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RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD NEST

PHOTO BY PRINS BROTHERS



The
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A Magazine of Wisconsin Bird Study

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The Robin's Year . . .

By HOWARD YOUNG

Along with freckles and hot dogs, Robins are an integral part of modern Americana. They are introduced to us in almost every primer, are frequently seen on magazine cover or calendar, and are doubtless the first bird with which most children become familiar. And due to its wide distribution and its tameness, the Robin is in general one of the best known of our common birds. The imported House Sparrow is possibly ever more familiar, but certainly does not rival the Robin in popularity.

Early English settlers in New England encountered this thrush and gave it its name, after a much smaller European bird, which is the famous "cock-robin" of nursery rhyme. The fact that both are called Robin, and both have red breasts, has been the cause of considerable confusion, though they are entirely different species. Except for our native form, the term "robin" is reserved for smaller and slimmer types of thrushes not found in the United States. One of the closest European relatives of our Robin is called the Blackbird—which certainly doesn't help matters much.

At the time of settlement the Robins were not the ubiquitous birds they are today. Robins require extensive open areas for feeding, along with occasional trees or large bushes for nesting. In the heavily forested America of pioneer days they were relatively uncommon, and were restricted to openings, or to forest edges. The clearing of woodlands, and the establishment of lawns, cemeteries, gardens, etc., by man greatly improved the habitat for the Robin, and it soon became a common and familiar species.

Now firmly established in practically all populated parts of the United States, it is such an easily observed bird that nearly everybody recognizes it at sight, and most people are generally familiar with its habits. Or are they? As long ago as 1890, William Brewster, a prominent early ornithologist, considered the life history of the Robin as more or less of a closed book. Now after many advances in knowledge we have a great number of unanswered questions about this species. There is still a great deal to be learned, and the average person actually has only a smattering of knowledge concerning this amiable and interesting bird. Furthermore, some of this common information is wrong.

Take for example that traditional "first Robin of spring." In many cases (I am tempted to say most) it is not an early arrival at all, but rather one that never went south. Despite the fact that the species is migratory and usually moves considerably south during the winter, there are always a few rugged souls that stay on the breeding grounds, maintaining themselves on persistent fruits and berries. In years when the various berry producers have particularly heavy yields, a considerable population of Robins may fail to migrate.

Conversely, in many cases when people see the "first" Robins, the migrants may have already been back for a week or two. Most of us do not notice the birds until a considerable number have arrived.

Male and female Robins are practically identical in plumage. Males average brighter, but this is not a one-hundred per cent rule, though

with practice and careful observation an experienced observer can usually determine the sex quite accurately. In species like this, where the plumages are very similar, sex recognition probably is determined by differences in individual behavior. At any rate the Robins do not appear to have any trouble at all.

Springtime Behavior

Many people probably would outline the spring activity of the Robin along these lines: they come north, eat worms, and build a nest in which four robin's-egg blue eggs are laid. But actually things are much more complicated than this.

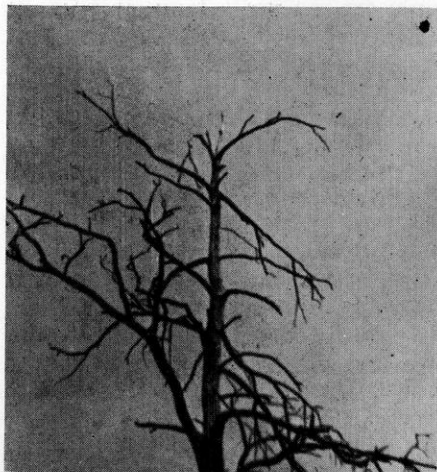
First arrivals in the spring seem invariably to be males. Upon reaching the breeding grounds, each male claims a certain area for itself. Intrusions by other males are resented, and much fighting and noisy chasing takes place. A good deal of this occurs before the arrival of the females, so it is apparent that the quarrels are over land rather than over a mate. Often these disagreements excite neighboring Robins, who pitch in with seeming enthusiasm, and a raucous disorganized gang fight ensues.

When females come, they visit the male's "territories," and mating occurs. The females adopt the territories and help defend them against invaders. Chivalry is given not even lip service, and many a prospective Robin mother is soundly thrashed by belligerent male neighbors. And sometimes the males get the lumps. Since the Robins are jealous of their own land, but not at all reluctant to trespass, there is a considerable period of nasty squabbling before things settle down.

During this period some individual Robins usually gain newspaper comment when they find an indefatigable rival in the reflection of a window-pane or shining hub-cap of a car. They will battle this ghost strenuously for long periods of time, with scant attention to amused

human bystanders. Ornithologists have taken advantage of this trait by placing a mirror in the back of a trap when they wish to capture a certain individual.

The territories probably serve a variety of functions. They spread the males out over wider areas, which enhances the probability of their discovery by females, and causes the species to use more of the suitable areas. The close restriction to the territory keeps the male and female in close association, and probably helps to strengthen the bond between the two. It has also been suggested that possession of a territory insures a food supply. But most Robin territories are quite small, usually less than half an



THE FIRST ROBINS SING FROM THE TREE-TOPS LONG BEFORE THE TREES ARE LEAFED OUT.

PHOTO BY SAM ROBBINS

acre, and insufficient as a hunting ground. There seem to be unclaimed areas which serve as common feeding grounds, and here the Robins consort in numbers, in general quite peacefully.

The Robins are faithful in the avian style, usually keeping the same mate through one breeding season. Occasional records of one male with two females have been noted, but typically this is a monogamous species. The next year, though, changes in partners often occur, even though both members of a pair may return to the same place.

Robins do tend to return to the immediate vicinity where they last nested. However, the fact that there has been a Robin's nest built in the same crotch of a certain apple tree for the last three years is not proof that the same pair has been building there each time. Young Robins do not return to their exact hatch-place, but seek out new territories in the general region. As favored nesting sites become vacated through the death or movement of older birds, they are quickly usurped by others. Since most Robins are practically identical to the casual observer, these changes in ownership generally go unrecognized.

Nesting Activity

Nesting time changes the pattern of life, as the females start to spend their nights on the nest, while the males all apparently gather in large communal roosts. As far as housekeeping goes, the female does all the work of gathering material and moulding the nest. Wet mud and grass are the main items used in construction, but often bits of paper or cloth are incorporated. The female shapes the nest by turning in the cavity as the sides are built up. The final step is to put in a lining of fine grasses.

Nests are usually placed in the crotch of a tree or large bush, most often at a height of less than ten feet. However any firm support (including the ground on occasion) seems to be acceptable, and this has led some Robins into bizarre situations. In one case a robin started to build on the steps of a long fire escape, and becoming confused by the repetitious structure, completed in varying degrees a series of nests along a portion of the steps. In another case a nest was built on a much used gate, and a brood brought off successfully, despite the constant swinging. In another case the nest was started on a ferry, which was constantly shuttling back and forth across a river. The Robin adapted itself to the situation and logged considerable mileage in the course of its nesting activity.

After the clutch (usually 3 or 4 eggs) is laid, the female is assigned all the responsibility for incubation. Of course what this really means is that she has a "drive" or instinct to sit on eggs, which is lacking in the male. Incubation seems to be a tedious task; studies have shown that during this period the female spends approximately 80% of her waking hours on the nest, as well as occupying it at night. Males have been seen to bring food to females on the nest, but in most cases she has to scurry off at intervals and hunt her own meals.

It takes about 12 days before the young hatch; they are ugly, reptilian-looking and naked at first. These newly hatched Robins are almost completely helpless, with tightly closed eyes, and lack even the ability to sit up. At once the male belatedly assumes some of the family duties. Both parents are kept busy carrying food to the nestings. It is believed that

the sight of the young automatically institutes feeding reactions in the adults.

While the young are still in the nest the adults probably make as many as a hundred trips a day to feed them. The appetite of Robin youngsters is famous, and under the solicitous care of their parents they increase their weight some 8-10 fold in the first two weeks of their life. Under a comparable rate of gain a human infant with a birth weight of 7 pounds would weigh near 70 pounds at the age of two weeks! For the first few days the mother Robin has the additional duty of brooding, until feathering out protects her youngsters against chilling.

There is a tendency for anthropomorphic descriptions of bird life to be particularly prevalent in reference to family relationships. Such terms as "mother love," "proud father," and "bereaved parents" are often used. But there is absolutely no scientific evidence to demonstrate the existence of such emotions in Robins or other birds. Nest building, incubation, and care of the young seem to be essentially unlearned instinctive activities. The unreasoning nature of these behaviors sometimes becomes apparent under unusual conditions. For example, a young Robin that topples out of the nest will be allowed to starve, despite its constant chirps, while the parents unconcernedly feed its siblings a few feet about it. During this stage of the breeding cycle the Robins are "geared" to feed young **in the nest**. Another example is more unusual, but illustrates the same point. Naturalists sometimes band nestlings. The shiny band on occasion triggers the nest-cleaning activity of the parents, who presumably mistake it for a dropping. There are records of banded nestlings being dragged from the nest by the parents, which again shows the non-thinking nature of these activities.

The young birds ordinarily remain in the nest about thirteen days. One or two days after they fledge they start their first hesitant flights. These young, with their heavily spotted breasts, show the relationship of the Robin to our various native thrushes. As more and more young fledge, they form a conspicuous part of the bird life, and their incessant begging calls are heard everywhere. Since many nests are located in urban areas the fledglings are subjected to considerable interference by children and pets. The subsequent scrambling sometimes results in brood-mixing, so the adults are occasionally feeding their neighbor's offspring. Parental care continues for about two more weeks, but sometimes the last part of this task is left to the father, while the female starts a new family.

On occasion the original nest is re-used, sometimes with minor repairs. Robins also have been known to take over the abandoned nests of other species, but usually the female builds an entirely new nest. Sometimes this is in another Robin's area, and then territorial squabbles will be initiated again. Robins seem to be typically double-brooded, and a few of them attempt a third family.

