

BIRDS FAR FROM EXTINCT, READERS SAY

Many Nighthawks Seen In Area

On February 15, in a letter to The Pilot, a Sandhills resident noted an absence of nighthawks around the writer's home last summer, as contrasted with previous years. Then, on Sunday, February 25, in the Greensboro Daily News, the editor of that newspaper, H. W. Kendall, citing the letter to The Pilot, wrote that nighthawks seem to be disappearing in the Greensboro area, also. Mr. Kendall's comments were reprinted in a recent Pilot, including information from a Greensboro area bird lover and outdoorsman, "Mr. Joe" Stone with whom readers will note that the following article takes issue in a parenthetical comment. Miss Mary Wintyen of Southern Pines, who wrote the item to follow, is a leading "birder" of the Sandhills who tells The Pilot, now and then, about her discoveries or observations. She recently asked that Pilot readers report to her on evening grosbeaks seen in this area, with results that she says were most gratifying. Here is what Miss Wintyen has to say about nighthawks:

By MISS MARY WINTYEN
Before giving my recorded observations of the nighthawk, I would like to generalize on this erratic wanderer on the wing. The common nighthawk has a number of names, almost all misnomers, but none so absurd as "bull-bat," or from the order under which he is listed, "goat-sucker." From the so-called jarring noise of wings and wind, when he sweeps upward from one of his high dives, he is called "nightjap." Then, because his diet consists of, among other insects, mosquitoes and moths—"mosquito hawk."
The nighthawk has no song "but the one bass note he pro-

Nighthawks Seen at West End

To the Editor:
Your article in March 1 issue of The Pilot concerning nighthawks was of interest. Just north of our home is a large field of five-year-old pines and over this area the nighthawks feed during their season each summer. I have observed as many as a dozen or more at the time on occasions.
A few years ago I lived in Robeson County, very near a large dairy. There I observed these birds in large numbers, concentrated in the air above the dairy

barns. I assumed, without factual knowledge, that the air above the barns attracted large numbers of insects, or that they bred in the vicinity and filled the air.
Also nighthawks may be seen over lakes where the space is open and the air attracts night bugs. So, from my own observation, the nighthawks may not be as numerous as in former years, but they are not extinct.
GEORGE F. HOUCK
West End

duces with his wings, when he wheels up suddenly from an 80 foot or more dive, sounds like a subdued boom, and proclaims him the bass trumpet player of Nature's "orchestra," as one writer puts it. One of his scientific names, Chordeiles is derived from two Greek words: chorde, meaning stringed instrument, and deile, meaning evening. To me this is the sum total of all descriptions of his whirring flight.
Some think the nighthawk and the whip-poor-will are identical, but this is not true. Here, let me add a note, that in the South, too often the whip-poor-will is mistaken for the chuck-will's widow. There is a resemblance between the three (nighthawk and whip-poor-will and chuck-will's widow), and they do have some things in common, such as perching length-wise on limbs or fence (sorry "Mr. Joe," but that's the way it is) and catching flying insects at dusk, but actual comparison reveals a number of differences, both in size and coloration. While the whip-or chuck- sticks to the woods and only, just before nightfall, does he go "hawking," the nighthawk may be seen any hour of the day, although they are more active, or are supposed to be, just before sunrise and after sunset. The distinct and most conspicuous marks of the

nighthawk are the white wings seen from below, appearing as a hole in each wing, through which you might expect to see the sky, as he wheels over your head, calling forth, loud and clear, his nasal "pee-ik," "peent" or "spee-ak."

Nighthawks winter in South America and arrive here some time in April, then, the last of September or October, off they go again to their winter quarters, Argentina or thereabouts, which is another summer for them.

Nowhere in my records, and I went back as far as 1958, do I find any evidence that nighthawks are becoming scarce, nor have I seen any mention of their diminishing in the State or National Audubon magazines.

In 1959, my first sight was on April 17, when one was flying over my house. Then on through May up to July, at which time I left for the North, I would see from three to four, maybe more, some in the afternoons, others, in the evening, here and there on my field trips.

The record shows about the same for 1960. On May 16, I saw eight on my way to the airport.

The same number and pattern holds true in 1961, but on May 28, a couple of other birders and myself were at the airport in the afternoon and counted at least 10 flying low over the ground in front of the loading apron at the airport. I managed to get a good picture of one, showing the broad white patch across his wings as he banked.

My belief is that, except where men are tempted to use them for targets, and in some parts diminish their number, nighthawks are not on the decrease.

Hospital 'Family' Contributing to Large Fund Drive

Moore Memorial Hospital's "family"—the employees, the medical staff, the board of directors and the auxiliary—have given the hospital's current \$450,000 building fund campaign their stamp of approval by announcing \$80,965 in pledges, with indications of much more to come.

Hospital employees, nearing the close of their solicitation period, announced \$7,113.02 pledged against their target of \$10,000. Pledges to date have come from 83 1/2 of the hospital's 216 employees who are aiming toward 100% participation.

Members of the hospital's medical staff have pledged \$52,352 so far and the Auxiliary has announced that its pre-campaign pledge of \$10,000 has been doubled.

The board of directors, already responsible for almost \$200,000 in pre-campaign pledges, has announced that an additional \$11,500 has been pledged thus far by its members to this phase of the hospital's building program.

