

BROAD-WINGED HAWKS CAUGHT IN CROSSWINDS

My husband and I observed about 400 Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo Platypterus platypterus*) on September 16, 1959. At 10 AM on this date we were driving north on U.S. 31, and had gone perhaps a mile beyond the town of Castleberry. Then we saw them on both sides of the road.

They looked like great "whirlwinds" rather than flocks. We had noticed earlier in the morning that the wind from the Gulf had begun to meet the one from the north, causing sudden strong gusts. Here, they were eddyig in such a manner that the birds were being carried round and round like so many leaves in a whirlwind. It would have been impossible to make an accurate count. However, by counting a group of 20 several different times, and applying that sample we estimated conservatively the number in both groups.

The weather was partly cloudy to clearing, the temperature was in the high sixties, and once the Gulf wind was left completely behind us, the wind from the north was 13-17 miles per hour.

We saw other species of hawks and Turkey Vultures, numbering into the hundreds and moving southward, on the 16th and 17th as we drove toward Chattanooga, but we did not have the time to stop and count them.

— Maxi (Mrs. T. C.) SWINDELL
Knoxville, Tenn.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

WITH this first bulletin since the change of administrations, I urge each one of you to send to the editor or to the regional correspondent nearest you, any observation you think of unusual interest. We need a wide participation by the membership to watch unusual movements or trends, and to give everyone the benefit of all observations.

It will be our policy to adhere to the nonenclature of the A. O. U. checklist (1957) which will eliminate the need for inclusion of scientific names, except for longer, more scientific papers or study reports.

The second co-operation I urge upon you is the payment of dues. As stated elsewhere, the A. O. S. year has been changed to the calendar year, which should make it easier when the change-over has been completed. Many of you who have been unable to attend meetings recently have overlooked the payment of your dues, which are the means of publishing your *Birdlife*. This bulletin, in turn, tries to keep you in touch with other members and their activities.

It is our intention to have three more issues in 1960 — March, September and December, with deadlines for material on the 15th of the preceding month. Jot these dates on your calendar now, a reminder to contribute at least one item for each bulletin this year.

While you have your pen in hand, write your check to the treasurer, Margaret (Mrs. J. C.) Robinson, 1701 Oakwood Ave. N. E., Huntsville, Ala. If you have forgotten when you paid last, she will be glad to tell you. I understand that five dollars will reinstate anyone, so that you can be kept on the *Birdlife* mailing list. We might remind you, too, that life membership is only fifty (\$50.00). If you are young enough, this should prove an attractive bargain.

Be sure to make plans to attend the annual spring meeting at Monte Sano in April. More particulars will be given in our next issue.

— Blanche H. Chapman