There is a terrific loss of eggs and nestlings. Crows, jays, snakes and other predators, small boys, wind and rain all take their toll. Less than half of the attempted nestings succeed in raising even a single youngster. But the Robins quickly recover from each failure and make another attempt, and their persistence is such that the great majority of them eventually are able to raise at least one brood, with the more fortunate

ones producing several families. There is one special menace of the breeding season which the species escapes. Many other species fall prey to the Cowbird, which lays eggs in their nests, and raise its young instead of their own. Robins almost invariably toss out the Cowbird egg, probably because its brown-spotting is in striking contrast to the blue of their own eggs.

Even those nestings which move successfully to completion usually do not totally escape losses. This is shown by the fact that though the "average" Robin clutch is between 3 and 4 eggs, usually no more than 3 survive to leave the nest, and often fewer fledge.

Of all Robin eggs which are laid, less than half (about 45%) result in fledglings. Furthermore, these young defenseless birds suffer heavy inroads after leaving the nest. Probably only about 25% of them survive to leave on the fall migration. Then these and the surviving adults face further attrition during their journey to the southern regions; again a steady toll being taken by predators, diseases and accidents, and storm exposure. Formerly migrating Robins were shot in large numbers at some localities and used as food. This is of course no longer a practice in the U. S., but is reputed to be still carried on to some extent in Mexico.

Such mortality rates are not to be thought of as a particular burden the Robin has to bear, but rather are typical of small birds and mammals, where there is a rapid "population turnover." If you take the trouble to compute these various losses, the rather startling find is that less than 10% of the Robin eggs laid result in new adults returning to breed the next year.

In species which are maintaining themselves, as the Robin apparently is, these mortality rates are balanced by production over a period of years. In this case repeated renesting usually results in a spring population of 1000 adults (500 pairs) fledging a total of between 5 and 6 thousand young during the breeding season. Were it not for the many deaths, we would soon be saturated with Robins.

Best estimates, based on returns from banding, indicate that the average life of a free-living Robin is only a little over one year. Since this is an average, some of course live for longer periods, but the many deaths at extremely early ages balances this. A five-year-old Robin would be a real veteran, though there is one record of survival to nine years in the wild. Potentially the species has a much greater life span as is proven by records of living up to almost 13 years of age as a caged zoo bird.

Feeding Habits

Robins are often pictured in tug-o-wars with earthworms, and practically everybody has observed them feeding on this animal. Whether the Robin finds this prey by sight or by hearing seems to be moot question. House Sparrows and Starlings often follow the Robins about, and snatch away worms which the Robins pull up. The Robin usually does not protest, but resignedly resumes its hunting. The fact that these spongers wait for the victim to produce a catch, rather than hunting the abundant prey themselves, suggests that the Robin is a more efficient "wormer," and that it is especially adapted for the particular prey.

Earthworms are by no means the only course in the menu. Actually, like most forms, the Robin has a varied diet, which differs from place to



TYPICAL SUMMER FEEDING AREA. ROBINS MAY FEED ON WORMS (LAWN, FOREGROUND) OR ON BERRIES (BUSH, BACKGROUND). NOTE ROBIN AT BASE OF BUSH.

PHOTO BY SAM ROBBINS

place and time to time according to available foods. Berries and small fruits are favored, and in certain orchard regions it has sometimes been necessary to control Robins. About half of the food consists of animal matter, mainly insects. Examination of stomachs has shown that earthworms really provide only about 10% of the yearly diet. Robins have been known to catch small fish, and at feeding stations they avidly gobble up bread and other soft materials not normally present in nature.

Robins are great lovers of the bird bath, where they splash and dip with much gusto. And many a person watering his lawn or garden has enjoyed the sight of a trusting robin cavorting in the spray. On occasion the birds are also seen to sunbathe. Doing this, they sink down on the ground and spread both wings. They remain motionless during this time and resemble the crash landing of a toy airplane.

A more unusual activity which some Robins and a variety of other birds have been seen to engage in is "anting." The birds snatch up ants and hold them in their bills. Then usually the bird "sits down" in a sprawling grotesque position, with the tail thrust forward under the belly. They appear to rub the ant against the plumage, particularly the under surfaces of the wing and tail feathers. It is a very comical sight, and the awkward position often causes the bird to tumble over. The reason for this activity is not known, but it is carried out in purposeful and determined fashion. Birds have also been known to "ant" with such odd articles as orange rinds and cigarette butts.

The song of the Robin is a traditional spring symbol. Although it has been disparaged musically, the morning choruses of these birds are always a thrill to all except the grouchiest of the early risers.

Why do they sing? The purpose of bird song has long been a subject of study by naturalists. Darwin suggested that the females chose the males with the most "pleasing" repertoire, and thus the beautiful songs of modern birds arose through evolution. However, the abundance of wheezy, buzzing and unmusical songs hardly supports this view. Besides, we do not know that what is pleasing to us has the same effect on the avian ear. It is commonly thought now that bird song (typically a male activity) functions to warn away other males from the territory, and to advertise for a mate.

In the case of the Robin we do not have conclusive evidence tying song in with mating behavior. Mass choruses sung from communal roosts can hardly be territorial, and song during the non-breeding season has no reference to a mate.

By early autumn the Robins have already started to gather in large flocks for the migration south. At this time many retire from the cities to more forested areas. The migration is mostly at night. Robins winter in a wide band across the southern part of the U. S., and in Mexico. Some parts of the U. S. have Robins all year long, since the winter residents move in as the summer population shifts farther to the south. Winter Robins gather in large roosts, one of which was estimated to contain 250,000 birds. This particular roost apparently served as night headquarters for the Robins within about a 7 or 8 mile radius of it. But in their winter homes the Robins do not show the strong attachment to one locality as in the north; they shift about extensively in response to weather and food conditions. These erratic movements explain the scientific name of the bird, *Turdus migratorius*—"Wandering Thrush."

The following spring the return north begins. It is for the most part a leisurely and interrupted journey; the average rate of advance is less than 50 miles a day. This tends to be a "leap-frog" type of migration; the first birds arriving in a given location often being the ones that remain to breed. The later migrants usually continue farther north. As each male claims his territory the cycle is complete, and the "red-breasts" are at home again.

Biology Dept., Wis. State College
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NEWS . . .

It is hoped that observers living near high television towers will keep careful watch for instances of bird fatalities among night migrants this fall. Those who read Dr. Kemper's article in the last issue of *The Passenger Pigeon* (soon to be reprinted in *Audubon Magazine*), and those who heard Clarence Jung's talk at the Milwaukee convention, know that much more study is needed to determine

the full effect of these towers in interfering with migrating birds.

As a part of a related study, it is also hoped that observers will spend short periods outside each evening listening for chips of night migrants. By counting the chips in a five-minute period, and keeping records of weather factors (wind velocity and direction, ceiling), you can add helpful information to the total fall migration picture. Information should be sent to Dr. Kemper or to Mr. Jung.

(more news on page 77)

BIRDERS ABROAD

By WHITNEY and KAREN EASTMAN

We sailed on the SS United States from New York on May 17, 1957, and enjoyed a most delightful ocean voyage. Long before we were within sight of land we began to see oceanic birds, such as, the Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Gannet. We landed at Le Havre, where our driver met us to take us on a 4,500-mile tour of France, Italy and Switzerland. As soon as our driver, Andre Gasparin, learned our mission, he rearranged our entire trip as he knew from 30 years of driving in Europe where to find the birds we wanted to see.

As we landed, we found large numbers of Black-headed Gulls in the harbor, and over the city the air seemed to be full of Swifts. They are much like the Chimney Swift, but larger.

We started west long the Normandy coast, visiting the landing beaches where we saw the remains of the caissons brought over from England to make the artificial harbor for the D-Day landing. We noted the Rock Dove is still much at home in his native Europe. We had fun sorting out the Carrion Crow, Jackdaw and Raven. The Magpie is very much in evidence and looks just like his relatives in the Dakotas. The House Martin is a common species which looks much like our Tree Swallow, but builds a mud nest like our Cliff Swallow. It is considered good luck to have a colony of House Martins take up their abode on your house, so they are unmolested. The Swallow looks just about like his American cousin, the Barn Swallow, and is very common. We stopped to listen to our first Skylark. He is rather unprepossessing in appearance, dull brown and streaky, with a slight crest, but what a voice! He sings as he hovers in the air. Among the crosses in the American Cemetery were the beautiful Linnet and the striking black and white Pied Wagtail.

We passed through Saint Lo, entirely rebuilt since the war, to Avranches. This part of France is a country of small farms and hedgerows, making wonderful habitat for the small land birds. From the beautiful public gardens along the ocean, we could look out and see Mont St. Michel, an old monastery, now a national shrine, where we were to spend the night. Behind us in the public square was a very impressive memorial to General Patton. In the gardens we found the Blackbird, which is not a blackbird at all according to American classification, but a thrush, in size, shape and posture just like a Robin, but all black with a yellow bill. Mama is brownish. The Song Thrush was skulking in the shrubbery. A pair of Bullfinches were feeding on the ground. Ah! there's a bird for you, with his black top, rose breast and white wing stripe and rump! The Dunnock or Hedge Sparrow gave us a little trouble, but with the aid of our trusty Peterson we soon ferreted him out. Here we saw our first Chaffinch, a very common bird throughout Europe, but our first was quite a thrill with his blue crown, pinkish cheeks, rosy breast and double white wing-bars.

Mont St. Michel is situated on a rocky island, reached by a road along a dike. At the Hotel Mere Poulard we had a delicious omelette for dinner which we watched being prepared in a long-handled skillet over an open fire. In the gardens around the old monastery we found the

Black Redstart flicking his tail and our first Nightingale singing. A pair of Garden Warblers were flitting about. The warblers in Europe really present a problem. Most of them are brownish and greenish and undistinctive. They can best be identified by range, habitat and voice.

The next day on our way to Tours we saw our first Coot. The white frontal patch is more prominent than in our Coot. We stopped to explore a beautiful pine woods where we heard two owls calling back and forth. From the voice we determined them to be Long-eared Owls. A Cuckoo was sounding off just exactly like a Cuckoo clock. We found a colony of Sand Martins, counterpart of our Bank Swallows, living along the banks of the Loire. We had lunch in the delightful La Duchesse Anne garden restaurant in Langeais. Here we saw our first European Goldfinches, attracted by caged birds, as were the Chaffinches, which fed about our feet. Down by the river we found the Common Sandpiper, Turtle Dove, Common Tern, Little Tern and the European Tree Sparrow, last seen in St. Louis, where a small colony has been established.

