

Note

OBSERVATIONS OF MIGRATING SWAINSON'S HAWKS IN WYOMING. — Large-scale raptor migrations have been reported for the Great Lakes and eastern regions of the United States but few data are available on raptor migrations in the western U.S. (P. Hofslund, pers. comm.). We report observations of three Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) migrations in Sheridan County, Wyoming.

The largest flock was sighted from 1109 to 1149 hr on 24 April 1979 over Sheridan airport. Single and groups of 50-200 hawks flew in a northwesterly direction approximately 300 m above ground at a steady 64-80 kph. Our estimate of 2100 birds represents one of the largest Swainson's hawk flocks ever reported in North America. Cameron (1907, Auk 24:241-270) reported a flock of 2000 birds during April 1890 over the Powder River, Montana, but few modern records approach this figure. In late September 1980, concentrations of 700 and 300+ Swainson's hawks were seen in central Nebraska (1980, American Birds 34:177).

We witnessed two additional Swainson's hawk migrations near Sheridan: a flock of 100 on 21 September 1976, and 200 on 23 September 1977. Observations in this region may indicate that the Powder River and Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming act as flight lines for migrating raptors.

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