

FALL HAWK MIGRATION

PRELIMINARY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 18-19, 1971

A stalling weak cold front across the mid-atlantic states almost wiped out the Hawk Watch. Inland the weather started to move Saturday noon and so did the hawks. Along the shoreline light showers and fog prevailed most of the day. Continued movement of the weather brought better sighting on Sunday. Wind directions varied over the area from North to Southeast as did the velocities, from 0 to 30 mph.

The area we sought to cover was bound by Pittsfield, Athol, Napatree Point, and Greenwich. Although all reports are not in, this covers 25 sites reporting on Saturday and 42 reporting on Sunday. These reports are the efforts of 140 people from 16 bird clubs.

Saturday. The only significant thing to appear was the Kestrel movement at Lighthouse Point in East Haven between 8 and 4:30 when 71 passed. The large number of Ospreys and Marsh Hawks recorded is very gratifying as most of these are inland sightings. With the few reports available, it is difficult to corrolate the Broadwings' movement although large kettles were sighted at Westhampton, Montgomery, Granville, East Hartland, and Watertown.

Sunday. The Broadwings started early and by 9 to 9:30 a wave appeared to pass through the Athol-New Salem-Shutesbury-Quabbin area, by 10 to 10:30 this flight was over Westhampton, Montgomery-Westfield, and between 11:30 and 12, Mount Everett-Ashley Falls-Mt. Riga reported flights of 1000, 2000, and 1800. The West Southwest course appears to be the result of the easterly winds. Greenwich reported 3 Bald Eagles and New Fairfield, Mount Tom, and Shutesbury, 1 each. Again Marsh Hawks and Ospreys appear in good numbers along with a sprinkling of Peregrines.

The Travelers Weather Service granted us the use of their Weather Radar installation and Aetna Life and Casualty loaned photographic equipment and supplies which allowed us to photograph suspected kettles of hawks on Saturday. This experiment demonstrated the feasibility of combining radar with field observations for hawk studies.

Saturday, September 18

<u>Totals</u>	<u>Reports</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>RT</u>	<u>RS</u>	<u>BW</u>	<u>BE</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>KES.</u>	<u>MER.</u>	<u>PF</u>	<u>GH</u>	<u>RL</u>	<u>UNIDENTS</u>
3836	25	31	32	19	4	3390	0	27	120	207	10	1	1	1	97