We visited our first chateau, Le Chateau D'Azay Le Rideau, where Whitney's heret got us shunted off with the French-speaking group, so we can't tell you much about the chateau, but on the grounds we found the Spotted Flycatcher, a little, grey-brown, streaked-breasted bird which was to become very familiar. There were Mute Swans in the pond, and we saw the Redstart, a more brightly colored edition of the Black Redstart we had seen at Mont St. Michel; the only Wren in Europe; a pair of Blackcaps (warblers); and the Stonechat, a handsome black, white and rusty fellow. We heard the Cuckoo clock again and saw our first Greenfinches.

We stayed at Tours for several days and visited chateaux. The grounds were very productive of new species, especially at Chateau de Chaumont where we finally saw the Cuckoos. Here we also found our first Wood Pigeon, Pied Flycatcher and Great Tit, which looks like a big Chickadee with a yellow belly with a black stripe. The Crested Tit was here, too. He resembles a Titmouse. The Short-toed Tree Creeper is similar to our Brown Creeper. The Goldcrest was darting about in the evergreens as you would expect from his resemblance to our Kinglets. Here we found our first Serin, a small finch which is quite common. The guide at Chaumont was interested in birds, and since we were the only visitors at the time, he went about the grounds with us. He could speak no English and we could speak no French, but we had a great time pointing to birds and their pictures in Peterson.

In a little lagoon by the Loire we found our first Redshanks, Yellowleg-sized shorebirds with red legs. Here, too, was the Little Ringed Plover. On a wire nearby was the Cirl Bunting, and he took a bit of research to identify. A Kestrel was hovering over a field by the wayside. The sight of a Pheasant in the park at Chambord reminded us of home.

Along the river en route to Cahors we heard a complicated, loud, prolonged song which we finally traced to its owner, the Marsh Warbler. We found our first European Robin, a dainty creature compared to his American namesake. Our first Green Woodpecker with his crimson crown was seen plastered against a roadside tree. We saw very few woodpeckers and came to the conclusion that the French take such good care

of their trees and utilize every dead limb so there isn't much left for a woodpecker to do.

At the little restaurant where we lunched in Uzerche, there were three baby birds in a wooden cage attached to the building. Three bereted Frenchmen were trying to tell us the story about them when they found we were interested in such matters. After much gesticulation and reference to Peterson we learned that the babies were Goldfinches. A fourth had been eaten by a Jay, and the parents came regularly to feed the remaining offspring which had been rescued by the inn-keeper.

We spent the night at the Chateau de Mereues, overlooking the Lot River, an old castle converted into a hotel. It was a day's journey across our room, and we fully expected a knight in armor to pop out from behind the wardrobe. There were Chaffinches, Blackbirds, Greenfinches and Cuckoos about the grounds, but these were old stuff now, and we eagerly sought for more new species. We were not disappointed. We found the Blue Tit, a dainty blue and yellow creature; a family of Nuthatches, similar to our Red-breasted Nuthatch; the Tree Creeper; and the Coal Tit. A Buzzard was soaring overhead.

Next day we crossed the Lot River via the Valentre Bridge, built in the thirteenth century. As we proceeded south we found fields red with poppies, extensive vineyards and a more Spanish type of architecture.

Andre was really going all out in finding unusual places to stay. We spent the night in a modern hotel in the middle of an old walled medieval city at Carcassone. Jackdaws lived all over the ancient buildings. On a drive out into the country we found Dupont's Lark and the Corn Bunting. We were quite proud of ourselves when we finally identified these rather undistinctive species. The Subalpine Warbler was feeding young by a stream. He, too, was a puzzle in identification.

A Visit to the Camargue

Near the little town of Agde we caught our first sight of the Mediterranean, already heralded by a Lesser Black-backed Gull wheeling in the air. We came to the Camargue, that vast marshy area in the Rhone Delta, mecca for bird watchers from all over the world. This is the land of the black fighting bulls, the white horses, the Camargue cowboys, sheep, rice and BIRDS. The new lifers came fast—Little Egret, counterpart of our Snowy; Purple Heron; Heron, similar to our Great Blue; Reed Bunting; and the most fantastic series of strident squawks and squeaks led us to the Great Reed Warbler. The Gray Duck, the Stock Dove and the Black Stilt came in rapid succession.

We checked in at the Hostellerie Du Pont de Gau in the heart of the Camargue, near the little town of St. Marie de La Mer, where the Gypsies gather for their annual festival. The Hostellerie's rather primitive facilities were more than made up for by the warmth and friendliness of the landlord. He had quite an extensive zoo in connection with his establishment where examples of the wild life of the marsh were on display in outdoor cages. Busloads of school children came to see this exhibit during our stay. A French professor of ornithology from Paris was among the guests. His mission was to collect the eggs of the Penduline Tit.

Out of doors the Bitterns were pumping, and a wild honking overhead caused us to look up and see our first Flamingos in flight, stretched out like a great cross, neck straight out ahead and feet behind, huge white birds with crimson and black wings. A flock of sixteen flew over the hotel. Next morning we were to see them by the thousands on Vaccares Lake. Large groups would take to the air, wheel about and settle down again.

The Whitethroat (warbler), Marsh Harrier and Blue-headed Wagtail were welcome additions to our rapidly growing list, but the Bee Eaters provided a thrill, topped only by the Flamingos. Small flocks of these gorgeous creatures perched on telegraph wires and fences by the roadside, displaying their blue-green, vivid yellow and chestnut plumage as they sallied forth in swallow-like flights in pursuit of insects.

We came upon a couple of Avocets feeding in shallow water. They are similar to ours, but with a black crown and nape and lacking the pinkish wash. Montagu's Harrier was the next hawk to be identified. Then came a thrill almost equalling the Bee Eaters when we saw our first Hoopoe. Peterson and his co-authors must have been equally impressed by this interesting creature, for they put him on the cover of the book.

We drove in to the old town of Arles where we spent the next two nights at the comfortable Jules Cesar Hotel. We explored the ancient Roman ruins, particularly the Arena seating 15,000, where bullfights are still held, and the old Roman Cemetery where we found a pair of Woodchat Shrikes nesting forty feet up in a plane tree. We called upon M. Tallon, Director for the Camargue refuge, which is under the jurisdiction of the Societe Nationale D'Acclimatation de France et de Protection de la Nature. The names of Roger Tory Peterson and Alfred Gross were "open sesame," and he was very kind and helpful as was his warden, Rene Barou, at la Capeliere, when we went back to the Camargue for further exploration. M. Barou led us to the Penduline Tit's intricate, hanging nest with the side entrance, and we were fortunate enough to get a quick look at this clever little architect darting into his home. At M. Barou's we found French, German and American birders (ourselves) each with the Field Guide in his own language. Before leaving the Camargue we added the Gull-billed Tern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Red-crested Pochard, Black Tern, Reed Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Least Bittern, Great Crested Grebe, Red-backed Shrike, Short-eared Owl, the much desired Roller, Wood Warbler and the Grey Wagtail to our list in that order.

On the interesting trip through Nimes, across the 2,000-year-old Roman Aqueduct, Avignon, Aix en Provence, to the French Riviera, we found two additions to our list, the Pallid Swift and the Ortolan Bunting. Bird life is not abundant on the Riviera, but it has other attractions which are well publicized. Of course, we visited Monaco and were probably the only tourists among the thousands milling about in Grace's front yard who paid any attention to the Italian Sparrows, just like the English Sparrow except for the chocolate crown. Before crossing the Italian border we saw Sardinian Warblers in the scrubbery.

The beautiful flowers, seemingly growing right out of the stone walls along the Aurelia Drive, old Roman road which linked their far-flung

empire from Spain to Rome, made our entrance into Italy cheerful in spite of the rain. We paused long enough in Genoa to see Christopher Columbus' birthplace, a little, square, vine-covered structure, dwarfed by the tall buildings all around it in this huge, bustling city. We arrived at the sleepy little town of Rapallo, where we were to spend several days attending a convention and exploring the surrounding country. Olive groves were everywhere. The hills above Portofino provided the best birding, but even here birds were not abundant. The Blue Rock Thrush was our only lifer, but the Chaffinch, Sardinian Warbler, Blackcap, Great Tit and Italian Sparrow were observed.

Continuing south we stopped at Pisa to see if the Tower really leans. It does. Swifts, House Martins and Swallows filled the air, and a Blackcap was singing nearby. Exploring the wonders of Rome is a story in itself, better told by many others, and since this is a birding story, we will pass over it lightly. After leaving Rome we spent a night at the Hotel Grande Mirimare at Formia, former residence of King Victor Emmanuel. There were Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Serins, Goldfinches, Turtle Doves and Swallows to be found on the grounds, and they had huge cages of birds which provided an opportunity to study close up some of the native species. We caught our first sight of Vesuvius and the Masked Shrike almost simultaneously. We visited the active volcano, Solfatara, following our 82-year-old guide all about inside the crater, which measures two kilometers around. The ground was very hot, dotted with boiling lava pits and holes spewing steam and sand. We were assured that there would be tremendous rumblings and plenty of warning ahead of a new eruption, but we breathed easier when we were safely out. The ubiquitous Chaffinch was the only bird we observed in these inhospitable surroundings.

The temperature was 102° F. as we tramped around the ruins of Pompei for a couple of hours where we found a great deal of interest; but needless to say, birds were not among the attractions, except for a lone Chaffinch which was singing even here.

We spent a pleasant few days at the beautiful Hotel Europa, overlooking the Mediterranean at Sorrento. Chaffinches were nesting in the pine trees on the terrace. House Martins, Sardinian Warblers and Greenfinches were to be found, and the Alpine Swift lived in large numbers in the rocky cliffs along the sea. One day we took the boat over to the famous Isle of Capri where we found our first Spanish Sparrows, also like the English Sparrows except for the chocolate crown and more extensive black with streaks on the sides. It adds an extra fillip to birding when you have to look over all the sparrows to see if they are English, Italian or Spanish.

