

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to sincerely thank John M. Condit, Curator of Higher Vertebrates, Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity, for information regarding and access to the Great Gray Owl specimen at Columbus. Mr. Condit would like to let everyone know that the Museum's collection has been moved from Sullivant Hall to 1315 Kinnear Road, and is open to members of the public for serious research purposes. Appointments are required, and should be obtained from Mr. Condit by calling (614) 292-0543. I would also like to thank Wendy Wasman, Librarian at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, for allowing access to much of the literature cited throughout this report.

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An Overview of the 1992 Fall Hawk Flight in Northwest Ohio by Tom Kemp and Matt Anderson

As developing birders in the Toledo area, we learned that there were often good hawk flights in the fall on days with northwest winds. Unfortunately, this idea of westerly winds producing the flights prevailed until only recently. It was not until this fall, as we made a concerted effort to chart the movement of hawks through the area, that we discovered raptors are moving through on winds from virtually any direction and that the best flights were in fact on days with east winds, not west! This piece is presented as an overview of the 1992 fall hawk flight in northwest Ohio.

This fall, we specifically watched for migrating hawks on 29 days from September 6 until November 29, for a total of approximately 90 hours. Our best day was unquestionably September 12 when over 1600 hawks passed over the Oak Openings of western Lucas County. Most of these were Broad-winged Hawks. The following day produced over 500 hawks, most of which were again Broad-wingeds. The only other day when truly large numbers were seen was October 4. Almost all of the nearly 300 birds seen that day were Turkey Vultures and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Monthly totals were 2363 for September (93% Broad-wingeds), 1244 for October (65% Turkey Vultures), and 122 for November (57% Red-taileds). Needless to say, the November flight was beset by many days of bad weather and was rather disappointing.

Top individual days (with wind direction) for selected species follow. There were four 100+ days for Turkey Vulture: October 4 (east), October 7 (south), October 22 (southeast), and October 23 (southwest). The top day for Sharp-shinned Hawk was October 4 when 60 were counted. No other day came close to this. October 31 (east) was the best Red-shouldered Hawk day with 33 being seen. This was almost half of the entire season's total. Broad-winged Hawks numbered 1590 on September 12 and 476 on September 13 (both southeast). The best Red-tailed Hawk day was October 31 when 74 were counted. The Table provides a complete list of species and numbers seen.

That large numbers of raptors should be seen migrating through northwest Ohio each fall should come as no surprise. Thousands of hawks round the western end of Lake Erie at Holiday Beach Provincial Park in southwest Ontario, and then head south. It is likely that most of these pass through the Toledo area on their way to their wintering quarters. That we seen so many of them right over our yards (near Oak Openings Metropark) is due to geography. Our homes lay on a line due

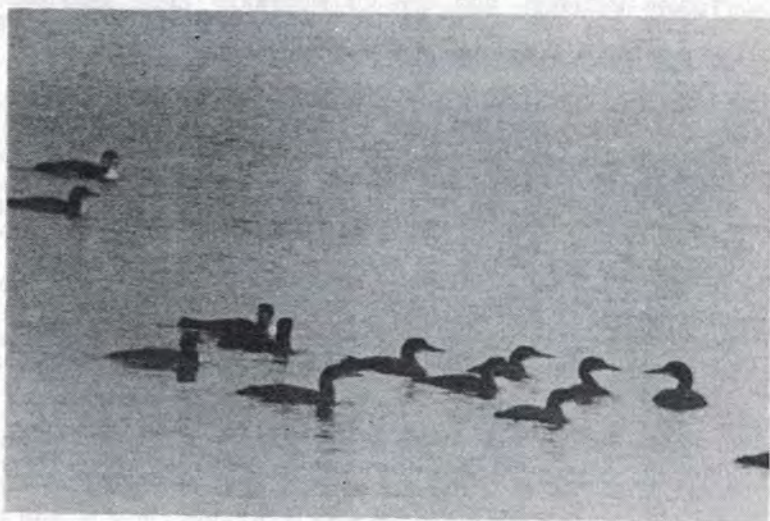
southwest from Lake Erie Metropark (which is just north of Monroe, MI), the first landfall for the hawks as they pass over from Canada. Many apparently pass directly to the southwest over the Oak Openings.

The big question is how much do the birds fan out after reaching the Michigan shoreline? The answer apparently is "a lot". The average number of raptors seen at Holiday Beach over the past fifteen fall seasons is over 70,000 and in 1991 an astonishing 310,000 birds of prey (85% Broad-wingeds and Turkey Vultures) flew past Lake Erie Metropark in southeastern Michigan! We are seeing only a tiny percentage of these birds.

Finally, virtually all of our observations are restricted to weekends or an occasional 45 minutes during lunch hour. An observation post manned consistently through the season would certainly result in many more birds counted.

