

Duck Hawks Wintering in the Center of Philadelphia.— On January 29, 1918, two Duck Hawks (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) were observed circling about the tower of the Philadelphia city hall (517 feet in height) situated in the midst of the business center of the city. My office window on the sixteenth floor of the Widener Building about opposite to the tower clock (361 feet from the ground) gave me an excellent opportunity to observe them. How long they had been present before my attention was attracted to them I cannot say. They undoubtedly took up winter quarters on the tower on account of the large number of pigeons which live about the building and upon which they fed. The exceptionally cold winter also had its effect in reducing their normal food supply and forcing them in from wilder regions.

When first observed they were engaged in aerial evolutions apparently purely for the joy of flying, now rapidly, now slowly, now chasing one another and then a rapid swoop to one of the tower ledges, the leading bird alighting and the other wheeling about the tower or out into mid-air. These evolutions continued until dusk.

During these flights they seemed to pay no attention whatever to the many pigeons which darted here and there at terrific speed and in great confusion.

On three different occasions, however, hawks were observed eating a pigeon on the lower ledge at the base of the clock, apparently standing on it with both feet and tearing off the feathers which floated away on the air. This seemed to be a regular preliminary to the beginning of each meal. On one occasion a hawk flew across directly in front of the window from which my observations were made carrying a large pigeon in its talons. Its flight was perceptibly slow and labored as compared with its usual grace and agility. On February 5 a hawk flew to the northeast tower ledge with a pigeon which it proceeded to devour; hitherto the southeast ledge had always been the place to which the quarry was carried. During the early afternoon both hawks were noticed in flight about the tower when they suddenly dived downward at terrific speed almost to the house-tops and began a rapid darting flight among the chimneys, travelling northeast over the city apparently on a pigeon hunt.

Often they were seen to fly directly toward one another with a very rapid flapping of the wings but in a labored manner so that they made very slow progress, and then when almost breast to breast they would turn suddenly and dive down vertically. On February 6 I saw a hawk dive vertically from the clock ledge in pursuit of a pigeon which passed on the wing at least 300 feet below but failed to secure it. Usually these failures seemed to be due to the fact that two or more pigeons were pursued in an apparently haphazard manner instead of the more logical method of singling out one bird. When pursued en masse the pigeons invariably separated, scattering in all directions and leaving the pursuer in a rather confused and puzzled condition and in doubt as to which individual to attack, resulting in his return

to mid-air unsuccessful. The birds remained about the tower until the first week of March, when I suppose they departed for the north.—DELOS E. CULVER, *Addingham, Pa.*

A Note of the Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*).—On the evening of August 3, 1918, near the village of Branchville in northern New Jersey, some friends appealed to me to identify a supposed bird-note which for several nights previous had been heard in a grove back of the hotel, "The Pines." The note had always been heard after dark, and with such regularity and frequency that the diurnal birds were eliminated. The descriptions of this voice of the night varied widely. One said it resembled the mew of a cat, another likened it to the noise of a squeaking pulley, while other comparisons were less suggestive. But after hearing it, I would describe the note as a softly whistled *whee-you*, the two syllables slurred together. Although scarcely as long as the ordinary note of the Phoebe, in quality it suggested that of the Screech Owl—being, however, much shorter and more frequently uttered than the latter. I now suspected that it was an owl, but felt sure that it could not be a Screech Owl, a Barred Owl, or a Great Horned Owl, for I am familiar with the notes of these. So, after securing an electric flash-lamp and while holding it over my head, I tried to get as close as I could to the bird, to see it if possible. At least I thought I might "shine its eyes" as several years ago I had done in Florida with the Chuck-Will's-Widow. The wood was composed partly of native white pines and hemlocks with an undergrowth of sprouts of American yew. I first located the bird in a tall hemlock, but I could not see it in the dense foliage. In searching for it with my bright light, I flushed it several times, but I could never hear it fly from one tree to another. Its silent flight strengthened my suspicion that it was an owl, and its habitat made me think it was a Long-eared Owl. Although I failed to see the bird that night, the next morning, August 4, I walked out into the grove, and under one of the hemlocks in which I had first heard the note the night before, I noted some droppings and also a few owl pellets. Upon looking up into the tree, I was surprised to see a Long-eared Owl with its ear-tufts elevated, gazing down at me. It was perched upon a branch not more than twenty feet up, and remained there until I had examined it to my entire satisfaction and then walked away and left it. While the evidence is circumstantial, it seems to me pretty sure that the unknown note came from this bird or one of the same species. By a little further search in the trees near by, a second bird was located.

Since I have never read a description which I am sure applies to this note of the Long-eared Owl, I thought it worth recording.—G. CLYDE FISHER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

The Short-eared Owl in Massachusetts in Summer.—As the present status of the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) as a breeding bird