Sunday, September 19

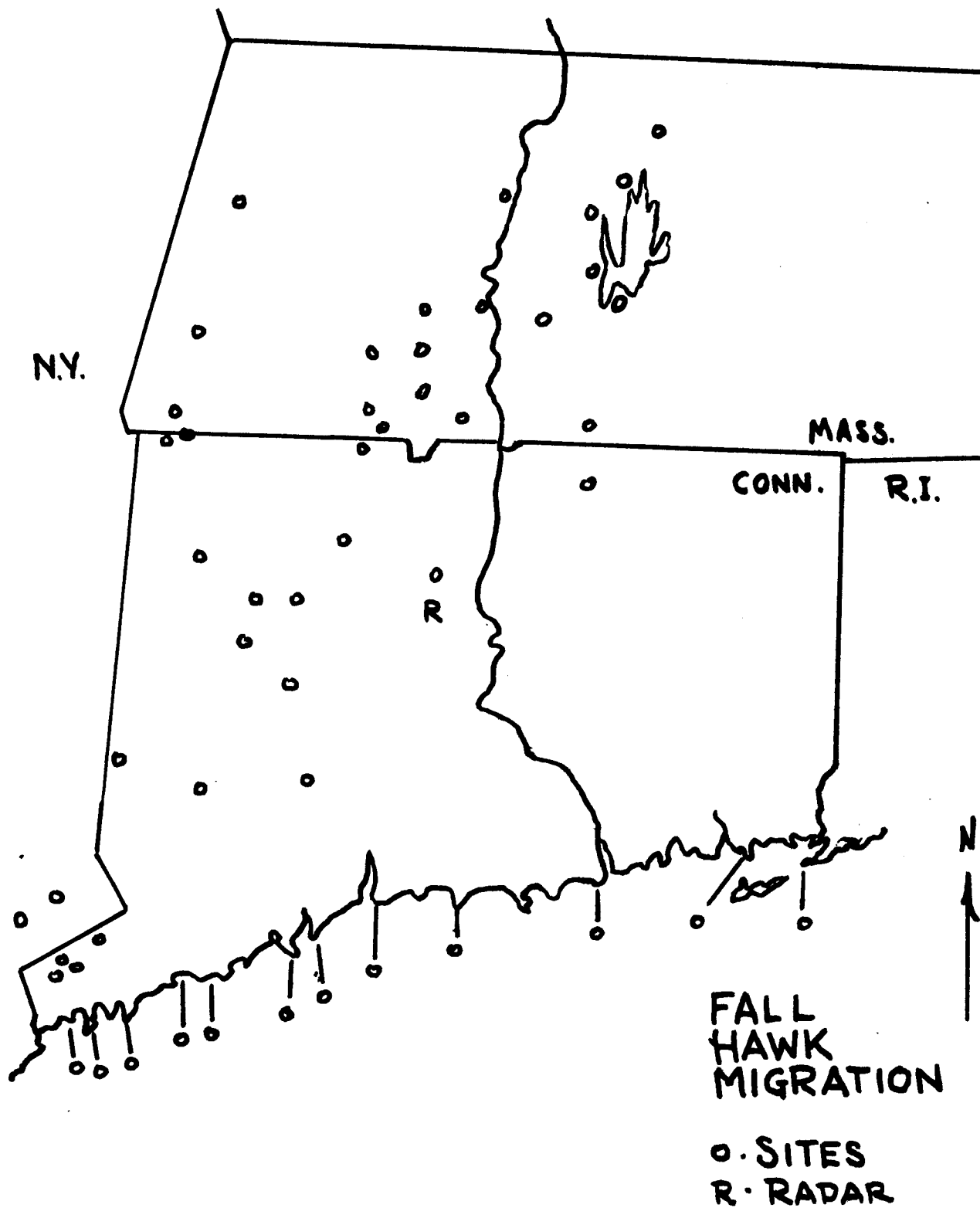
24,077	42	316	100	105	27	22218	6	56	251	499	14	7	2	1	829
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Next Hawk Watch is October 23 and 24. We could use more volunteers.

The 1972 dates: Spring Migration April 22, 23
Fall Migration September 16, 17
October 21, 22.

A complete report will be made after the October reports are in.

Donald A. Hopkins
Gerald S. Mersureau



This map shows the location of sites selected for the Fall Hawk Migration Study. On Saturday, the 18th, 25 sites reported and on Sunday, the 19th, 42 sites reported.

HAWK MIGRATION - Preliminary Report for April 22 - 23, 1972.

WEATHER - Starting on the 16th of April a strong mass of warm air moved into the Gulf States. By the 19th this warm air had pushed all the way up to New England. With it came record high temperatures and southwest winds. On the 20th rain and snow followed. Winds from the North and Northwest started to clear the area on the 21st. The 22nd scattered showers were a threat to the area, winds were variable during the day swinging from East to Southwest in the afternoon bringing in showers. The morning of the 23rd higher elevations were blanketed by low-lying clouds until mid-morning. Again the winds were variable, swinging from north to south and southwest.

Saturday 22nd - The turnout for this first day of the Spring migration watch was impressive. 82 people were out covering 30 sites. We were looking at the tail end of a heavy migration which was reported at Watertown, Pittsfield, and Athol on the morning of the 19th. One of the most striking things is the absence of Ospreys moving along the coast. Those reported were on inland sites apparently on their way to northern lakes and rivers. The shoreline Ospreys may migrate early as the coastal areas are first to clear of ice and the alewife & shad provide their early food. Broadwings moved through as singles, doubles, and small kettles of a few birds.

