

SUMMARY OF THE 1977 HAWK FLIGHT
AT CAPE MAY POINT, NJ*

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The 1977 hawk flight at Cape May Point, NJ (38° 56'N, 74° 57'W) was characterized by excellent numbers of Accipiters and Falcons but disappointingly few Buteos. By far, the most common migrant was the Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*, a species which appears to be experiencing a population boom of sorts. Reinforcement to this effect comes from other eastern hawk watches. The 47,790 Sharp-shinneds recorded this year constitute 59% of the total Cape May flight.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* sightings were down by over 40% from 1976's total of 105 but all available evidence suggests that Cape May might have been bypassed by an unknown but significant number this year. The Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, another endangered species, made a better showing than last year but in counter point, 1977 was a poor year for Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. The Golden Eagle migration might have been victimized by the less than auspicious flight conditions which prevailed during late October and November.

Highlights of the year's count included the appearance of two immature Swainson's Hawks *Buteo swainsoni* (5, 29 October) and the sighting of a Western or Dark Phase Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis calurus* on 19 November.

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SPECIES TOTALS BY MONTH

Species	September	October	November	Total
Turkey Vulture	24	192	237	453
Goshawk	0	9	12	21
Sharp-shinned Hawk	15,789	31,454	547	47,790
Cooper's Hawk	158	696	10	864
Red-tailed Hawk	72	241	1,284	1,597
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	179	211	390
Broad-winged Hawk	760	11,637	5	12,402
Rough-legged Hawk	0	2	4	6
Swainson's Hawk	0	2	0	2
Golden Eagle	0	0	9	9
Bald Eagle	5	12	2	19
Marsh Hawk	401	662	120	1,183
Osprey	638	529	5	1,172
Peregrine Falcon	17	44	0	61
Merlin	424	340	2	766
American Kestrel	5,786	8,965	111	14,862
TOTAL:	24,074	54,964	2,559	81,597

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