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Common Loons. Caesar Creek Lk., Warren Co. November 24, 1992
Photo by Larry Gara

OAK OPENINGS FALL RAPTOR WATCH - 1992

date	9/6	9/12	9/13	9/19	9/20	9/24	9/26	9/27	10/3	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/7	10/8	10/12	10/13
TURKEY VULTURE		11	18	13	20			14	2	205	46	3	114	1	1	12
OSPREY		1	2					1								
BALD EAGLE																
NORTHERN HARRIER																
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	1	2	13	8	14	1		10	7	60	13	6	5	1	2	1
COOPER'S HAWK	1	1	1				1	4	1	2	1	1			1	
NORTHERN GOSHAWK																
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK		1	1	1						5	7	7				1
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	1590	476	39	92								1				
RED-TAILED HAWK		1	2	3	3		1	3	1	12	1	3			1	
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK																
GOLDEN EAGLE																
AMERICAN KESTREL				3			1			6						
NERLIN	1				1			1								
PEREGRINE FALCON										1						
ACCIPITER (SP?)			2													
BUTEO (SP?)				3						4	1		2			1
EAGLE (SP?)																
SHALL FALCON (SP?)	1								1	2						
TOTAL	4	1607	514	71	130	1	3	33	0	12	297	69	21	121	2	5
TIME																
HOURS (EST)																
WIND DIRECTION	CALM	E/S	SE	W	E/SE	SE	W		E							
WIND STRENGTH (1-10)																
OBSERVERS																

NOTES: "TIME" REPRESENTS THE ESTIMATED RANGE OF TIME DURING WHICH OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE, WHILE "HOURS" REPRESENT THE ESTIMATED ACTUAL AMOUNT OF TIME DURING THAT RANGE THAT OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE.

"TK"=TOM KEMP & "MA"=MATT ANDERSON

FILE:RAPTORS

OAK OPENINGS FALL RAPTOR WATCH - 1992

date	10/16	10/17	10/18	10/19	10/21	10/22	10/23	10/24	10/25	10/26	10/27	10/28	10/30	10/31	11/3	11/6
TURKEY VULTURE	8	45	68	4		100	102	34	9	1		13	33	3		2
OSPREY																
BALD EAGLE																1
NORTHERN HARRIER		2										1		1		
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK		9	5	2	1	4	3	4	5		1		2	6		
COOPER'S HAWK		1		1				2				1	1	3		
NORTHERN GOSHAWK																
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK								1	2	1	2	1	2	33		7
BROAD-WINGED HAWK																
RED-TAILED HAWK		9	4	3		1	1	15	14	5	15	3	17	74		24
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK														1		
GOLDEN EAGLE																
AMERICAN KESTREL		1	2	1												
MERLIN			1													
PEREGRINE FALCON																
ACCIPITER (SP?)				1		2								1		
BUTEO (SP?)		1		1									3	3		4
EAGLE (SP?)											1					
SMALL FALCON (SP?)		1														
TOTAL	9	68	80	15	1	109	106	56	30	8	18	19	58	125	0	37
TIME																
HOURS (EST)																
WIND DIRECTION	NW	NW	NW				N/NW	N/NW	NE				NE	E/NE		
WIND STRENGTH (1-10)																
OBSERVERS																

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FILE:RAPTORS

OAK OPENINGS FALL RAPTOR WATCH - 1992

date	11/7	11/8	11/13	11/14	11/15	11/16	11/20	11/21	11/26	11/28	11/29	SEP	OCT	NOV	FALL		
												TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL		
TURKEY VULTURE												76	806	2	884		
OSPREY												4	0	0	4		
BALD EAGLE												0	0	1	1		
NORTHERN HARRIER				1								0	4	1	5		
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK				1	1	15		2	1	1	1	49	139	22	210		
COOPER'S HAWK						2						8	15	2	25		
NORTHERN GOSHAWK												0	0	0	0		
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK		2				3						3	62	12	77		
BROAD-WINGED HAWK												2197	1	0	2198		
RED-TAILED HAWK	2	2	6	4	20	2	3	2		1	4	13	179	70	262		
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK					1							0	1	1	2		
GOLDEN EAGLE					1							0	0	1	1		
AMERICAN KESTREL												4	10	0	14		
MERLIN												3	1	0	4		
PEREGRINE FALCON												0	1	0	1		
ACCIPITER (SP?)												2	4	0	6		
BUTEO (SP?)	1	3		2								3	16	10	29		
EAGLE (SP?)												0	1	0	1		
SMALL FALCON (SP?)												1	4	0	5		
TOTAL	3	7	7	8	42	2	5	3	1	1	5	0	2363	1244	122	0	3729
TIME																	
HOURS (EST)																	
WIND DIRECTION	NW	W	W	W								NW					
WIND STRENGTH (1-10)																	
OBSERVERS																	

NOTES: "TIME" REPRESENTS THE ESTIMATED RANGE OF TIME DURING WHICH OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE, WHILE "HOURS" REPRESENT THE ESTIMATED ACTUAL AMOUNT OF TIME DURING THAT RANGE THAT OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE.

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