Sunday 23rd - Eighty people turned out to man 32 sites. The number of most hawks decreased. Again, Napatree Point reported as on Saturday, kestrels (13 - 9) moving southwest toward Fisher's Island. The accipiters, as with the Ospreys, appear to avoid migration along the coast. Specific movement among small numbers is difficult to correlate. Nevertheless the numbers of hawks integrated over the area gives an indication of the migration movement. The hawks seemed to be more dispersed today, as an indicator there appeared to be no significant concentration at Mount Tom, which had a count approximating surrounding areas.

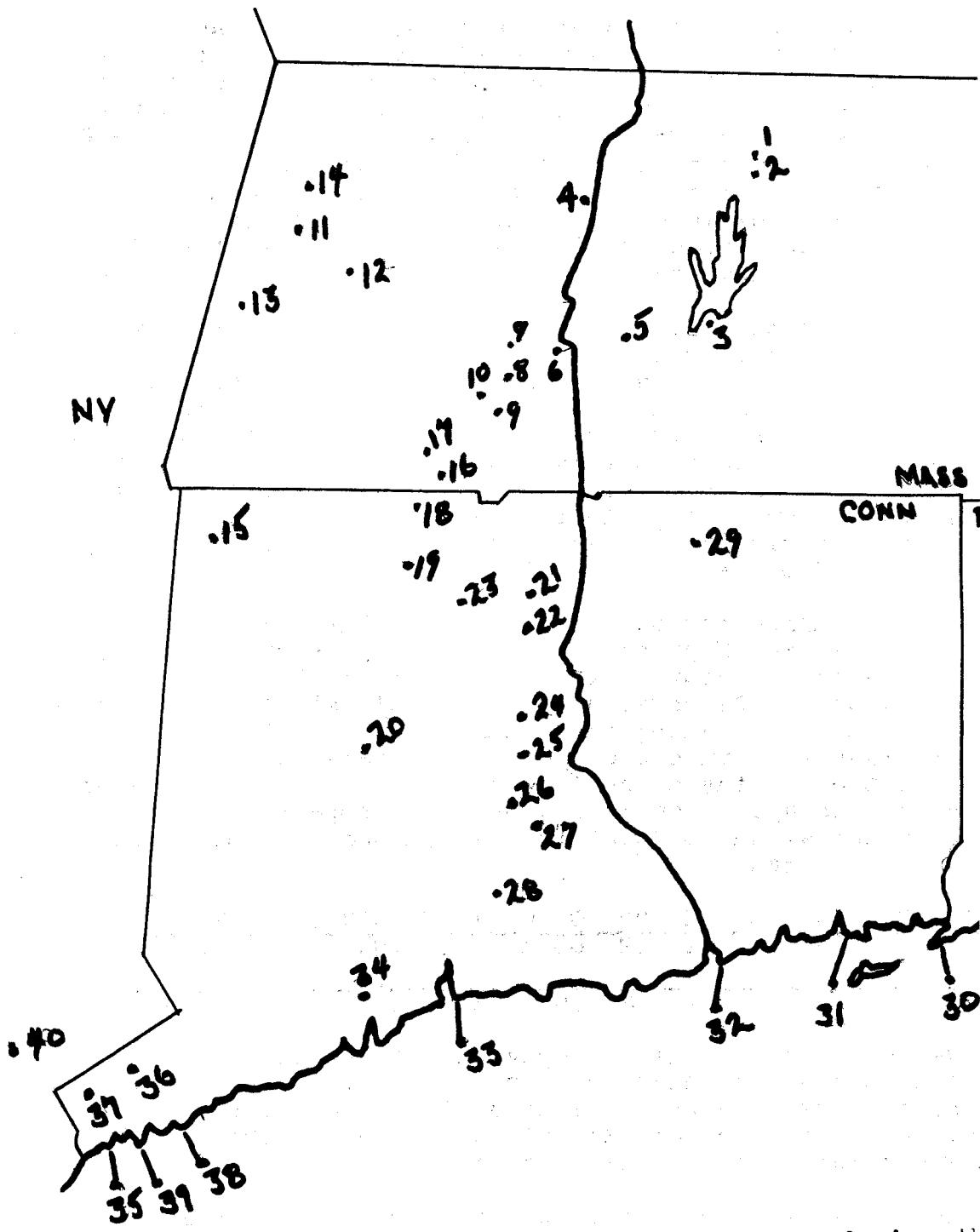
	SS	C	G	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	MH	O	K	M	UNIDENT.	Totals
April 22	53	23	3	69	9	1158	1	1	12	65	46	3	194	1637
April 23	24	6	6	52	14	497	-	-	4	75	38	5	148	869