Last week saw the hospital's campaign carried outside its immediate "family" as the Primary Gifts Division gets under way throughout the hospital's service area. Following the Division's "kickoff" meeting Wednesday, March 7, some 60 volunteer salesmen are carrying the story of the hospital's need to families in Moore County and the surrounding areas which look to Moore Memorial Hospital for care.

The hospital's \$450,000 campaign is to raise the local portion of a \$1,777,778 three-story wing. The wing will provide 88 additional beds, a new surgery, expanded X-ray department, and enlarged Central Supply facilities, in addition to necessary changes within the existing hospital.

\$350,000 already is on hand in pre-campaign pledges to the building fund. A grant of \$977,773 is anticipated from the North Carolina Medical Care Commission. That leaves \$450,000 to be raised locally in pledges payable over 24 months.

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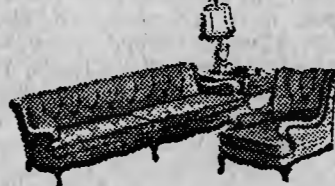
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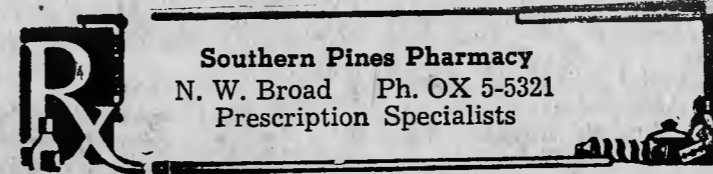
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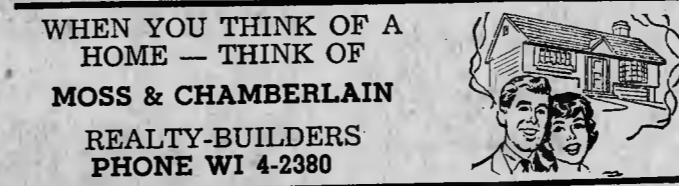
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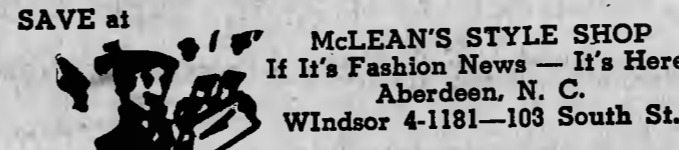
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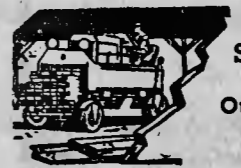
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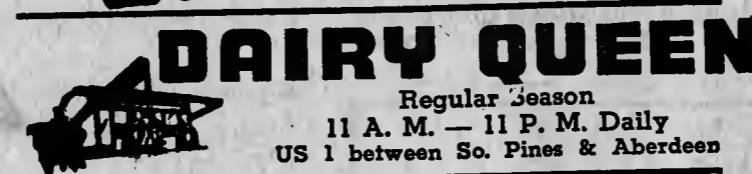
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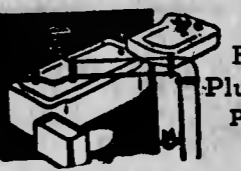
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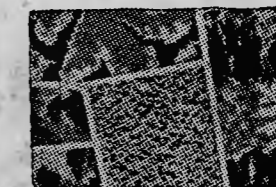
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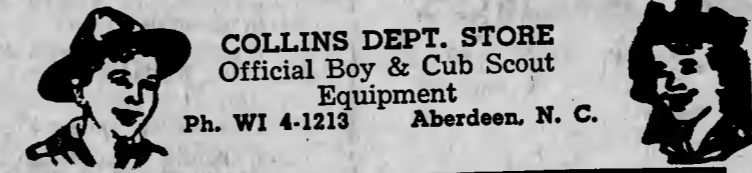
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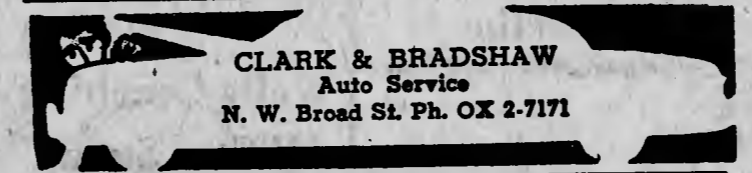
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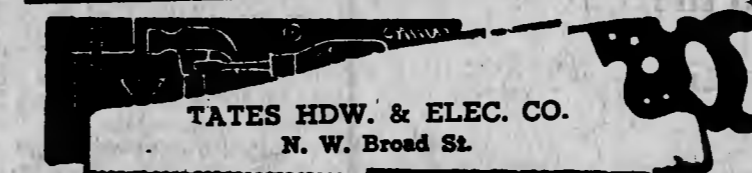
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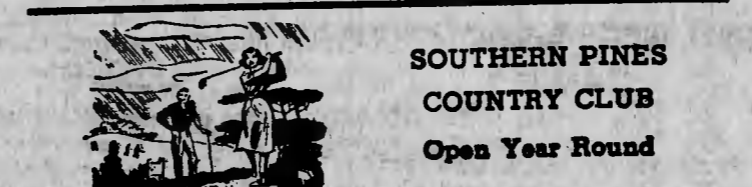
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