

The total count based largely on the counts of Mrs. Elkins but supplemented by observations of Mrs. E. Estoff, Mr. & Mrs. W. Minor, Mrs. J. Propst, Miss M. Rusk, Dr. F. Scheider and Dr. D. Peakall for the week are given in the table below.

Date	Wind	Sharp-shinned	Red-tailed	Red-should.	Broad-wing	Rough-legged	Harrier	Osprey	Kestrel
April									
21	w/10	14	27	4	1	3	12	1	2
22	w/10	132	19	17	956	14	14	10	24
25	w/25	110	8	2	1438	2	21	9	11
26	sw/10	101	11	3	4963	3	16	10	4
27	sw/10	13	4	0	6550	0	6	1	3
28	ssw/ 5	93	4	0	385	5	7	5	1
Totals		463	73	26	14293	27	76	36	45

In addition 13 Turkey Vultures and six Cooper's Hawks were seen. Single Goshawks were recorded on the 22nd and 25th; single Bald Eagles on 26th and 27th; two Peregrines, 28th; four Merlins on 22nd and two on the 26th. A total of just over 15,000 hawks.

Dr. David B. Peakall, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse

An Occurrence of the Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) in Central New York: On the afternoon of January 20, 1962, my attention was attracted to two large owls which flew into neighboring trees near my home at Pulaski, N.Y. From my kitchen window overlooking open fields with scattered trees, a small wildlife pond, and adjoining woods, I watched the owls perch and fly from tree to tree from 3:00 PM until after 4:00 PM. For nearly an hour they were in a large deciduous tree about 100 yards from my kitchen window, where they were under nearly constant observation through my 20x Balscope. After studying details of their plumage I found the plate in Eaton's "Birds of New York" of the Great Gray Owl as most nearly fitting the birds I was watching. I noted particularly the prominent black chin spot, the large round facial disks without ear-tufts, pale yellowish eyes and streaked breast. There was no barring of the upper breast as in the Barred Owl. Two of my friends also watched the owls and we all agreed upon the Great Gray Owl as being the species under observation, although none of us are experienced field ornithologists.

The birds appeared to be hunting even in the midafternoon, and once one of the owls flew down onto the snow on the hillside and appeared to make a catch. A week or so after this occurrence, we saw the Audubon Wildlife Film by Mr. Edgar Jones which featured a nesting of the Great Gray Owl and again our identification was confirmed. My husband, John D. Bulger of the National Wildlife Federation did not see the owls, but from my description felt sure we had identified them correctly. — Mrs. John D. Bulger, Pulaski

Note: For the record it may be pointed out that in the great Snowy Owl flight of 1926-'27, the window full of Snowy Owls in the taxidermy shop of Mr. Clock in Canastota, N. Y., figured in photographic plates in the Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, Vol. 6, No. 1, "Peterboro Swamp and Labrador Pond" by C. J. Spiker, contains a Great Gray Owl as well as a Hawk Owl and many Snowy Owls, some Goshawks, etc., which were shot at that time. Several subsequent Snowy Owl reports for N. Y. State (Stoner, Meade, Peakall) have not noted this rarer owl.

However, another report that may also refer to this species comes from Mr. David Corse. While snow-shoeing in Sandy Creek Community Park (a few miles from Pulaski) in early March he saw a large owl without ear-tufts and having yellow eyes.

Dr. Walter R. Spofford, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse

Purple Martins vs. Tree Swallows: A pair of Tree Swallows took over a nesting box, which they had used for several years, shortly after they arrived here on April 18, 1961. As a rule swallows guard their nests well, but on the morning of May 12 the box was unguarded, and a few minutes was all the time a House Wren needed to have the three swallow eggs punctured and out on the ground.

The swallows abandoned the box and moved to a compartment in a martin house about fifty feet away. The martins objected, and many battles resulted. However, the Tree Swallows were finally able to build. The martins used the sections facing south and west, while the Tree Swallows were in the end facing east. Things were peaceful during the period of incubation, but when the young appeared and had to be fed, the battling resumed.

Feeding became such a problem for the Tree Swallows that they got their young out of the nest about four days before they could fly. On the morning of July 4 the adults were feeding three young on the ground; a fourth was found dead under the martin house.

Frank Clinch banded the three young. The next morning one was found dead, wedged between the curbing and a stone at edge of driveway. For three days the parents fed the two on the ground, and the following day the young perched in a bush. After a lapse of several days during which they were not seen, two banded young Tree Swallows appeared, perched on a wire nearby. — Arthur W. Allen, 561 Eastern Blvd., Watertown.

Short-eared Owls in a Suburban Housing Development: Short-eared Owls are usually thought of as open fields, marshes and dunes birds, retiring to a clump of weeds, or more often nearby evergreens or thickets for roosting and usually more or less removed from civilization. Because they often do their hunting at dusk or dawn, many are probably unnoticed and unreported in their invasion into our state. An exception to this rule was found near Ithaca this late winter.

On February 27, 1962, Mrs. William Bishop, of Ludlowville, phoned the Laboratory of Ornithology to report that she had tentatively identified as owls, (rather than hawks as she had first thought) several large, pale birds which periodically appeared near her home, perching in trees in her yard, or cruising over a nearby field. Two trips to locate them were unsuccessful, but on March 5, Mrs. Malcolm McIlroy visited the area and found six Short-eared Owls, close to a small, well-built up suburban housing development. They floated back and forth across a field, and one perched in an apple tree, not 50 feet from a home.

The next day the spot was again visited and four owls emerged from a group of cedars in a vacant lot near the houses. The next day, David Allen found and photographed "at least 10", and subsequent visits produced varying numbers, up to 10.

The birds apparently were roosting in the cedars, none of which was over 12 feet tall. But the remarkable part about it was that this vacant lot was sandwiched in between houses, with children and dogs all over the area, and the closest house 50-75 feet from most of the trees. Similar small cedars were scattered throughout the development, and undoubtedly the owls used many of these as roosts, although the one vacant lot seemed to be the favorite location. Mrs. Bishop said they had been around for about two months. — Sally F. Hoyt, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

A Sparrow Hawk Dines on Suet: A Sparrow Hawk was first noticed feeding on suet January 19, 1962. Between this date and February 23 it was seen at suet fourteen times. Only once did the hawk appear to notice the hasty retreat of the other birds as it entered the area of the feeders. On one occasion the bird spent twenty-three minutes eating suet. The hawk was a male in beautiful plumage, apparently a healthy bird.

Wire baskets filled with suet have been in the same position on four trees each winter since 1945. A Sparrow Hawk has been a visitor to the area nearly every winter during this period, but this is the first time one has eaten suet. Has anyone else ever had a similar experience? — Arthur W. Allen, 561 Eastern Blvd., Watertown.