We would like to thank all these people who manned sites in April when hawk migrations are less spectacular than in the fall. Your reports have added to the store of knowledge on the little studied and less known Spring Hawk migration. We invite you all to join us again for the Fall migration, after which a complete report will be made.

Again this September the Travelers Weather Service will allow us to monitor their Radar. It is essential that wide ground coverage support this effort. We are presently negotiating to supplement this with an airplane to track any significant hawk movement.

Please reserve the following dates: September 16 - 17
October 28 - 29.

Donald A. Hopkins
Gerald S. Mersereau



- KEY
1. ATHOL- R.TOP
 2. ATHOL- H. KNOB
 3. QUABBIN
 4. SUGARLOAF
 5. Norwottuck
 6. MT. TOM
 7. WESTHAMPTON
 8. MONTGOMERY
 9. NOBLE VIEW
 10. Worenoce
 11. Pittsfield
 12. WASHINGTON
 13. WEST STOCKBRIDGE
 14. Lanesboro
 15. SALISBURY
 16. Granville
 17. WEST GRANVILLE
 18. West Hartland
 19. NEW HARTFORD
 20. WATERTOWN
 21. Penwood
 22. Talcott Science
 23. HEDGEHOG
 24. Berlin
 25. Middletown
 26. MERIDEN
 27. DURHAM
 28. North Haven
 29. SOMERS
 30. NAPATREE PT.
 31. GROTON
 32. Great Island
 33. LIGHTHOUSE PT.
 34. STRATFORD
 35. Meads Pt.
 36. Parkway School
 37. Greenwich Aud.
 38. Weeds Pt.
 39. Tops Pt.
 40. Pleasantville

The map locates the sites which were manned during the weekend. Those sites in the key which are in caps were manned both days. A number of observers reported on sites which were not manned, due to bad weather or no hawks.

HAWK MIGRATION - Preliminary Report for September 16 - 17, 1972.

WEATHER - The ideal weather pattern for hawk migration started to develop on September 13 with a low over the Great Lakes which moved rapidly along the Lakes and up the St. Lawrence River. By the evening of the 14th the accompanying cold front had cleared the New England area. This set up ideal conditions for migration on Friday the 15th. On the 16th an approaching low in the Lakes area started to draw warm air up from the south. The area experienced light southerly winds. On Sunday the 17th wind velocity increased swinging around to the southwest and temperatures rose.

Saturday 16th - The area was covered by 36 sites most of which were the same sites as last year. We were fortunate to be able to extend our area with reports from Hyde Park and New Paltz, New York and Bristol, New Hampton, Goffstown, New Hampshire. It was from the Bristol site that we received a phone call Friday evening reporting a flight of 999 Broadwings between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. It was natural to anticipate these birds would move through our area along with others from the North. The totals shown below tell that the day did not live up to expectation. The only section which had good Broadwing flights was the Mt. Everett, Ashley Falls, Sharon, and Kent sector which accounted for a large portion of the Broadwings recorded. Other sites to the north, east, and south show no similar buildup. They approached this sector from the Northeast, possibly from New Hampshire. The totals when compared to last year show no great difference in their ratios.