A day's drive from Sorrento along the beautiful Amalfi Drive and back across the mountains produced for us the Chough, a crow-sized black bird with curved red bill and red legs, and the Lanner Falcon, in addition to such old friends as the Chaffinch, Blackbird, Short-toed Creeper, Great Tit and the Cuckoo.

Turning north again, our first stop was at Caserta to see the Chateau and gardens built by the Bourbon family, now a national museum. A huge spring at the top of the high hill feeds a cascade which flows down

into a series of pools, leading to the Chateau. Ashy-headed Wagtails were feeding in the cascade, and a flock of Jays flew back and forth.

North of Rome we saw a Kite, a beautiful hawk with a long, red, deeply-forked tail. Near Lake Bolsena we saw our only Hooded Crow.

Seeking to escape the noise and bustle of Rome, we spent a night at the Hotel Milano at Aquapendente, but Rome couldn't hold a candle to the hubbub produced by the natives of the town, their donkeys which brayed all night, their oxcarts going to the fields at daybreak, the blacksmith who started pounding his anvil at 5 A. M. and the trucks and scooters which roared through town all night. However, it was an interesting experience eating dinner and breakfast on the sidewalk and watching the life of the town.

Next morning we started climbing up into a volcanic mountain area on the way to Florence. In a rocky stream bed we struck a jackpot of interesting birds, the Wheatear, Rock Thrush, and on the opposite shore, the Lesser Grey Shrike and the gray phase of the Cuckoo. The others we had seen were brown.

The gardens and parks of Florence provided good birding, but we found no new species. The Boboli Gardens of the Pitti Palace were especially interesting. We had dinner at the Raspante Restaurant in Fiesole one night, and the air all about us as we sat on the terrace was alive with Swifts, House Martins and Swallows.

In the mountainous country between Florence and Bologna we were happy to find the Tawny Pipit, having seen the delightful English film of the same name.

Venice produced a new lifer for us; namely, the Mediterranean form of the Herring Gull, with very yellow legs. Swifts filled the air all over the city. The Public Square in front of St. Marks is, of course, Pigeon Paradise. Most birders consider pigeons rather a pest, but the sheer numbers make this colony an interesting sight. Peddlers sell food for the pigeons, and people encourage the birds to light all over them, and they certainly consider they have the right of way over mere humans. They seemed smaller to us than the city pigeons at home. On a trip to the Lido, a strip of resort hotels and beaches on the mainland, we saw the Mediterranean Gull. In the Excelsior Hotel garden where we had tea we saw some old friends, the Great Tit and Blackcap.

Our last stop in Italy was at Cernobbio on beautiful Lake Como, where we spent the night at the Villa D'este. From our balcony we watched Black Kites fishing. The grounds, modeled on the famous Villa D'este at Tivoli, had abundant bird life: Swift, Chaffinch, White Wagtail, Blackbird, Serin, Italian Sparrow, Red-backed Shrike, House Martin and Blackcap.

We entered Switzerland via the precipitous Gotthard Pass. The road is looped all over the mountain like spaghetti. At San Gottardo, elevation 6,860 feet, the lake was frozen over, there was considerable snow, and many mountain streams were running down from the rocky heights. Snow Finches were nesting under the eaves of the buildings. We saw a Rock Sparrow by the roadside and caught a glimpse of a Dipper in a mountain stream.

From our balcony at the Grand Hotel National, overlooking beautiful Lake Lucerne, we could see a large flock of Whooper Swans. The

city maintains breeding pens for Mute Swans, Whooper Swans, Black Swans and many species of ducks. The great Reed Warbler, Coot, Great Crested Grebe, Black Kite, Magpie, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Nightingale and Carrion Crow are among the species to be seen about Lucerne.

We took a cable car up to Gutsch Chateau, where there is a beautiful spruce forest, abounding in birds. A Spotted Flycatcher was nesting on a building, and a Great Tit was carrying food into a nesting box provided for him. We saw Coal Tits, Blackcaps, Robins, Redstarts, Wrens, Chaffinches, Greenfinches and Tree Creepers. We watched several families of young Bullfinches just off the nest. Another interesting cable car trip is to Dietschiberg, where there is a beautiful golf course. Here we saw Nuthatches, Ravens and Starlings in addition to the species observed at Gutsch.

Our drive to Interlaken was interrupted by the longest, most continuous warbler song we had ever heard. It took about an hour of patient looking and listening to identify the singer as an Icterine Warbler. A soaring hawk proved to be a Hen Harrier. We added the Craig Martin and Lesser Whitethroat to our list. We stopped at the Aareschlucht to traverse for an hour the catwalks and tunnels which take the tourist through the gorge above the roaring River Aare. We were rewarded by close looks at several Wall Creepers going about their domestic duties and flashing their gorgeous rose-colored wings. Our next ornithological puzzle after leaving the Aareschlucht was a Chiffchaff, another of those undistinguished European warblers.

Our electric train trip up the Jungfrau was notable for the large numbers of Alpine Choughs living in the icy temperature, snow and howling winds at the top. We descended to the more hospitable climate at Kleine Scheidegg for lunch, where the Alpine Chough also abounds. We saw Ravens. Snow Finches and Black Redstarts were nesting on the buildings.

A trip to the picturesque village of Grindewald produced a couple of Whinchats sitting on wires and a pair of Pied Flycatchers feeding young in a nest box.

When we stopped in Bern, we heard a nasal note like a Nighthawk's coming from a thickly foliated tree. An hour of patient vigil finally showed us to our surprise that a Great Tit was producing the sound. Sure enough, Peterson says one of his calls is a nasal "tchair, tchair."

Near an old wooden covered bridge across the Saane River we found a large concentration of birds; i.e., Starlings, Chaffinches, Blackbirds, Blue Tits, White Wagtails, Serins, Goldfinches, House Martins, Swallows and one Black Kite being chased by a pair of Kestrels. At Lake Murtensee we saw several Great Crested Grebes with young. Here we spotted our first Willow Tit. A Heron was posing in a little lake by the roadside.

At the east end of Lac Lemman, near Montreaux, is a bird sanctuary where Great Crested Grebes were nesting in large numbers on June 26. We saw Mute Swans, Black-headed Gulls, Black Kites, Coots, Great Reed Warblers, Tree Sparrows and Reed Buntings. We were too late to see the concentration of waterfowl which stops there during migration.

From Montreaux we took the tram up to Rochers de Naye to a wintry atmosphere where we encountered our friend of the Jungfrau, the Alpine Chough. The Alpine Accentor was singing on the wing and from

rocky vantage points. At the half-way point, Caux, we stopped on our way down and found quite a few birds, notable among them a pair of Garden Warblers.

The grounds of the League of Nations buildings and the Public Parks in Geneva produced many of the common species to be expected in such habitat. Leaving Geneva, we started our drive through the beautiful French Alps to Avallon, where we spent the night at the Moulin des Ruats, on the banks of the Cousin River, a charming spot, abounding with birds. We ate dinner outside by the stream, with Chaffinches coming in for crumbs. A walk at dusk produced our first and only Nightjar in Europe. Here, too, we found our only Kingfisher, which appeared at 6:30 A. M. as promised by our landlady. We saw a Peregrine Falcon, a Buzzard, Stock Doves and the Blue-headed Wagtail, which pecks at the inn window each morning. Robins, Goldfinches, Wrens, Blackcaps and Garden Warblers all contribute to the avian scene.

From Avallon we followed the Yonne River toward Paris. The grounds about Fontainebleau provide good birding for the common species. Sightseeing in Paris is another story, but we were surprised to find Wood Pigeons fraternizing with the Rock Doves in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower. The beautiful gardens and parks at Versailles abound with birds.

We left Paris for northern France where we hoped to find cooler weather and new birds. We were not disappointed. Near Clermont we saw our first flock of Rooks—about 200. Beyond Abbeville we found our first Meadow Pipit and Yellowhammer. Near Merlimont we encountered our first Lapwings. They nest in pastures, Killdeer fashion, and we were delighted to find this large, crested plover. We had just about given up. Although his breeding range is supposed to cover all of France and Switzerland, he is apparently abundant only at the northern latitudes. We stayed at Le Manoir Hotel at Le Touquet, which is patronized largely by the English from across the Channel. During the night we heard a Tawny Owl. Another bird we had been looking for was the Mistle Thrush, the largest of the European thrushes. Imagine our delight upon looking out over the golf course from our window in the morning to see it literally carpeted with these handsome creatures.

Driving north to Hardelet Forest we found the Moorhen and European Wigeon for the first time in a marshy lake. We saw a Hobby, a small falcon, in an orchard.

On July 4, we started south again along the coast, seeing Rooks, Carrion Crows, Yellowhammers and several species of Gulls. While waiting for the SS United States to come in to Le Havre and take us home, we added one more life bird, the Cormorant, making a total of 157 species of birds, only eleven of which we had seen before. And so, we said goodbye to Andre, now a confirmed birdwatcher complete with binocular, and boarded our ship. We felt that we were back in the U. S. A. again, an impression confirmed by the flavor of the coffee served at dinner.

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The Purple Finches . . .

By EDNA KOENIG

It's fun to feed the birds the year around, for each season one looks forward to the return of old friends. We have fed the birds daily for ten years but only since Feb. 14, 1955 have we had Purple Finches. It would be interesting to know if they are becoming more common all over the country. Their appetite almost equals that of the Evening Grosbeaks, of which we have about 40. During these days of early February the finches come about 7:00 a. m. and remain until 2:30 or 3:00, when they gradually diminish in number until only a few stragglers are left by late afternoon.

I have wondered if there is any danger of overfeeding wild birds. In the last three weeks we have used 100 pounds of sunflower seeds a week and the greater share of them went to the Purple Finches. This makes for quite a high board bill, but it's worth it. Occasionally finches eat suet, and peanut butter and nuts are well liked by them. We also feed hemp—a finch favorite—and cracked corn to the Blue Jays, House Sparrows, and Mourning Doves who have spent two winters with us. I wonder why we rarely see a Junco. Could it be because there are too many other birds?

