

Wintering Swainson's Hawks in North America (a request for information)

Since 1990-91, a small group of Swainson's Hawks has been observed every winter at a night roost in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The roost is a line of eucalyptus trees on the breakwater of Korth's Marina at the confluence of the Mokelumne and San Joaquin rivers. These are predominantly adult-plumaged birds. From 1-3 light morph individuals are seen each year, but the flock, in the main, consists of dark, dark/rufous, and intermediate morphs. The largest number observed has been 30. The number of individuals fluctuates from day to day (e. g., 14 on 28 November and 18 on 4 December, 1998). However, at least a few can be found in this local area throughout the winter. Where these hawks nest is unknown.

The existence of this wintering site, coupled with the fluctuation in the number of individuals, lends credence to speculation that there may be other roosting and foraging sites in the Central Valley or elsewhere in California. The closest known winter site, recently discovered, is near San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico. If someone is sitting on any North American "out-of-season" (late November through February) Swainson's Hawk observations from roughly the past decade (not already published, e. g., in *American Birds/Field Notes*), it would be appreciated if they would share that information with: Waldo Holt, 3900 River Drive, Stockton, CA 95204-1120; phone: (209) 462-4438; e-mail: waldoh@juno.com.