Sunday 17th - Strong southwest winds are reflected by the very low counts which were received at all sites. The totals for the 29 sites are startlingly low, in fact, well below those which were recorded for 24 sites on April 23rd. This near shut off of hawk migration is really fascinating.

September 16 - 42 sites

SS	C	RT	RS	BW	BE	MH	O	K	M	PF	GH	RL	UNIDENT.	Totals
93	14	72	14	9131	2	29	86	205	14	1	1	1	141	9804

September 17 - 29 sites

20	1	35	5	59	1	13	36	64	3	0	1	0	19	257
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We would like to report that on the 16th we again had the opportunity to monitor the Travelers Weather Service Radar. This year the reception was extremely good. Many echos were received from the Western sector which had the good Broadwing flight. We are still analyzing this information.

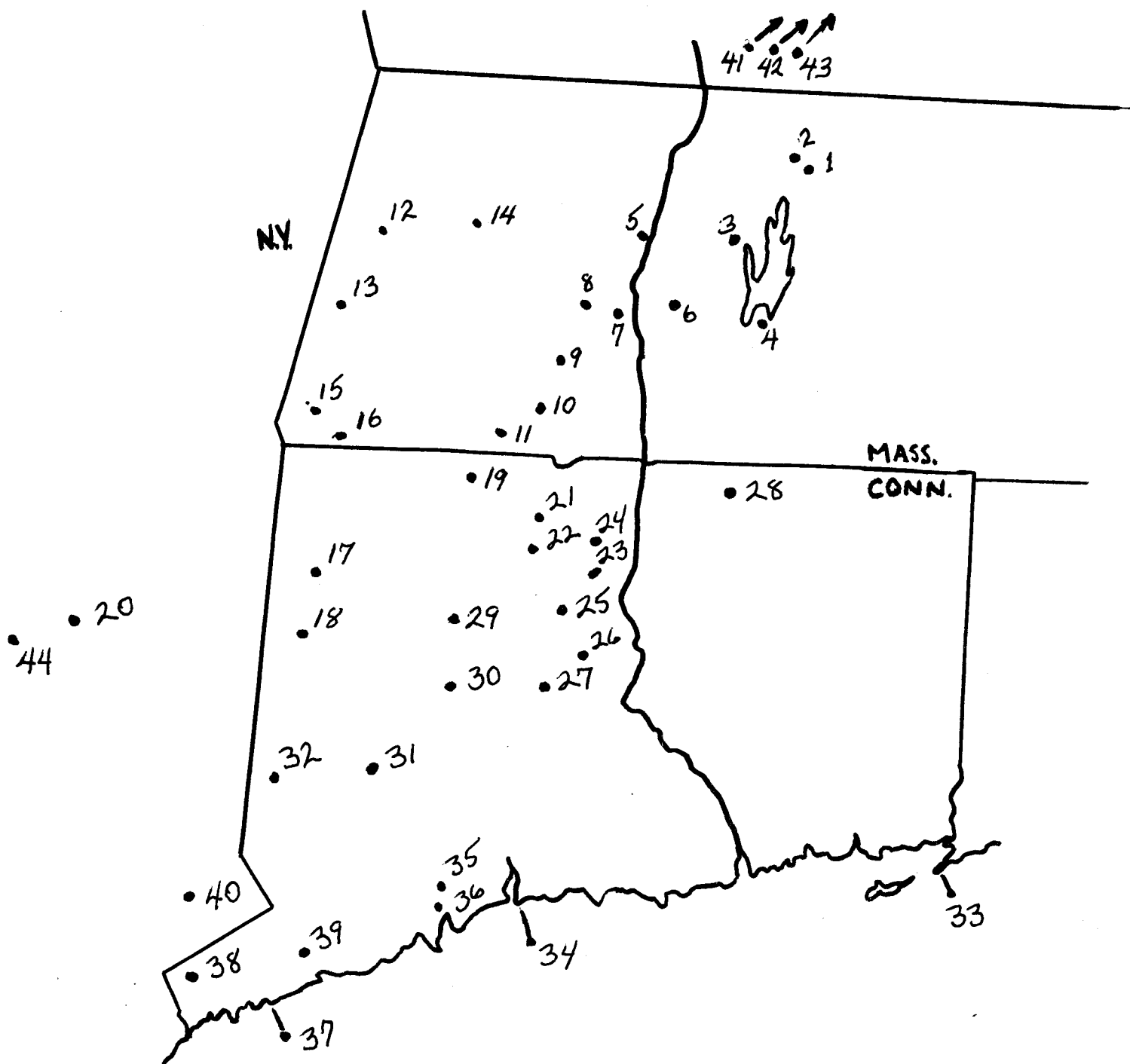
Unfortunately we were unable to obtain the services of an airplane or glider to pursue the Broadwing flight. Nevertheless we did receive a report from one pilot that picked up a kettle of Broadwings between 2500 to 3000 feet in the southwest part of Connecticut. This helped to confirm a ground sighting which had the same estimated height in this sector.

