

Just Drifting Along

# Bird Club Members Watching Habits of Hitch-Hiking Hawks

Story and Photos by George Harrison

Hawks are lazy birds, so darn lazy that they will fly hundreds of miles out of their way in order to get a free ride south on the mountain air currents.

Each fall, thousands of hawks begin their annual migration out of Canada and northeastern United States. Some of them come to the Nittany Valley for a free ride on up-drafts from Bald Eagle and Tussey ridges.

The State College Bird Club has been watching and counting the hawks that pass through the area for the past seven years. They do their counting from the top of Tussey fire-tower on Tussey ridge.

This year has been the worst since the count started in 1948. Last year, on one day, bird club members counted over 200 hawks pass Tussey ridge. This year, since the middle of September, only 47 were counted. No one knows why the count is so low.

The hawks use many routes, but most of them start down through New England, turn inland through Pennsylvania in order to ride the mountain currents, and then into southern United States and Mexico, ending their long flight in northern South America.

### Use Air Currents

When the hawks hit the mountainous areas they fly to the base of a ridge and soar upward with the rising air caused by drafts and heat. The big birds reach very high altitudes before they end their circular pattern. Then they spread their huge wings and literally glide for miles on top of the up-drafts.

The hawks can travel at fast speeds too. Many average 40 to 50 miles an hour. Others such as duck hawks can go as fast as 60 miles an hour.

### 800 May Show

Although Centre County is not a main route for hawks, on a good year, as many as 800 have been seen.

Those using the Bald Eagle, Nittany, Tussey range come from western New York state into Pennsylvania, pass Williamsport, and enter the Nittany Valley, where they get their free ride.

Merrill Wood, professor of zoology, said that the best time to see the hawks is between 10 a.m. and noon on a clear day. Wood has been one of the most active members of the club and has kept records for the organization.

### Keep Bird Records

Not only does the bird club keep records on the hawk migration, but on all sight records of any birds seen in the State College area. The records are sent to the Audubon Field Notes publication which is circulated throughout the world.

The club meets twice a month in the homes of its members. It is a loose knit group of persons who like to get together and talk about the birds they have seen and the hawks they have counted.

The members consist of students, faculty members and State College residents.



HAWKS IN SIGHT, binoculars, up. William Paxton, senior in forestry, and Robert Compton, sophomore in botany, scan the skies for a tiny speck.

## APhiO Sets New Record With Pledge Class of 120

Alpha Phi Omega, national service fraternity, has pledged 120 men. Edward Springman, secretary, said that this figure sets a national record. Last year, the chapter broke another national record when it pledged 80 men.

Alpha Phi Omega, second largest national fraternity, has 285 chapters in the United States and Canada.

### Those pledged are:

James Rossi, Fred Biescher, William Crain, Chester Piotrowski, Harry Van Brunt, Kent Pinkerton, Robert Hild, Kendall Weir, Leonard Marcus, Mathew Tierrel, Bernard Appelbaum, Noel Beale.

Robert Beatty, Paul Beebe, Stephen Beresin, William Bias, Robert Bowtys, Louis Brast, William Bromley, Richard Brown, Gerald Carlson, Columbus Cascio, James Cober, Herbert Cohen, Mark Conn, Harold Craig, Louis Criden, Noel DeCavalcante, Richard Dommel, Don Donchi, Robert Drexler, James Durham, John Earhart, Frederick Egner.

Joseph Engliah, Merrill Erakine, Robert Ferris, Raymond Fireman, Samuel Fisher, Stevenson Fletcher, John Garber, John Gerhard, John Gingrich, William Goldman, Emerson Grindall, John Hafer, Clifford Hepler, Edward Hintz, Jon Hoffman, Dale Hoy, Donald Huntsinger, Robert Ignatin.

