

Why hawks soar at Amherstburg

By Timothy Nowicki
special writer

AUTUMN IS the time when nature begins making preparations for winter. Insects lay eggs or develop into larva that will rest all winter long. Frogs will soon bury themselves in the soft mud of a pond to await the spring. Monarch butterflies and many species of birds leave the harsh northern climate and migrate south to spend the winter.

Thousands of birds follow the Great Lakes shorelines as they make their way to South America. En route, they pass over Holiday Provincial Park, south of Amherstburg, Ontario, on the Detroit River.

ONE BIRD, the broad-winged hawk, migrates through our area from northern Canada in impressive numbers. Starting in mid-September and continuing into mid-October, thousands of broad-winged hawks congregate overhead. Despite their three-foot wingspan, it is difficult to see them without binoculars.

High in the sky are large, swirling circles of hawks called "kettles." Birds form kettles in order to gain altitude by rising on the upward currents of air formed by changes in the earth's surface. Several hundred birds can be seen in each kettle, and several kettles can

nature

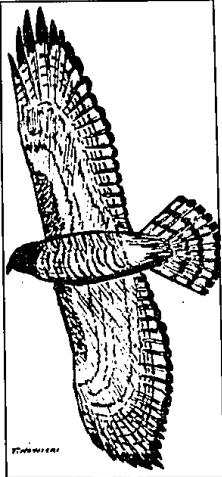
be seen in the sky. They gain altitude at Amherstburg so they can soar across Lake Erie by gradually losing altitude as they move toward Ohio.

MORNING IS the best time to see large numbers of birds moving through. I remember one morning several years ago when I saw about 13,000 hawks go by within three hours.

In addition to the high kettles, there are smaller hawks that migrate closer to the ground. Sharp-shinned hawks and kestrels can be seen regularly.

During fall months, especially, hawk watchers around the U.S. congregate at several places where birds have been migrating for several thousand years. Last year 8,000 people visited Hawk Mountain near Kempton, Pa., one weekend to watch these magnificent birds soar by.

It's amazing that such a phenomenon involving such large numbers of such large birds has been going on for years, yet most people are unaware of the spectacle.



Kettle hawk

Short courses open at OCC

Oakland Community College has registration open for a number of short-term courses including topics such as finance, fitness, dance, art and personal development.

The courses, which begin at various times, include such unusual ones as "Inventions and Patents," "Karyating," "Practicing for Retirement," "VCR Installation, Care and Operation," to name a few.

In many instances, senior citizens qualify for tuition discounts. For a complete listing, contact one of the local campuses. They are: Highland Lakes Campus, 350-3041; Orchard Ridge Campus, 471-7820; and the Southeast Campus, 967-5787.

OTHER FALL offerings include: "Parent Awareness for Families of the Developmentally Disabled," a short-term course offered at the Highland Lakes Campus in Auburn Hills. It is designed for parents, legal guardians, foster parents and family members of developmentally disabled children, adolescents and adults. Topic areas include services, planning, legal rights and management techniques. It meets 7:30-9 p.m. for 10 weeks beginning on Wednesday, Oct. 2. For more information, call 360-3041.

A seven-day "Stop Smoking Clinic" runs 7:30-9 p.m. beginning Oct. 17 at the college's Highland Lakes campus. The program will be conducted by Dr. Arthur Weaver, professor of surgery at Wayne State University, and John Swanson, a health education specialist. The fee is \$25. For more information, call 360-3041.

A series of enrichment short courses for students in grades K-12 and the academically gifted and talented is planned at the Orchard Ridge Campus. Registration continues until the first class meeting. Most classes begin on Oct. 5. For a complete listing, call 471-7595 or 471-7587.

"Test Taking Techniques," a short course offered at the Highland Lakes campus, is planned for students ages 13-18. It focuses on the skills of decoding, concepts of abstract reasoning, listening and following directions. It is designed for college-prep students. The course runs 9-10 a.m. Saturdays for 10 weeks beginning Sept. 23. For more information, call 360-3041.

THE COMMUNITY Activities Building at Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills, is open seven days a week for public use. Available facilities include the gym, weight room, pool and

racquetball courts. The pool is opened at 7 a.m. weekdays. A new community activities membership program is under way for the first time this fall.

OCC to hear Patterson on death penalty

Oakland Community College's distinguished speaker series will feature Oakland Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson discussing the death penalty Tuesday, Oct. 1.

The free public lecture will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Smith Performing Arts Theatre on the Orchard Ridge campus, Orchard Lake Road at 1-496 in Farmington Hills.

Patterson is leading another petition drive to place the issue on the 1986 ballot.

An opposing view will be presented at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, by Howard Simon, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan.

WSU hosts survey of U.S.-Canada ties

Wayne State University hosts a two-day conference on Canadian and U.S. relations Sept. 27-28 that will feature Canadian ambassador to the United States Allan Gotlib.

"U.S. and Canadian Relations: Where do We Stand?" will be presented by Gotlib during Friday night opening ceremonies. The dinner and lecture costs \$17 for the general public and the lecture alone costs \$2 for students.

Other symposium highlights include: "The Politics of Culture" will be discussed 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, by Mavor Moore, a Canadian author, actor and television personality, along with W.O. Mitchell, writer-in-residence at the University of Windsor, and Martin Herman, assistant dean of Liberal Arts at Wayne State.

"Communicating Under the Shadow of an Elephant" is the luncheon topic that day presented by Peter Gosciniak, a Canadian broadcaster, author and host of the CBC radio's "Morning Show."

Responding will be Victor Howard, director of the Center for Canadian Studies at Michigan State University.

"The Politics of Trade" will be discussed by William Markin, U.S. Deputy Assistant Trade Representative, Abraham Rotstein, professor of political economy at the University of Toronto, and attorney Shelly P. Batram.

The symposium is sponsored by Wayne State's Canadian Studies Committee, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, the Detroit Council for World Affairs, the University of Windsor, the Canadian Consulate General and the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

The cost of the Saturday program is \$25 and the lecture alone costs \$3 for students.

For more information, call Wayne State's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at 577-3453.

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