Again we wish to thank all who have manned sites in September. With our limited resources we find it difficult to report anything other than highlights. Should you have any specific questions or comments we would welcome them, or if you care to examine the data that has been accumulated, we can accommodate you. In other words, we would like to hear from you!

Please reserve October 28 and 29 for the Hawk Migration Study.

Donald A. Hopkins
Gerald S. Mersereau

The map locates the sites which were manned during the September weekend. Those sites in the key which are in caps were manned both days. We have included three sites in New Hampshire and two from New York, which are new to our study area.



- 1.ATHOL - R.TOP
- 2.ATHOL - LAWTON
- 3.SHUTESBURY
- 4.QUABBIN
- 5.SUGAR LOAF
- 6.Norwottock
- 7.Mt. Tom
- 8.WESTHAMPTON
- 9.Montgomery
- 10.NOBLE VIEW
- 11.WEST GRANVILLE

- 12.PITTSFIELD
- 13.West Stockbridge
- 14.Windsor
- 15.MT. EVERETT
- 16.ASHLEY FALLS
- 17.Sharon
- 18.KENT
- 19.West Hartland
- 20.HYDE PARK
- 21.Granby
- 22.HEDGEHOG

- 23.Talcott Science
- 24.PENWOOD
- 25.Plainville
- 26.Berlin
- 27.Meriden
- 28.SOAPSTONE
- 29.LITCHFIELD
- 30.WATERTOWN
- 31.Newtown
- 32.New Fairfield
- 33.NAPATREE PT.

- 34.LIGHTHOUSE PT.
- 35.FARMILL RIVER
- 36.STRATFORD
- 37.WEED BEACH
- 38.GREENWICH AUD.
- 39.LARSEN SANCT.
- 40.Mt. Aspetong
- 41.BRISTOL
- 42.New Hampton
- 43.GOFFSTOWN
- 44.New Paltz

HAWK MIGRATION - Preliminary Report for September 15 - 16, 1973.

WEATHER - Prior to September 16, the Southern New England area was subjected to 10 days record high temperature and humidity. On the 6th a cold front passed through the area accompanied by high wind, heavy rains, and thunderstorms. This was followed by 7 days of good weather, the winds for the most part out of the Northwest quadrant, a condition which appeared ideal for migration. This pattern was broken on the 14th with the passage of a cold front and heavy rains which cleared the area in the early morning hours of the 15th. The 15th started with fog and low clouds, the eastern part of the area was gradually cleared by winds from the Northeast, to North and Northwest. By the 16th the winds had swung around to the West with upper winds out of the Southwest.

