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.

On November 7, 1950, I witnessed a remarkable migration of Dovekies here; in weather that was sunny and mild with a temperature in the lower sixties, wind 8–12 mph from the west-southwest and southwest. Reaching the shore just before noon, we at once discovered that a heavy migration was passing Cape Ann, and from noon to 1:40 p. m. it was observed from the "Rock Pile." The wide expanse of sea seemed covered with flocks of Dovekies streaming by in groups of from 25 to 60. At times a flock pitched into the water just below, the birds dove once or twice and rose to hurry on south. After counting the individuals in a number of flocks until it was possible to estimate their numbers rather accurately, a Zeiss telescope, using the 24× lens, was trained on a bell buoy and used to count the flocks passing it. For ten minutes these were noted and recorded, the total being 1000 birds. As a relief from this taxing observation the migration in general was then watched for a period, and the other birds passing in small numbers were: Common and Red-throated loons (*Gavia immer* and *G. stellata*); Holboell's Grebes (*Columbus grisegena*); White-winged and Surf scoters (*Melanitta fusca* and *M. perspicillata*); Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*); together with many Gannets (*Moris bassana*). Whether the migration of Dovekies, whose flocks travelled by as far as the eye or instruments could reach, then increased, or whether with experience, more birds were caught by the telescope in the next count, it is hard to determine, but the second total was *900* birds in *5* minutes! Averaging the two counts a total, incredible to anyone who did not see their passage, of 14,000 Dovekies passed the point during the one hour and forty minutes spent there. Actually this is a conservative estimate; the second count was probably more accurate than the first, and in the far distant haze flocks were seen at intervals and only a few were recorded.

I returned at 3 p. m., after a school class, and found that the migration had slowed down; a 10-minute count totalled only 200 birds. By 3:30, small flocks were still passing, with many single birds hurrying by; by 4 p. m. the migration was almost over. When did it begin? If it was at the maximum only during the middle of the day, the total number passing may be estimated at 24,000; if the number seen then was maintained for a longer period, it may well have been double that figure.

During the heavy storm of November 25, 1950, the late Richard C. Curtis of Manchester, Mass., reported 2000 Dovekies passing Halibut Point in one and a half hours, and large alcids—either Razor-billed Auks (*Alca torda*) or Murres, probably *Uria lomvia*—to the number of 120. On November 26, with clearing weather, the flight coastwise was disappointingly meager; but a Dovekie and two Brünnich's Murres were found across the state, in Berkshire County.

This November 7 flight is puzzling. Does a main migration route from their Arctic breeding grounds bring Dovekies close to this outlying point regularly? Otherwise how account for it on a fair day, with a west-southwest and southwest wind? It has been suggested that the storm of November 4–5 was responsible for driving the birds in from the open ocean (Griscom, Audubon Field Notes, February, 1951: 6). But according to the Salem Coast Guard weather station, this was a minor disturbance; on November 4, the sky was overcast, there was drizzle and fog, with the wind blowing only 5–10 mph from the north until 4 p. m. when it shifted to south and increased to 25 mph. On the following day it was shifting between west and south at 16–22 mph and raining until the weather cleared in the afternoon and the wind steadied in the west at 15–20 mph, except for southerly winds along shore. These reports give no hint of a "lee shore," or of a storm intense enough to account for the Dovekie flight of November 7, 1951.—Dorothy E. Snyder, *The Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.*