The Purple Finches are great fighters and even carry on in the air. All day long the battle continues for a position at the 36 seed feeders of various kinds distributed around the yard on all four sides of the house and which will accommodate about 100 birds. It's most fascinating to watch this daily show, during which the finches make faces at each other and passes at any bird that happens to come within striking distance. And all the while they seem to carry on a continual conversation which is heard in the form of a soft trill.

The Purple Finches usually arrive in October and leave in May. Last fall however, a lone male finch joined our family of daily boarders on Sept. 5 and it was Oct. 10 before others were seen. After that their number increased rapidly, totaling upwards of 50 for the Christmas bird count. From the windows we recently counted 105 at the feeders, on the ground and in the low shrubs but there must have been many more in the tall trees surrounding the house.

During the past ten years we have seen many injured birds. Last year there were two finches with broken legs and a third with a foot missing. None of these returned this year. Another handicapped finch was one with the upper mandible gone. This bird which was hardly recognizable as a finch was almost black and a sad sight. It was unable to crack seeds when we first noticed it, and had to eat the fine powdery meal left in the sill feeders by the other birds. This could be picked up by eating with the side of the bill. As the winter waned we saw that its mandible was growing out. This finch was one of the last to leave in May and one morning I had a delightful surprise when I heard a beautiful soft song while in the garden. I quickly got the binoculars to look carefully at the bird. Yes, it was our former rather ugly-looking finch, now in better plumage and more as a young male should look.

This year there have been four casualties that we know of among the finches. Two birds were found dead below a porch window from which the screen had been removed so a feeder could be filled from inside. The screen was promptly put back and there have been no more deaths from this cause. The third casualty must have been an old bird for it sat around in the sill feeder for several days remaining until almost dark. One night when I opened the window to fill a seed feeder attached to the house, I was startled to find this bird asleep on the feeder. The closing of the window must have frightened it away to its death for we never again saw it. The fourth finch, a male, was in a low shrub just before dark on a bitterly cold day and seemed unable to fly. My husband expected to bring it inside overnight but it died right in his hand.



A FEW OF OUR VISITORS

The Purple Finches, through their daily visits, are a part of our lives for about eight months of the year. And so when late April comes and the finches become more scarce with each passing day, I am almost reluctant to turn the calendar to the month of May for I know that soon, for a time at least, the feeders will seem quite deserted and no longer will the air be filled with the sweet liquid song of the Purple Finches which is first heard in early January and gathers volume as the days lengthen and more and more birds join the chorus.

But when the Robins, Catbirds, Chickadees, Baltimore Orioles, Cardinals, Downy Woodpeckers, and White-breasted Nuthatches come for food for their young, my days are occupied in supplying suet cake, nuts, doughnuts, and of course the usual seeds. Toward fall when the summer birds' time of departure approaches and many people dread the thought of winter, I always look forward to the return of the friendly Purple Finches to cheer me.

215 Jackson St.
Sauk City, Wis.

WISCONSIN'S FAVORITE BIRD HAUNTS

PETENWELL FLOWAGE

The northwestern corner of Adams County is a major ornithological attraction. The area is dominated by the Wisconsin River, particularly a 14-mile stretch of river that has been broadened into "Petenwell Flowage" since the creation of Petenwell Dam in 1950. The 36 square miles of water form one of the largest water expanses in Wisconsin; it attracts swans, ducks and geese in spring and fall, holds rookeries of Great Blue Herons and Double-crested Cormorants on some of its islands, and even attracted a pair of White Pelicans for six months in 1956.

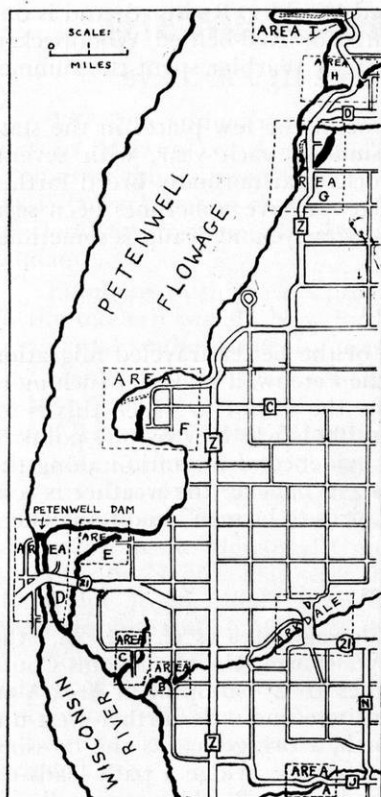
Not much of the shoreline is easily accessible by road, but small numbers of shorebirds are often seen in the New Rome marshes (Area G) in season; exploration of islands and inaccessible areas of shoreline would doubtless disclose more. Extensive marshes at New Rome (Area G), Monroe Center (Area F), and east of Petenwell Dam (Area E) attract marsh wrens, rails, Black Terns, Least Bitterns, and a growing colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

The numerous creeks that flow westward into the Wisconsin River make the region attractive for many land birds in any season. The writer will long remember the day he found 29 species of warblers while working north along the river. Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers are numerous; Winter Wrens have been seen in summer and winter, as well as in migration; nesting Pine Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrushes have proved to be summertime attractions for visiting ornithologists.

Winter

The area around Petenwell Bridge where Highway 21 crosses the river (Area D) boasts one of the great ornithological attractions in Wisconsin. Any time from December through March Bald Eagles may be seen from the bridge in numbers ranging from 10 to over 30. At any time of day they may be seen resting in the trees, perched on sand bars looking for fish, soaring around and screaming. It is a thrilling sight, and can be witnessed from three vantage-points: (1) by walking onto the bridge; (2) by driving in at the south end of Petenwell Rock on the west side of the river just south of Highway 21; and (3) by driving in to the dam on the west side of the river just north of Highway 21.

In the same general areas one may see wintering waterfowl, a Red-shouldered Hawk or a Great Blue Heron; this is the only place in Wisconsin where the heron is known to winter consistently each year. Another place to see the herons, waterfowl, and often a wintering Common Snipe, is in the Petenwell Marsh area just to the east of the dam. (Area E). This area is best reached by the road that passes the Strongs Prairie cemetery (1 mile east, 1/2 mile north of the bridge); but this area is leased as a fur farm, and permission should be sought from the operator before entering. It is in this area that a pair of Bald Eagles has nested for a number of years.



AREA "A"

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Tufted Titmouse
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Yellow-throated Vireo
Golden-winged Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush

AREA "B"

Wood Duck
Ruffed Grouse
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Pine Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush

AREA "C"

Green-winged Teal
Wood Duck
Ruffed Grouse
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Tufted Titmouse

AREA "D"

Great Blue Heron
Bald Eagle
Barred Owl
Cliff Swallow
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Louisiana Waterthrush

AREA "E"

Surface-feeding Ducks
Bald Eagle
Shorebirds
Traill's Flycatcher

AREA "F"

Loons and Grebes
Ducks and Geese
Gulls and Terns

AREA "G"

Double-crested Cormorant
Ducks, Swans, Geese
Least Bittern
Shorebirds
Gulls and Terns
Yellow-headed Blackbird

AREA "H"

Wood Duck
Warblers
Winter Wren

AREA "I"

Least Bittern
Double-crested Cormorant
Ducks, Swans, Geese
Long-billed Marsh Wren

Summer

This region boasts three birds as fairly common summer residents that are rarely found in either southern or northern Wisconsin: Pine Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush and Lark Sparrow. They arrive in late April and probably remain through August, although from early July on they are quiet and hard to find. The waterthrush may be found along almost any of the creeks (Areas A, B, D); the warbler nests wherever old stands of white pines still exist (Areas B, F, H); the sparrow sticks to the open sandy areas with some sparse jack pine growth (along "Z" between Areas F and G; along "D").

Area A, where Little Roche A Cri Creek crosses "J," has a wide variety of the more common birds (Yellow-throated Vireo, Redstart,

Black-and-White Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Redstart), and is one of the most likely spots to hear a Pileated or Red-bellied Woodpecker. For three consecutive years a male Brewster's Warbler spent the summer here.

The Petenwell Marsh (Area E) is one of the few places in the state where Green-winged Teal spend the summer each year, with several pairs probably nesting. Of the other ducks that normally breed farther north, stray Pintails and American Widgeons have sometimes been seen in Area F, and an occasional Redhead, Goldeneye and Scaup is sometimes found in Area G.

Migration

The writer has suspicions that one of the better traveled migration routes through the state passes through the Petenwell region. Much more field work needs to be done to determine the extent to which this is so. But on a good hawk day in spring over 100 hawks flew by one point in 40 minutes; usually there is much more evidence of migration along the river than there is a few miles to the east. Whenever the weather is conducive to migration, there are sure to be birds to be seen almost anywhere in the region.

Directions

The key to the whole Petenwell Flowage area is C.T.H. "Z," the north-south road on the east side of the Wisconsin River in Adams County. Go west from Friendship on "J" six miles to "Z" (stopping at Area A en route). For Areas B-E, cross "Z" and continue one mile further west until the road turns north. Two miles north, a bridge marks the crossing of Big Roche a Cri Creek, and just north of the bridge a path leads toward the west to a large pine stand; this is Area B. Then proceed one mile north and one mile west on town roads, crossing a tiny creek, to where a dead-end road turns south in Area C. Then continue west on the town road, follow as it turns north and eventually joins Highway 21; go west one mile to Petenwell Bridge, and across the bridge for side roads to Petenwell Rock and the dam; this is Area D. Return eastward on 21 for 1½ miles, take the first road north for ½ mile, and turn west for ½ mile to the cemetery and the beginning of Petenwell Marsh. (Area E).

Then proceeding eastward again to "Z," follow "Z" northward to "C" and turn left for the Monroe Center peninsula (Area F). The roads go only part way out on this peninsula, but those looking for an ambitious walk can park near the northwest corner of the road area and follow the shoreline on foot for another mile or so.