SATURDAY, 15th - The area was covered this year by 41 sites, most of which had been manned in the past. The Broadwing flight which started with few hawks at both Athol and Quabbin at 9:30, reached a peak at LaFleur and Goat's Peak about 11:00 A.M. By 12:30 a large flight appeared at West Hartland and by 1:30 P.M. these hawks passed over Litchfield and at 2:30 a large flight was reported at Brookfield. The New Canaan-Greenwich area reported a large flight of Broadwings between 3 and 4 P.M. The course pursued by the Broadwinged Hawks would appear to be approximately 210° (true). During the flight we were fortunate to have a radio net which allowed us to put up two airplanes in the flight and bring the radar into play on this. Both of these will be subject to more comment in the final report. Suffice to say at this time that kettles were peaking from 2500 to 2800 feet which accounts for the difficulty reported in observing hawks.

SUNDAY, 16th - The Broad-winged Hawk flight this day appeared to develop in the Litchfield area at mid-day, this was possibly the end of Saturday's flight which put down for the night. There is an indication that this flight may have moved along the same course to New Canaan as the Saturday flight. The major hawk movement was in Connecticut with little feeding in from Massachusetts and above.

SEPT.15	SS	C	GOS	RT	RS	BW	RL	BE	GE	MH	O	K	M	P	UNI	TOTAL
41 sites	25	9	4	45	10	11534	0	1	1	44	126	116	1	2	560	12478

SEPT.16																
39 sites	40	11	4	56	16	4674	1	2	0	23	116	46	5	1	141	5133

COMMENTS: The results of this week were most successful, although the hawk flight was not as impressive as 1971. The fine weather which prevailed prior to and after the weekend allowed the passage of large numbers of Broad-winged Hawks. The 12th, 13th, 17th, and 19th were particularly good days. This circumstance prevented the damping of the hawk flight and reduced the size of the flight on any particular day.

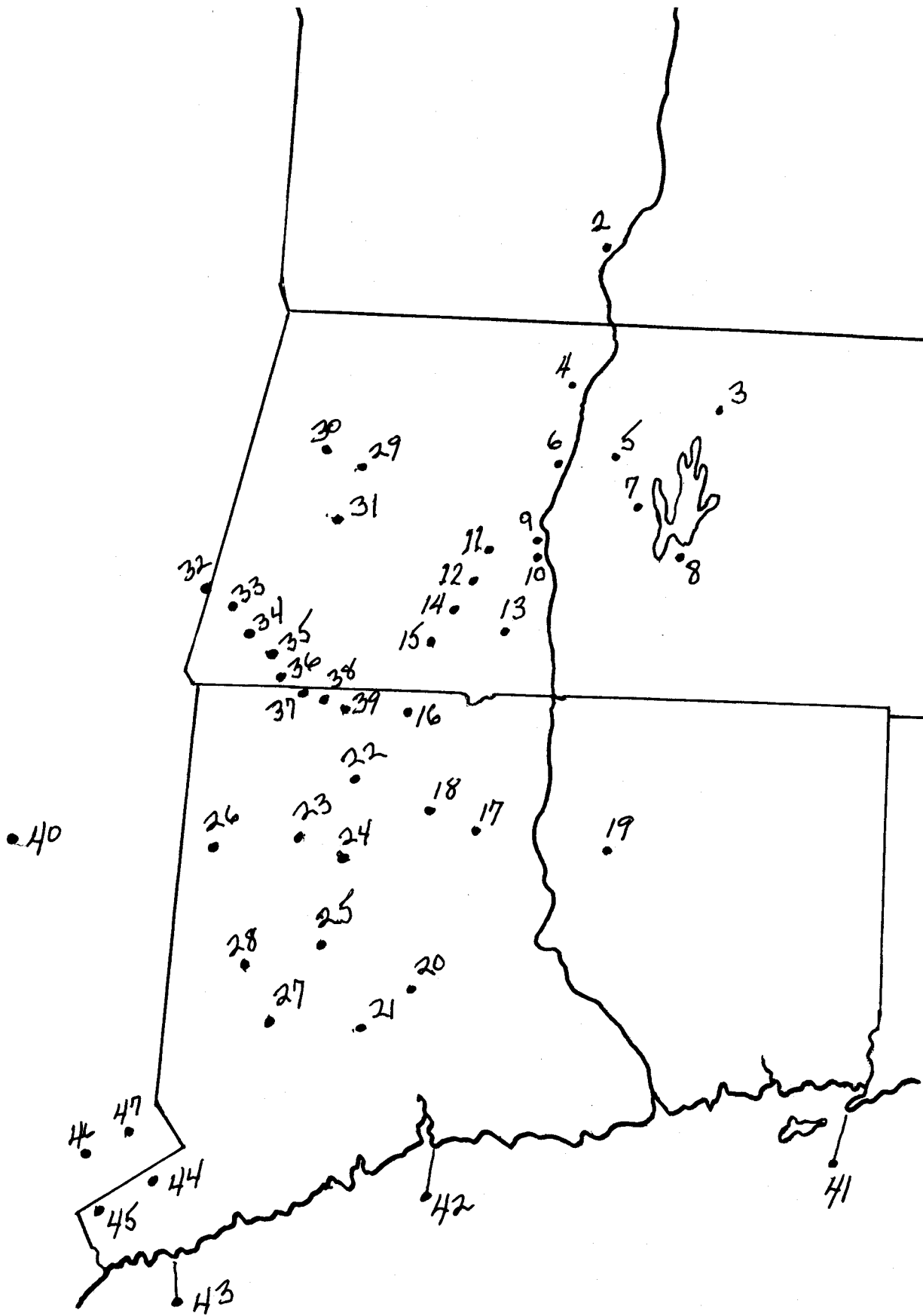
Again we are encouraged by the Osprey report and the few reports of Peregrines and Bald Eagles. The most startling report was an adult Golden Eagle seen at Newtown on the 15th.

