

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) Feeds on Evening Bat.—About 9:30 a. m., on July 30, 1951, in a stand of water oak slightly west of Tifton, Tift County, Georgia, I collected an adult male Broad-winged Hawk whose stomach remains consisted entirely of fur, a few postcranial bones, and a virtually undamaged skull of the Evening Bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*). The general shape and complete dentition of the skull enabled me to identify the bat, both through keys and comparison with specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. This is the first instance of chiropteran food of the Broad-winged Hawk that has come to my attention, none having been cited in Burns' monograph on the species (Wilson Bull., 23: 139-320, 1911) or in Bent's life-history account (U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 167: 244-246, 1937). In fact, neither the latter work nor G. M. Allen's "Bats" (Harvard Univ. Press, p. 280 ff., 1939) gives a single instance of bat-feeding by any of the buteonine hawks. It therefore seems likely that only rarely do buteos succeed in capturing bats. It seems equally likely that individuals falling prey to these hawks are caught resting rather than on wing.—ROBERT A. NORRIS, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.*

A Great Flight of Dovekies (*Plautus alle*).—The Dovekie is known as a bird of the open sea. Forbush (Birds of Massachusetts . . . Vol. 1: 49) says it "seldom appears in great numbers near shore unless driven in by severe storms." Murphy and Vogt (Auk 50: 325-349, 1933) state: "it is distinctly an off-shore, rather than littoral species." Numbers of these birds have been seen, both along shore and driven inland, during and after storms, but a heavy migration in fair weather appears to be an unknown occurrence, and thus worth recording.

The greatest invasion of Dovekies known are those of 1871 and 1932. It is recorded by William Brewster (Birds of the Cambridge Region, pp. 90-91) that on November 15, 1871, a violent easterly storm, with torrents of rain and exceptionally high tides occurred, forcing multitudes of Dovekies to seek refuge. These, driven inland, were found by the hundreds on Fresh Pond, Cambridge. Brewster says "It is probable that the memorable flight which inundated Southern Massachusetts . . . comprised nearly, if not quite all the birds which were living at that time off our coast." The total number seen in this visitation was apparently under a thousand, since the largest figure mentioned was that at Fresh Pond.

The 1932 influx of Dovekies, as recorded by Murphy and Vogt, occurred in November and December and, "apparently unprecedented within the historic period, took place along the coast of North America." Thousands were seen, dead or alive, but the total is impossible to determine from the data given. The cause of the November 7-18 flight was "a boisterous northeast storm, wind maximum 50 mph, with heavy rains and a second southeast storm with winds of the same violence occurring on November 19 and 20." In Florida alone, a statistical estimate of 20,000 dead birds on a 400-mile stretch was made. In the same article it is noted that "It is altogether likely that antecedent and somewhat irregular weather conditions over the North Atlantic had first moved masses of them close to the coast of New England and . . . (also that) our continental shore had for some time been a lee shore."

Far different was the Dovekie flight witnessed in Massachusetts in November, 1950, from Halibut Point, Cape Ann, Essex County. This juts out into the ocean on the northeast tip of the cape, with the extreme point, locally known as the "Rock Pile," some 50 feet high, falling vertically to the water below. From this vantage point Dovekies and other water birds have been observed migrating close to shore on numerous occasions in fair weather and foul. On November 10 and 18, 1948, observers saw an estimated thousand "Little Auks" each day, both times in fair weather.