Area G, the New Rome marshes, is reached by continuing north and east on "Z" for six miles until water is sighted on the left. All of this area is worth studying, but the best vantage point is 1½ miles north of where one first strikes the water area, where one can drive off for a short distance on a sandy track. Areas H and I are still further north on "Z." Area H is wooded creek bottom country, abounding in warblers. Area I is a 1½ mile dike jutting far out into the Flowage right at the Adams-Wood county line; it is a long walk, but a rewarding one during waterfowl migration.—Sam Robbins.

THE MILWAUKEE CONVENTION

By CLARA HUSSONG and HELEN NORTHUP

The 19th annual meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology met in Milwaukee, April 25-27. Convention headquarters were the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Vice President Stanley Polacheck was in charge of the program, and was assisted in making the local arrangements by Alvin Throne. Over 200 people were in attendance.

Emphasis in this year's program was on the perils which beset birds in the modern world. New facts brought out through research and experimental studies were also presented by a number of speakers.

Members and visitors who arrived Friday afternoon were privileged to hear Prof. Albert Wolfson of Northwestern University give an illustrated lecture on "Bird Migration."

Also arranged for Friday afternoon and early evening was an exhibit of the Milwaukee Public Library collection of original Audubon Havell Elephant Folio Prints. The Friday evening registration and reception took place in the Memorial Union. Three films by Steve Briggs of Milwaukee, and Naples, Fla., were shown. They were "Goony Bird," "Along the Gaspé Road," and "West of Key West." Mr. Briggs is a nature photographer and an officer of the Evinrude Motor Company.

Following a field trip along the Lake Michigan shore and through Estabrook Park, members assembled at 9:30 Saturday morning in the auditorium. Robert E. Norris, dean of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, gave the welcome address, and President Carl Frister responded.

A paper on "The Physiological Relationship to Breeding Behavior in Pheasants," prepared by Robert P. Breitenbach and R. K. Meyer, was read by the former.

"The Migration Mortality at TV Towers" was discussed by Clarence Jung. According to his research, and that of Dr. Charles Kemper, more birds are killed during the autumn migration than in spring by these high structures during stormy periods. More work needs to be done along this line, and Mr. Jung asked cooperation from other members who have an opportunity to explore the vicinity of TV towers after storms to determine the number and species of birds killed.

A Milwaukee Izaak Waltonian, Ralph Peterson, predicted that 1959 would be Wisconsin's "water year." He told of his group's efforts in bringing about a better Milwaukee watershed program.

In a talk illustrated with colored slides, Alfred O. Holz of Green Bay pointed out the relationship that exists between birds and "the little things in nature" which surround them: insects, plants, etc. He urged members to broaden their knowledge of nature in general, in order better to understand birds in their wildlife communities.

Luncheon was served in the Memorial Union cafeteria, and before the afternoon session members were given an opportunity to tour the Chapman Memorial Library of Milwaukee Downer College which had on display rare ornithological and natural history books.

Alvin Throne served as chairman of the afternoon session, which opened with a paper on "Another Look at Poison Spraying," read by Dixie Larkin. Mrs. Larkin presented a stirring protest against the indiscriminate use of DDT and other highly poisonous sprays, and asked for WSO backing in a fight against this practice.

In "Let's Take Another Look," Edward Prins showed pictures to illustrate how much more beauty, enjoyment and knowledge of nature one can get by taking close looks at all one sees.

An impromptu program speaker was Dr. Charles Kemper who suggested that members carry on a cooperative migratory study in which they count the number of "chips" per five-minute period on cloudy nights when birds fly low. He suggested a telephone relay system by which the word was to be passed from member to member on good flying nights.

Charles M. Weise, in his "Experimental Studies of the Annual Stimulus for Migration," informed members that in the studies, carried on both in this country and in Germany, it was found birds became more restless during the migration period. A decrease in body weight was not always a sign of a bird which had migrated, or was in the process of migration, as was formerly supposed.

In "The Eider Mortality from Eskimo Hunting Pressure at Pount Barrow" Daniel Thompson pointed out that the number of birds shot was so small that he recommended no restrictions against it.

Sam Robbins was toastmaster for the annual banquet and program which followed it. 15 of the 17 past presidents were present, and were introduced with appropriate "Presidential Profiles." Mrs. Gordon MacQuarrie was an honored guest, and was introduced by Walter Scott, who told of the Gordon MacQuarrie Foundation, which was organized in order to help improve communication between the conservation scientist and the general public. The Foundation plans to present an annual cash award of \$100 and a bronze medallion for outstanding achievement in "telling the conservation story," and also to present a graduate scholarship to a student at the University of Wisconsin who is interested in combining conservation and journalism studies in preparation for a career in this field.

Murl Deusing showed a movie which he and his son, who plans to follow in his father's footsteps, took while vacationing (and working) in Panama. The picture, "Panama, the Land of Contrast," was the usual superb Deusing prize.

PRESIDENTIAL PROFILES

By SAM ROBBINS

Verses used to introduce past presidents at WSO convention at Milwaukee, April 26, 1958

In 1-9-3-9,

When Wisconsin birders began to combine,

The man they placed at the head of the line

Was Madison's N. R. Barger.

As W. S. O.'s first president,

As creator of the Supply Department,

As editor, it's certainly evident

That no man has worked harder.

In 1-9-4-0,

When the infant really began to grow,

They passed the leadership of W. S. O.

To Professor Alvin Throne.

Milwaukee students have long been blessed

To learn from him how plants are pressed;

On thoughtful students he has always impressed

The value of water and stone.

In 1-9-4-1

W. S. O. was like a rising sun;
To see that matters were vigorously run
The members chose Murl Deusing.
A man of varied talents, Murl—
Admired by many a boy and girl,
His lectures have caused much hair to
curl—
They're thoughtful, yet amusing.

In 1-9-4-2

The war was on, gas rations were few;
That W. S. O. kept growing was due
To Green Bay's distinguished Earl
Wright.
He sensed great beauty in stream and sod;
His gifted brush brought deserved laud;
We miss his presence, but trust that God
Now guides his eternal flight.

In 1-9-4-3,

To add to its growing stability,
W. S. O. chose a man of ability
In Racine's Dr. Von Jarchow.
A capable leader where'er he presides,
A friend of the Wood Ducks with whom
he resides,
A friend of mankind, with whom he con-
fides,
Of true love his life is an echo.

In 1-9-4-4,

One versed in Bible and nature's lore
Then answered the summons, stepped to
the fore:
The Reverend Howard Orians.
He's lectured all over this favored land,
Helped many a person to understand
The value of insect, soil and sand,
The beauty of forests and oceans.

In '4-5 and '4-6,

Restrictions of war meant double licks
For a man with all the auctioneer's
tricks—
Milwaukee's Clarence Jung.
He now operates the Orchard Fair,
Is concerned about towers high in the air;
Bands birds, studies them, ever ready to
share
His knowledge with old and young.

In 1-9-4-7,

After serving as treasurer for years num-
bering seven
With an influence much like the Biblical
leaven
Along came J. Harwood Evans.
A fine school principal, without a doubt;
A teacher of many an eager scout,
He unravels to youth the mysteries about
The birds that inhabit the heavens.

In 1-9-4-8,

With Society ventures expanding of late,
Members found it was time to delegate
Their direction to S. Paul Jones.
He's been active afield for many a year;
Sing the birds to each other as they draw
near
To Waukesha: "Watch for S. Paul, for
here
Is one of our best chaperones."

In 1-9-4-9,

With a decade of growth as a healthy sign,
The Society insured itself 'gainst decline
By electing Sir Walter Scott.
"The Passenger Pigeon" from infancy
He guided to fame with consistency;
His motto for vigorous conservancy:
Strong action based on sound thought.

In 1-9-5-0,

When the convention met midst the fam-
ous blow,
The man designated to lead W. S. O.
Was Waukesha's Charlie Nelson.
He promoted the field trips, gave them
more zest;
Won many a member, drew many a guest;
Wherever the need, he gives of his best—
His talents too numerous to mention.

In 1-9-5-1,

An enlarged governing board meant more
to be done
The pride of Door County was the chosen
one—
The friendly Harold Wilson.
He's the dean of bird banders around this
state;
He's created bird havens around his estate;
He's always on hand when we congregate
At each W. S. O. convention.

In 1-9-5-2

We kicked upstairs a person who
Had been editing field notes from all of
you:
The Reverend Sam Robbins.
Since then he's been editing **The Passen-
ger Pidge**,
Revising "Baldpate" to "American Widge,"
Sneaking out to count eagles at Petenwell
Bridge,
And watching baby robins.

In 1-9-5-3

We went to Green Bay, their swans to see,
And to choose their fine leader—who could
it be?
Why, Chester Krawczyk, of course!
He's a many-sided naturalist—
Not only a fine ornithologist,
But equally keen as a botanist,
And a master of discourse.

In 1-9-5-4,
 Conservation concerns pressing more and
 more,
 We elected an expert of avian lore
 In Professor Joseph Hickey.
 With waterfowl management he's right at
 home;
 He works to preserve Prairie Chicken
 loam;
 His "Guide to Bird Watching" shows he
 still likes to roam
 Among the birds we often call
 "dickey."

In 1-9-5-5
 Another professor with lots of drive
 Made sure W. S. O. continued to thrive—
 The genial John T. Emlen.
 Under him ornithology flourishes strong
 In the midst of the huge university
 throng;
 The students he trains gain reputations
 long,
 And merit respect and attention.

In 1-9-5-6
 We asked one more teacher to get in his
 links;
 A man who with younger students clicks
 Is friendly Harold Liebherr.

He likes to work with the Senior Highs,
 Training boys and girls conservation-wise,
 Developing keenness of ears and eyes,
 Teaching how to make a bird feeder.

In 1-9-5-7,
 Our treasurer whose service years totaled
 seven
 Accepted when asked that his talents be
 given
 As President Carl Frister.
 He's seen a big growth in the Society's
 till—
 Endowment fund, chicken fund, they've
 grown with a will—
 But one heart's desire escapes him still:
 "Any Spruce Grouse around here,
 mister?"