We again wish to thank all of you who have taken part this September and look forward to your help in October. Our list of credits has expanded this year. Thanks also go to the Bird Clubs for their financial support, The Western Massachusetts (AREC) Repeater Association, the Pioneer Valley Repeater Association, and North Berkshire Amateur Radio Club for volunteering to supply a radio net, and to City Aviation, Inc. and Pilot, Mr. Doug Chaffee, for their efficient air charter service. Thanks to the Travelers Weather Service for the use of their radar and to Aetna Life and Casualty Company for their camera equipment.

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING DATES--OCTOBER 27 - 28.

Donald A. Hopkins
Gerald S. Mersereau

THE MAP LOCATES THE SITES WHICH WERE MANNED ONE OR MORE DAYS DURING THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 15 - 16.



KEY

1. GOFFSTOWN
2. PUTNEY MT.
3. ATHOL
4. GREENFIELD MT.
5. MT. TOBY
6. SUGARLOAF MT.
7. MT. LINCOLN
8. QUABBIN
9. LA FLEUR ARPT.
10. MT. TOM
11. WESTHAMPTON
12. MONTGOMERY
13. PROVIN MT.
14. WESTFIELD
15. WEST GRANVILLE
16. WEST HARTLAND
17. TALCOTT SCIENCE
18. WEST SIMSBURY
19. MANCHESTER
20. MERIDEN
21. BETHANY
22. NORFOLK
23. MOHAWK MT.
24. LITCHFIELD
25. WATERTOWN
26. KENT
27. NEWTOWN
28. BROOKFIELD
29. PITTSFIELD
30. BERK. COM. CGE.
31. LENOX MT.
32. CATAMOUNT
33. SOUTH EGREMONT
34. MT. EVERETT
35. SHEFFIELD
36. ASHLEY FALLS
37. CANAAN
38. EAST CANAAN 7
39. EAST CANAAN 8
40. HYDE PARK
41. NAPATREE PT.
42. LIGHTHOUSE PT.
43. WEED PT.
44. LAUREL RESV.
45. AUDUBON CTR.
46. MT. ASPETONG
47. POUND RIDGE