

(*Buteo borealis*), but are a little more of a bluish-white in the ground-color.

For some reason, this species was quite abundant in the neighborhood of Boston in the winter of 1859-60: probably a dozen or fifteen specimens were sent to me in the different plumages, and I have heard of many others being shot in the same season.

I have had but few opportunities for studying the habits of this hawk, and, as my observations have been very meagre, I will give Audubon's description, which, so far as my experience goes, is very accurate; it is as follows:—

"The flight of the Goshawk is extremely rapid and protracted. He sweeps along the margins of the fields, through the woods, and by the edges of ponds and rivers, with such speed as to enable him to seize his prey by merely deviating a few yards from his course; assisting himself on such occasions by his long tail, which, like a rudder, he throws to the right or left, upwards or downwards, to check his progress, or enable him suddenly to alter his course. At times he passes like a meteor through the underwood, where he secures squirrels and hares with ease. Should a flock of wild pigeons pass him when on these predatory excursions, he immediately gives chase, soon overtakes them, and, forcing his way into the very centre of the flock, scatters them in confusion, when you may see him emerging with a bird in his talons, and diving towards the depth of the forest to feed upon his victim. When travelling, he flies high, with a constant beat of the wings, seldom moving in large circles like other hawks; and, when he does this, it is only a few times in a hurried manner, after which he continues his journey.

"Along the Atlantic Coast, this species follows the numerous flocks of ducks that are found there during the autumn and winter; and greatly aids in the destruction of mallards, teals, black ducks, and other species, in company with the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco anatum*). It is a restless bird, apparently more vigilant and industrious than many other hawks, and it seldom alights unless to devour its prey; nor can I recollect ever having seen one alighted for many minutes at a time, without having a bird in its talons.

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