In 1-9-5-8—
 You see we're now catching up to date—
 The man we've placed at the head of the
 slate
 Is the vigorous Stanley Polacheck.
 At selling ads and endowments he's had
 his fling.
 As convention boss he's done everything;
 And now to the presidency Stan will bring
 His vision, his drive, his intellect.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

Milwaukee, May 3, 1958

The annual business meeting was called to order at 4:35 p. m. on May 3 in the auditorium of the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. Sixty-eight persons were present. President Frister presided.

Miss Northup, secretary, cited the publication of the minutes of the 1957 business meeting (see 1957 *Pass. Pigeon* 78-79), and the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

Mr. Robbins, editor, explained the purpose of the fourth number of the 1957 volume of *The Passenger Pigeon*, of which 400 extra copies were printed to mail to persons who are involved in DDT spraying programs. Members were asked to locate companies in their home towns who should receive copies. Mr. Robbins moved, that the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology urge the State Departments of Health, Agriculture and Conservation to devise a code through which they will exert careful and strict control over the use of poison insecticides in Wisconsin. Carried. J. H. Evans spoke of the importance of teachers in schools training children to read labels on insecticides. Mr. Robbins announced a new plan for the work of the field notes editor. There will henceforth be one associate editor who will supervise and give out the field notes to four seasonal editors who will write the notes for *The Passenger Pigeon*. Ed Prins mentioned the fact that the notes are published out of season and would be better if published just before the season described in the following year.

The report of the treasurer, Daniel Q. Thompson, was read. Mr. Orians moved to accept, carried. J. H. Evans donated two dollars to place the prairie chicken fund in the clear.

Harold Kruse, bookstore manager, read his report and announced the issuing of a catalogue next year.

Mrs. Olive Compton, membership chairman, urged the use of earlier issues of the magazine for stimulating interest in the Society. Mrs. Larkin suggested sending a subscription to the Wisconsin Audubon Camp.

Harold Bauers, endowment and advertising chairman, called for information about suitable ads for the magazine, and also suitable people to ask for large and small gifts to the endowment fund.

Judge Simpson, legal advisor, reviewed the history of the new constitution and the deed on the land purchased for prairie chickens.

Howard Young, research chairman, discussed the two projects of the past year. The cooperative hawk-watch was not particularly successful and little was done with it. The survey of Cliff Swallow colonies in Wisconsin was very successful in the first year. Mr. Emlen has a great deal of accumulated information. The project will continue for an additional year, and it was urged that reports on colonies be sent to Mr. Emlen in June.

Dr. Charles Kemper, conservation chairman, pointed out three main problems in the field of conservation: 1) insecticide spraying, 2) water, and 3) mortality of birds at TV towers. Mr. Jung has agreed to be chairman of a study of the latter problem. Members were asked to send information on the TV tower mortality to Mr. Jung or to Dr. Kemper.

Mrs. Clara Hussong, publicity chairman, reviewed newspaper articles she has written on WSO affairs and some TV publicity that has been arranged.

The nominating committee, consisting of Norval Barger, chairman, Harold Kruse, Chester Krawczyk and Martha Lound, announced the slate of officers:

President: Stanley Polacheck, Milwaukee

Vice President: Ray Hussong, Green Bay

Secretary: Helen Northup, Madison

Treasurer: Mrs. Alfred Holz, Green Bay

Editor: Rev. Samuel Robbins, Adams

Judge Simpson moved the nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate. Carried.

Walter Scott, custodian, reviewed his work with the archives of the Society. He persuaded the University Library to accept, bind and keep on hand the exchange periodicals which have been received during the past twenty years. **The Condor**, **Bird Lore**, etc., were given to various schools. Duplicate periodicals were given to the WSO store. All of these exchange files have thus been disposed of. The Wisconsin Historical Society Manuscript Division has agreed to house all records which we wish to keep. Mr. Scott asked members to mail to him materials which they thought should be kept in this way.

Mr. Polacheck, chairman of the convention, expressed gracious thanks to the various individuals who had worked hard to make the convention a success. He called for a board meeting to follow the business meeting.

Mr. Robbins spoke warmly of the work done in respect to the DDT spraying of insecticides by Mrs. Dixie Larkin, and moved a vote of thanks to her for this labor in so important a cause. A rising vote of thanks was called for by Mr. Polacheck.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN NORTHUP, Secretary

W. S. O. SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Because the Supply Department is closing out the binocular part of its operation, the following glasses are being offered for sale at these reduced prices:

2 pair, 7x35 Burton (C.F.), @ \$42.00

1 pair, 9x35 (C.F.), @ \$46.00

1 pair, Rambler 4x Stadiums, @ \$10.00

These, and Red-headed Woodpecker lamps which were displayed at the spring convention (price \$14.95), can be ordered through Mr. Edward Peartree, 725 N. Lapham St., Oconomowoc.

A wide variety of ornithological and other nature books can be ordered from Mr. Harold Kruse, Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville. Keep this in mind when planning your Christmas gifts. It pays to buy your books through the Supply Department, for members receive an automatic 10% discount.

FALL CAMPOUT



The fall campout is scheduled for the weekend after Labor Day, September 6-7, with headquarters at Roche a Cri Park two miles north of Friendship on highway 13 in Adams County. There are good camping facilities at the park, and many will probably be arriving to set up tents on Friday evening. Those not wishing to camp out will find a number of modern motels in the area: one just south of the park and two in Friendship.

Trips will begin from the park at 6:30 a. m. Saturday morning, and during the day will cover

the main attractions along Castle Rock Lake and Petenwell Flowage. The campout is planned particularly to study fall warblers. Leaders will help observers learn how to deal with these confusing birds: how to find the warblers, how to approach them closely enough for identification purposes, and how to identify them. Observers wishing to do some "homework" on this subject prior to the campout should study the plate on "confusing fall warblers" in Peterson's Field Guide."

Attend This Meeting . . .

When the Wisconsin Conservation Commission holds its next meeting on September 19, one of the issues to be decided will concern what controls—if any—will be exercised over the use of poison sprays on forest and non-crop lands in Wisconsin. Hearings on the general subject were held last winter. A handful of WSO members attended and spoke their minds, but they were outnumbered by the sprayers and the paper mill operators. Recommendations from Wisconsin Conservation Department personnel have evolved since then, and the Commission will be deciding upon a spraying code at the September meeting.

There are two things WSO members can do, after refreshing their minds about the issues involved (see the 1957 winter issue of **The Passenger Pigeon**). First, write your views to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, State Office Building, Madison 1, Wisconsin. Second, attend the September 19 meeting of the Commission, to be held at Wisconsin Dells. An aroused public opinion, displayed by people turning out in numbers, will say a great deal to the Commissioners about our desire to see strict controls placed on spraying.

LAND, LAND, LAND!

By CLARA HUSSONG

We need some land, a "forty" or "eighty" that the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology can own outright, and do with what they wish.

This was the urgent cry of WSO board members at their meeting June 14 at President Stanley Polacheck's cottage on Lake Michigan. After discussing matters dealing with the prairie chicken land now owned by WSO, and which is leased by the Conservation Department, it was the opinion of board members that land which they could use and handle as the Society saw fit, would be good thing for WSO to own.

The more land—prairie, wasteland, forest, swamp, or marsh—that is allowed to remain as a natural wildlife community, and in which the inhabitants could work out their own destinies, the better, from the ecologic standpoint, in the opinion of board members.

For this reason, any type of land would be desirable, and every member of WSO is asked to be on the look-out for a forty, eighty, or other size piece, which is reasonably priced, and if possible more or less centrally located.

WSO members who know of such pieces of land which are for sale are asked to write to Dan Thompson, at Ripon College. Others on the land committee appointed by President Polacheck are Carl Frister, Harold Kruse and Judge Allan Simpson.

An abandoned farm would be suitable too, it was pointed out at the meeting, and one with buildings on it would be all the better. A good site might become a future camp-out or field trip center.

MORE NEWS . . .

Members of the Chicago Bird Club are coming to Milwaukee for a field trip on January 18, with Milwaukee birders showing them around. W. S. O. members, in turn, are invited to join Chicago birders at the famous Morton Arboretum at Lisle, Illinois (22 miles west of the Chicago Loop) at 9:30 a. m. on either December 13 or February 15.

We welcome a new advertiser in this issue. Melody Waves Resort is truly a lovely place for a week's vacation, or even a weekend, located near the north end of Castle Rock Lake just south of Area B on the map on page 69, eight miles west of Friendship.

Before we know it, it will be time to lay in the winter's supply of bird seed. Do patronize our advertisers whenever possible, and remember to tell them that you saw their advertisements in **The Passenger Pigeon**.

Another trip to Cedar Grove to witness the fall hawk migration is planned for Sunday, October 5. This should coincide closely with the peak of the Sharp-shinned Hawk flight, and with favorable weather

conditions there could be a spectacular migration. Even with unfavorable flying weather, there are always birds to see at Cedar Grove. Come as early as you can, and bring your lunch.

Looking forward to our twentieth anniversary year next spring, we are hoping for a big increase in membership. Think of all the friends you know who have some interest in birds, show them your copy of **The Passenger Pigeon**, and encourage them to join. Mrs. L. E. Compton of Waukesha, the Membership Chairman, will gladly assist you. Membership in W. S. O. could make an excellent Christmas gift.

The nation-wide "cooperative migration project," begun in Wisconsin and now carried on by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, continues this fall with the same species being studied as in previous falls. Wisconsin ranks high among contributors to this project, but more observers in more sections of the state are urged to join. Write for details to Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.

(More News on page 78)

VISIBLE MIGRATION PROJECT

The visible migration project begins its second year this fall. Additional cooperators are needed from every area within the state. A few hours of your time can be spent enjoyable at some observation point near your home, watching and counting migrating birds. The data (or lack of data) thus obtained may contribute materially to our knowledge of bird migration in Wisconsin.

The "target" weekends are September 13th-14th and 20th-21st. On these days it is suggested that you take up an observation post on a possible or known migration route (lake shore, river valley, ridge or hill) and spend as much of the day as you can spare identifying and counting the birds passing by overhead.

All hawk observations will be forwarded to Chandler Robbins who is coordinating a hawk migration project for the entire eastern United States.