William Jaffe, William Johnston, Richard Jones, John Kerr, John Kovacs, Alfred Kraft, Charles Krela, Don Kreiger, Louis Lasday, George Layman, Alan Lees, Russell Lerch, William Lockard, Browne Losenbly, George Mansell, Richard Martin, Terrence McDevitt.

Donald McLaughlin, Frank McLaughlin, John Meisil, Larry Metzger, Jerome Meyer, Ralph Moore, James Moyer, Robert Newman, David Patterson, Max Perlmutter, Willes Reeder, James Reeves, Michael Roelberk.

Allan Rose, Frank Saurman, Kenneth Saurman, Edgar Sellers, Thomas Serafin, Alan Sexton, John Shaffer, George Shaub, Robert Shapiro, Roy Shiela, Robert Showp, Hugh Sides, Samuel Sidewater, Murray Simon, Jay Skolnick.

Ronald Simak, Charles Smyers, Max Sponseller, Edward Stein, Thomas Stempkowski, James Swope, James Thomas, Brent Toll, Charles Thompson, Richard Wall, Joseph Weader, Samuel Weiner, Richard Werner.

David West, Arthur Williams, Edgar Williams, John Wilson, William Woll, John Yousock, Gary Young, George Zechman, and Roderic Zengerl.

## Judicial Requests Pro for 3 Students

The Association of Independent Men Judicial Board of Review Tuesday night recommended office probation for two students and office probation and one week of hours for a third student, all of whom were charged with drinking in a Nittany dormitory.

The three—a first semester business administration student, a second semester mineral industries student, and a third semester division of intermediate registration student—said that two visitors, not from the University, brought a six-pack of beer to the one student's room.

### Counselors Report Students

The students were reported by two Nittany counselors, both graduate students at the University. The counselors were in charge of the area from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., in accordance with a policy which provides two counselors for Friday and Saturday nights in the area.

Office probation requires that the student so punished report to the Dean of Men's office periodically for interviews with the Dean of Men in charge of disciplinary action.

### Hours Restricted

A student receiving hours is required to remain in his dormitory each night after 6:30 for the duration of the penalty. If the student wants to leave his dormitory for any reason after 6:30 p.m. he must contact a member of the AIM Board of Review for permission, or failing in this, notify his dormitory counselor. Members of the board check to see that hours are being followed.

The AIM Board of Review is a recommending body which deals with disciplinary offenses committed by independent students. All students who come before the board have the right to appeal all decisions to the Dean of Men's office within five days after their hearing. No action taken by the board is final until approved by the Dean of Men's office.

## Forms Available For Draft Test

Men desiring to take the Selective Service College Qualification Test may obtain application forms at the dean of men's office, 109 Old Main. Applications for the Nov. 15 test must be postmarked no later than midnight Oct. 30.

- To be eligible applicants must:
    1. Be a selective service registrant who intends to request deferment as a student.
    2. Be satisfactorily pursuing a full-time course (12 credits) undergraduate or graduate leading to a degree.
    3. Previously not have taken the test.
- A second selective test will be given April 18.

## Freshman Council Elects Officers

Nancy Clark, freshman in arts and letters from Paoli, has been elected vice president of Freshman Council.

Other officers are Janet Moore, freshman in home economics education from West View, secretary; and Jessie Janjigian, freshman in chemistry from Kingston, treasurer.

The council named Sue Hertzler, Jean Slayton, and Heather Trexler to a Mardi Gras committee to formulate plans for the freshman council booth.

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## State Department Employee to Speak

John G. MacCracken, a representative of the United States Department of State, will be on campus tomorrow to explain the opportunities in the United States Foreign Service.

Examinations for Foreign Service candidates will be given Dec. 3, and applications must be filed no later than Oct. 26.

Application blanks are available at the University Placement Office in 112 Old Main or the department of political science in 119 Sparks.

MacCracken will speak at 10:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. in 209 Hetzel Union.

## Players Present . . . Friday-Saturday



### THE THREE ANGELS

Center Stage 8 P.M.  
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