

breeding in the province of Prince Edward Island. Special Constable J. S. Jenkins, R. C. M. Police, reported the finding of six Ring-necked Ducks in a pond near Avondale, Queens County, on June 23, 1939. The birds exhibited signs of protecting young so, on July 4, a search for young birds was conducted, but without success. Finally on September 20, 1939, Mr. Jenkins shot an adult female and two juvenile Ring-necked Ducks in this same pond. During my visit to Prince Edward Island in June 1940, Constable Jenkins and I found the species in two areas in Queens County and in one area in Kings County. Later, Mr. Jenkins reported the finding of broods of young in each county, so the species is increasing on the island.

In each of the past four summers I have visited favorable nesting areas for Ring-necked Ducks in Nova Scotia, but not until the past summer (1940) was I able to find evidences of their nesting in this province. On June 25, 1940, I found a female with a brood of nine small young in Patton Lake and another female with a brood of at least seven young in Tamarac Lake. Both of these lakes are in Cumberland County, but neither is much more than a mile inside the boundary of Nova Scotia. However, the ideal character of this Missiquash Marsh section which lies on the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick boundary convinces me that these birds were produced wholly within Nova Scotia. Col. H. H. Ritchie, Chief Game Warden of New Brunswick, and John Tingley, Game Warden, who accompanied me on this day support my belief.

It is very gratifying to find this species spreading into new nesting areas and continuing to increase over the past few years to become one of the more important species in New Brunswick and parts of the New England States.—HAROLD S. PETERS, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Comparison of 1935 and 1940 populations of nesting Bald Eagles in east-central Florida.—In 1935, I made a survey of the Bald Eagles, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, nesting in southeastern Florida (Auk, 54: 296–299, 1937). On December 29 and 30, 1940, I visited the nesting sites of twenty-four pairs of eagles which were present at their nests in 1935. These nests were all located within ten miles of the Indian River between the cities of Cocoa in Brevard County and New Smyrna in Volusia County. During these five years, six of the twenty-four pairs, or 25 per cent, had disappeared from their nesting sites. Presumably these pairs had died or been killed and had not merely moved to new nesting sites (in support of this assumption see op. cit., p. 297).

In 1930, twenty-three occupied nests had been visited and when these nesting sites were revisited in 1935, seven of them, or about 30 per cent, were no longer used by eagles. During the last five years the Bald Eagle has decreased in numbers in the region considered, and the decrease has been slightly less than during the preceding five years. Of the eighteen pairs of eagles visited in 1940, ten were using the same nests they occupied in 1935, only four pairs had established new nests. The nests of two pairs were not located, which indicates they had new nests, and I could not be certain whether two nests were formerly used sites or new ones.

In addition to the twenty-four pairs whose nests were present in 1935, two nests of pairs which were not located in 1935 were found in the 1940 survey. I think these pairs were birds which had reached breeding age during this five-year period and not older eagles which formerly nested elsewhere. This is indicated by the absence of nesting eagles in the vicinity of these two nests during 1935.

To the writer this decrease in the number of eagles in this region does not mean that the species is being unduly persecuted. The factors at the root of the decrease probably are an increase in the number of people living in the area and the felling of the pines used as nesting sites.—JOSEPH C. HOWELL, *Contribution no. 78 from the Zoological Laboratory, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma.*

Turkey Vulture in Vermont.—On August 19, 1940, while motoring through Halifax and Whitingham, Vermont, I saw near the village of Jacksonville, about three miles north of the Massachusetts line, a Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*, flying westward slowly and unmistakably. Perhaps it was the same wandering bird as had been seen at Pelham, Massachusetts, August 4 (Margaret Morse Nice) and Squam Lake, New Hampshire, August 10 (K. W. Burke). Only two Vermont records were given by Forbush in his 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States' (2: 89, 1927), and only four—and of these only one is complete, with date, locality, and observer's name—are known even now to Wendell P. Smith, the State Ornithologist. But in recent years, principally in late April, the species has been seen remarkably often in western Massachusetts, and one can predict that it will visit southern Vermont more and more frequently.—SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.*

Osprey kills itself.—On a late autumn day in 1924, Dr. Charles W. Creaser (now of Wayne University, Detroit, Michigan) and the writer observed an Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*) flying over an oxbow lake off the Kaw River a few miles upstream from Lawrence, Kansas. Erratic movements of the bird attracted attention; it was being pursued by smaller birds that flew above it and made diving attacks upon it. The Osprey dodged and struck at its assailants with its feet. Suddenly it dropped downward, tumbling over and over, and fell upon the water. Floundering, it remained afloat until, after considerable delay, we had reached it in a rowboat. The bird had pierced its wing above the elbow with a claw of its left foot, and broken the humerus. The flesh of the arm had been torn and bruised by frantic, but unavailing, efforts to extricate the talon; pieces of broken bone had lacerated muscles and skin. Although still defiant toward its captors, the bird was apparently dying presumably because of shock, chill, and loss of blood.—R. CHESTER HUGHES, *Zoological Laboratory (Paper no. 77), Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma.*

Spring and winter hawk censuses from Illinois to Oklahoma.—On two trips by car in 1940—from March 8 to 20 and December 21 to 27—counts were kept of all hawks seen; my husband, although the driver, watched for birds on his side of the road, and from March 8 to 13 we had the assistance of Dr. Alfred Lewy. A summary is given in Table 1 of the total number of these birds recorded in three States during favorable weather. The return trip December 26 to 27 was made through continuous rain in Oklahoma and Illinois and no hawks were visible.

The totals for each trip—one hawk for 18.5 miles in spring and one in 16 miles in winter—do not differ much. The counts in Missouri are about the same at each season, but in Illinois hawks were twice as numerous in March as in December, while in Oklahoma, on the contrary, they were four times as numerous in winter as in spring. It looks as if the hawk population had shifted to the north in March. However, on 652 miles in Louisiana from March 9 to 17 a total of 42