entering the Peace River from a detention pond that burst on 3 December 1971. Over 90 per cent (Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission sample estimate) of the resident fish were killed by the choking slime. The spill may have forced the Osprey to turn to other prey items for sustenance—in this case the mammal.—WILLIAM W. TAIR, H. MALCOLM JOHNSON, AND WILLIAM D. COURSER, *Southwest Florida Water Management District, Post Office Box 457, Brooksville, Florida 33512, 28 January 1972.*

The migration of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper through Surinam.—The migration of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) through continental South America, to and from its winterquarters in Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina is but poorly known. According to my cooperator Mr. Th. Renssen, who lived for some time at the sugar estate Marienburg (Commewijne Dist.), Surinam and whom I thank for sending me the specimens mentioned below, it is a regular but not numerous migrant both in the northern fall and spring. It favors open ground with a very low vegetation but especially recently harvested and burnt over sugar cane fields. This same habitat is frequented by the American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) and the Upland Plover (*Barrhamia longicauda*) and the Buff-breasted Sandpiper is often in company with these two species. The earliest date during the fall migration is 15 August 1969 (sight) and birds were collected (all in the Leiden Museum) on 20 September 1966 (male, weight