

Golden Eagle Attacks Wild Turkey: On 17 December 1994, while participating in the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count in the Town of Oneonta, Otsego Co., the author was observing with Gerry Cahill and Dianne Benko a flock of 12 Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) walking through an overgrown pasture below a wooded ridge. We spotted an immature Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) circling above the ridge. The eagle began a glide down the face of the ridge, just

above the treetops, and burst into the pasture and into the middle of the flock of turkeys, scattering them into the woods. It was not possible to tell if any of the turkeys were actually struck, but none remained as the eagle stood on the ground for 10 or 15 seconds. The eagle then flew to a nearby tree where it perched for five minutes before flying off. After hearing our observation, Dr. J. Robert Miller, DOAS Christmas Count compiler, described a similar incident that he had witnessed in May 1994, in the Town of Milford, Otsego County. In that instance, a turkey was struck twice by an immature Golden Eagle, but escaped without apparent injury. Bent (1961, *Life Histories of American Birds of Prey*) mentions Wild Turkey as a prey item of Golden Eagle, and other references include birds as large as cranes and Canada Goose as prey. The location of the December observation is within 4 miles of the Franklin Mountain fall hawk watch where large numbers of migrating Golden Eagles have been counted in recent years. A total of 109 Golden Eagles were seen at Franklin Mountain in the fall of 1994, and 6 were counted two days following the December observation. Populations of Wild Turkey have increased dramatically in New York and the northeastern United States in the last twenty years. Numbers of Golden Eagle in the east also appear to be on the rise, according to migration data. It would appear that the resurgence of these two native birds also will increase the incidence of their interaction as predator and prey.

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