

held in its feet. It carried the long and dangling snake for about twenty feet where the reptile caught in a barbed wire fence and the Vulture lost its hold and left the snake draped over the wire. This is the first time I have ever seen or heard of a Vulture carrying anything—at least of that size. It is true the bird had a very hard time of it.

When I looked back, I saw the Vulture return to the spot on the road where the snake had been, completely ignoring the fact that his breakfast was on the line a few feet off.

Possibly the act of carrying was done on the spur of the moment in the haste to get away from the danger of the automobile, and thus was an unconscious reaction.—GORDON W. JONES, "Ellwood," Wilderness, Va.

**The White-tailed Kite in South Carolina.**—A peculiar combination of observations made some time ago enables the writer to record the first occurrence of *Elanus leucurus majusculus* in South Carolina. On May 7, 1929, Mr. Edward M. Moore saw and watched for one hour, a bird which was soaring in company with a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) over his house on Bull's Island, Charleston County. He kept it in sight the entire time, with and without 7 x glasses. The bird varied its elevation from "just above the roof" of the house to a great height in the sky, and he noted time and again, the pure white underparts, the distinct black shoulders and immaculate tail. Mr. Moore is a very careful observer and keeps excellent notes. These I had an opportunity of examining recently on a visit to Bull's Island.

Though a sight record only, it ties up very consistently with an observation made by Mr. E. B. Chamberlain of the Charleston Museum, who, in early May 1929, saw what he considered to be a specimen of this Kite flying high over Youghal Plantation, Charleston County on the mainland. From the brief observation he was able to make, Mr. Chamberlain was convinced of the identity of the bird but said nothing of it because of its rarity and his inability to collect it. The spot where he saw the bird is only a short distance in an airline across the marshes from Bull's Island, and it may well be that this bird and the one seen by Mr. Moore were one and the same. When seen by Mr. Chamberlain, the bird was flying toward the Island. He cannot be certain of the day, but is sure of the month. The writer considers these two observations to warrant the addition of this species to the avifauna of South Carolina.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.

**An Unusual Gathering of Marsh Hawks in Central North Carolina.**—On January 7, 1935, a local friend of mine supplied me with the following information:

On the previous day, January 6, he, in company with a small party from here, was shooting Quail in Johnston County, which adjoins this county on the south-east. They came to a field in which a few widely-scattered Quail were found, while the air overhead seemed to be filled with Hawks. Believing them to be responsible for the scattering of the Quail and to be still searching for individual members of the covey, my informant hid in a tangle of honeysuckle vines that filled and extended over the sides of a small gully, from which hiding place he killed five Hawks in a few minutes, four of which he brought with him to the Museum. Some of these were observed on the ground, but most of them were either flying around overhead or quartering the field as if in search of prey. My informant's estimate of the number of Hawks in evidence was seventy-five.

All of the four submitted proved to be immature Marsh Hawks (*Circus hudsonicus*). The stomachs of three of them were empty, that of the fourth containing a small

quantity of fur. The presumption is that all were of the same species, as nothing was said that indicated any difference in size or kind.

In many years of collecting specimens in North Carolina, I do not think I ever saw more than two of this species at one time; certainly never more than three. Hence, the recording of this very unusual congregation.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

**A Duck Hawk Attacks Four People.**—Having always read that Duck Hawks (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) will never actually attack a man, I received quite a surprise when on June 12, 1935, I visited the famous Duck Hawk cliffs of Monument Mt. in Great Barrington, Mass. with a party of about fifteen. The nest was discovered in a location much easier to reach than usual and so six or seven of us climbed down to look at the four downy young. One of the adults was flying about making a great commotion. "Go right down to the nest," I said to one of the photographers in the party, "the bird won't bother you." As soon as he stood on the shelf on which the young were located the adult Hawk made a dive for him and brushed his hair with its powerful wings. Turning in the air, she swooped for him again. He ducked behind a small tree but not quite quick enough, for she hit his camera and dented it. A third time she scratched his hand with her talons. The photographer, by ducking at the right moment, managed to keep from being knocked off the cliff, a straight drop of at least 150 feet, and secured several photographs of the young Hawks.

Several days later, at a more favorable time for taking pictures, the photographer, Orville Wilkinson, returned with a friend. He took sixteen pictures, but not without paying for them. The Duck Hawk struck him on the neck and the scratch later became infected. She followed him a hundred yards or more from the nest and dove at him repeatedly.

Miss Mary Robbins, of the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, and Perry Gilbert, of Dartmouth, spent three hours on Monument Mt. during the same week. Gilbert wore a white shirt and the Hawk made a try for him at every opportunity. She inflicted a two inch deep cut in his head and nicked him two other times. Miss Robbins received a minor scratch and a small boy, who was standing on the summit some distance from the nest, was hit from behind and knocked on his face.

The attacks were carried on by the same bird. The other adult remained at a distance and did not seem interested. Local people have visited the Hawks in other years but, as far as I know, have never actually been struck.—G. BARTLETT HENDRICKS, *The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.*

**Black Rail at Cape May Point, N. J.**—On October 5, 1934, while observing the Hawk migration at Cape May Point, I examined a tennis court to see if any migrant birds had by chance struck the wire backstop. I found only one dead bird which from its condition had been killed a day or two previously. It was a Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*) the second specimen so far as I can ascertain to be taken at Cape May. It could not be preserved but a wing was sent to Dr. Witmer Stone to confirm the identification.—ROBERT P. ALLEN, *National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York, N. Y.*

**Feeding of the American Woodcock (*Philahela minor*).**—A Woodcock in the National Zoological Park presented to me an opportunity to observe the actual manner of its feeding. The specimen was caged in a new type glass-front cage, the floor of which was covered with three inches of earth, giving the bird a natural probing area. The glass front of the cage made it possible for me to witness its feeding from a distance of about two feet. The flexibility of the upper mandible is