

Cooper's hawk spotted in suburbia

By Timothy Nowicki
special writer

I hadn't seen a Cooper's hawk in a couple of years until just the other day. I was driving in a Dearborn residential area and happened to look up at just the right time.

A Cooper's hawk was flying low overhead with a small group of other birds close behind — probably serving as an escort while it left the area.

Two days later, I spotted another Cooper's hawk as it flew over my car on I-75 near Seven Mile Road.

A Cooper's hawk is a representative of the deep woods hawks called "accipiters." They frequently feed on small birds. They have short, rounded wings and long tails which help them maneuver quickly through the woods.

People who feed birds have probably had an accipiter hawk looking over their menu at one time or another. The bird I saw in Dearborn was undoubtedly searching for prey at someone's feeder. A couple of years ago, one came to our feeder.

I had just sat down to eat lunch when suddenly all

nature

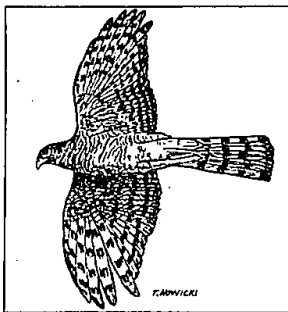
the birds flew to cover. Even the squirrels ran up the trees.

I DIDN'T know what caused this evacuation until a few moments later when I saw a Cooper's hawk alight on a branch of our maple tree.

Evidently one member of the bird community had sounded the alarm soon enough for all the small birds to reach cover safely. Birds at feeders soon learn to stay alert for invading hawks. This makes hunting difficult, so a hawk will soon move to another area.

With woodlots decreasing in the suburbs and feeding stations increasing, woodland hawks must adapt in order to survive.

Timothy Nowicki will teach a Nature Afield class beginning March 19 at Schoolcraft College.



Eye research grant goes to two OU researchers

Retinal detachments that won't respond to conventional surgery may be controlled by a drug commonly used in cancer chemotherapy. So say two scientists at Oakland University's Eye Research Institute.

Mark S. Blumenkranz and Michael K. Hartzer say that "surgical techniques yield a 90 percent success rate among 30,000 Americans who develop retinal detachments each year.

"But among the remaining 10 percent, an exaggerated form of the wound healing process that normally occurs in other parts of the body interferes with successful reattachment."

BLUMENKRANZ and Hartzer have received a three-year grant of \$325,000 from the National Eye Institute. They will try to understand both the physio-

logical basis for the problem and to develop drug therapies to control it.

Blumenkranz of Rochester Hills received his medical degree from Brown University and completed his residency in ophthalmology at Stanford University. He is on the staff of William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and head of the vitreoretinal service at the Kresge Eye Institute, Wayne State University.

Hartzer of Bloomfield Hills, completed his doctorate at Iowa State University and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Miami School of Medicine.

BOTH MEN are new appointees to the Eye Research Institute, coming to OU from the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of the University of Miami, Florida.

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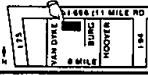
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