For report forms, write to Helmut C. Mueller, Department of Zoology, Birge Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wisconsin. Please send results to Mr. Mueller by October 15.

MORE NEWS . . .

Concern over the indiscriminate use of poison sprays is growing. President Eisenhower recently signed a bill passed by congress directing the Secretary of the Interior to study the effects on wildlife of insecticides, fungicides and other pesticides. The latest issue of "Wildlife Review" contains abstracts of 11 articles about the effects of spraying on fish, insects and wildlife, and most of them sound a note of alarm. The latest issue of *Atlantic Naturalist*, published by the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, has a most significant article entitled "The Growing Resistance of Insects to Insecticides" by Dr. C. J. Breijer, direc-

tor of the Dutch Plant Protection Service in Holland.

It appears that very few Wisconsin observers are contributing field notes regularly for *Audubon Field Notes*, the bi-monthly summary of field notes for North America published by the National Audubon Society in collaboration with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wisconsin could make a significant contribution to our knowledge of bird migration and distribution if more observers who go afield frequently would send reports to Dr. Walter J. Breckinridge, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota. Deadlines for these reports are included regularly in the "Dates to Remember" column.

By The Wayside . . .

Edited by MARTHA and ROY LOUND

A Kittiwake in the Milwaukee Harbor. On December 8, 1957, we were looking over the ducks and gulls in the Milwaukee Harbor, off South Shore Park, when we spotted a bird swimming in the water not far from shore. Although we knew it was something different, we could not identify it. After a while the bird took off, revealing the jet black "boomerang marking" extending from the body to the tips of the primaries. When it settled back on the water among about 60 Bonaparte's Gulls, we were able to check its larger size, black bill, snowy white head,

black eye mark and the black mark at the base of the back of the neck, and we knew that we were looking at a Black-legged (Atlantic) Kittiwake. We watched the bird for fully half an hour through binoculars and a scope. The bird appeared to be a first year one, very similar to Peterson's illustration of the flying immature bird.—Dorothy and Carl Frister, Milwaukee.

Tornado? Opening day of the Wisconsin duck season in 1956 I was in a marsh called the Black Slough in Outagamie County. Far off I noticed a flat black disc whirling through the sky toward me and a great way off. At times it seemed to break at one point in its perimeter and pour downward into a funnel shaped cloud like a small tornado though never approaching the ground. Then it would change into a disc again. After a time I noticed what I first took to be a plane beneath it. Then I realized the disc was much nearer to me than I had thought. The airplane became an Osprey. The disc became several hundred Redwings keeping a strange circular formation above and behind the hawk. Every so often the birds nearest the Osprey would dip down toward it and all would follow producing the funnel effect. Then the hawk would scream angrily and rise toward the swooping birds. They would hastily veer and reform the disc. This happened a number of times. Then, for no apparent reason, the disc dissolved to the usual flight pattern of Redwings and the birds flew off as if they had business elsewhere. The Osprey continued on its slow methodical flight southward.—Alfred S. Bradford, Appleton.

Eagle Nesting Activity in December. On December 14, 1957, I stopped to investigate a Bald Eagle's nest which I have been watching for several years. I was about half a mile from the nest but could see a mature bird sitting on a limb just a little above the nest; then with my binoculars I could make out another adult bird sitting in the nest. I



BALD EAGLE NEST
PHOTO BY CARL RICHTER

then spent a few minutes scanning the marsh, but on looking back at the eagles I could see that both birds were in the nest. In about ten minutes the one moved step by step from the nest back to the exact spot on the limb where it was previously perched. I watched for a while but since nothing happened I looked away again, but a little later both birds were again in the nest. One bird then left the nest and flew away over the marsh toward some woods, but the other bird was still sitting in the nest when I left about half an hour later. That is the third time since the nest was built that the eagles visited or added to their nest in December.—Carl H. Richter, Oconto.

Boreal Chickadees in Marinette County. On January 26, 1958, I observed for the first time in my life the species *Parus hudsonicus* or Boreal

Chickadee. It was in a small evergreen tree, and during the next five minutes it searched four Norway pines for insects. From a distance of twenty feet it appeared to be much smaller and darker than the Black-capped Chickadee, but its actions were similar and its call also similar though shorter and more blunt.

On February 9, 1958, my brother and I again observed this species in an area two miles north of the spot where I had first found it.

In previous years I have searched this area in vain for these birds, but I finally achieved my goal. Both my brother and I are positive of our identification.—Raymond Stefanski, Armstrong Creek.



FIELD NOTES

By MARTHA and ROY LOUND

Winter Season

December 1957-February 1958

The enthusiasm of Wisconsin's birders reaches its peak with the Christmas bird count; then it dwindles, and little field work is done until the spring migration rekindles the urge to again start roaming the fields and woods. Because of the lack of sustained field work during the months of January and February, records of bird population and movements are spotty, and it is difficult to draw definite conclusions about Wisconsin bird life during that period.

The Rarer Records

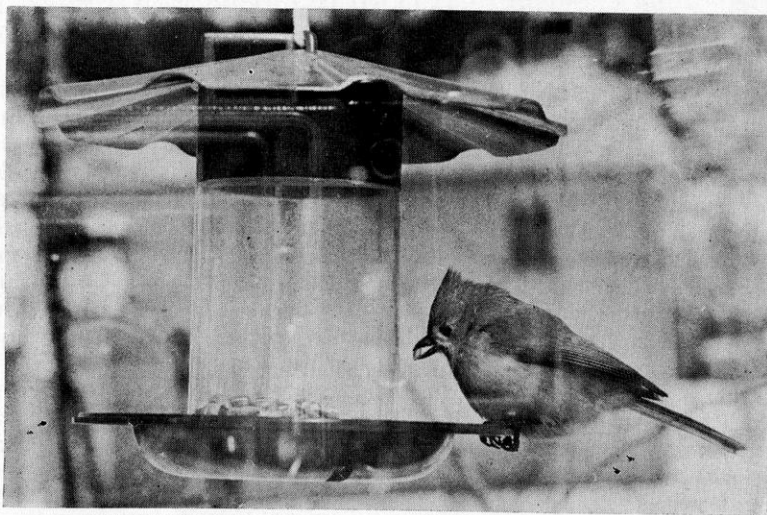
Top honors for winter rarities go to the Carl P. Fristers for their discovery of a Black-legged Kittiwake in the Milwaukee harbor off South Shore Park on Dec. 8. Roger Tory Peterson in his **Field Guide to the Birds** lists its range as "oceanic; breeds from Gulf of St. Lawrence to Arctic; winters off coast south to New Jersey." Dr. A. W. Schorger's 1951 revision of Kumlien and Hollister's **Birds of Wisconsin** states that the only specimen for the state was taken in the harbor at Milwaukee Feb. 4, 1938, by M. Deusing. A. C. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 113; 44) mentions its occurrence at Racine, March 17, 1881. **The Passenger Pigeon** has two published sight records; one in Milwaukee in Feb., 1937, and the other in Door Co. in Nov., 1938.

Other good records include Whistling Swans at several locations; a Virginia Rail near Fort Atkinson on Feb. 2, and in Adams Co. on Dec. 19; a Golden Eagle in Grant Co. on Dec. 27; a Mockingbird in Oshkosh

during the week of Feb. 4; a Long-billed and a Short-billed Marsh Wren and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the Madison Christmas Count; and Myrtle Warblers on the Mazomanie and Racine Christmas Counts.

The Season as a Whole

Cold polar air lay over Wisconsin during the first half of December and closed most of the lakes and streams. A warming trend which began on Dec. 13 continued until Dec. 27, and some larger lakes reopened. Large concentrations of waterfowl left the state with the advent of cold weather, but individuals or relatively few of certain species could still be found in spots where open water remained. Horned Grebes, Great Blue Herons, Blue and Green-winged Teal, Wood Ducks and Shovelers were among the more unusual records.



THE TUFTED TITMOUSE WAS REPORTED FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE STATE THIS WINTER.

PHOTO BY RALPH MORSE

Birds which normally winter south of Wisconsin were found throughout the period in many parts of the state. Mourning Doves wintered in some numbers, with a few individuals reported as far north as Barron, Polk and Marinette counties. A large concentration of Red-wing Blackbirds was again present near Madison, with single reports coming from as far north as Barron and Chippewa counties. More than the usual number of Brown-headed Cowbird reports turned up from southern counties. Both meadowlark species again wintered throughout the southern and central portions of the state but did not appear to be as numerous or widespread as in the past several years. Wintering Brown Thrashers, Robins, Hermit Thrushes and White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were reported from several areas. Generally these birds are found at feeding stations, and it is no doubt an adequate and regular food supply which makes it possible for them to withstand the cold Wisconsin winter.

Among those birds which visit Wisconsin only in the winter months or are found in greater abundance during that period, several are worthy of comment. Evening Grosbeaks invaded the northern and central counties during the early part of the winter and were common during December, but by February they were much more numerous in the southern counties. Purple Finches wintered in large numbers throughout the southern part of the state but as usual were rare in the central and northern counties. A really good flight of Pine Grosbeaks occurred, reaching to the southernmost counties. Frequently, these birds reach the northern and perhaps the central counties, but this year small flocks of these lovely winter birds were present all through the state during the entire winter season. Red Crossbills were scarce, with only three reports received for the entire period. Quite the opposite was true of the White-winged Crossbill, for which a really good flight was recorded. Flocks of 40 to 50 birds were not uncommon around Madison, beginning in November, with the amazing total of 181 individuals recorded on the Madison Christmas Count—the highest total for the North American continent. Generally, they were harder to find after the end of December and had broken up into smaller flocks. Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in exceptionally large numbers. These birds, which nest only in the northernmost counties, spread over the entire state during November and remained in dwindling numbers through February. This species was reported on 23 Christmas counts in 1957 but on only 5 counts in 1956 when it was very scarce except in the north. Another good flight of Northern Shrikes occurred, with individuals present throughout the period in most counties. Both the Snowy Owl flight was the poorest in years. Individuals were reported from four counties during November, but the only reports for the winter period were of one bird in the Racine harbor during late December and January, and another bird on the Wausau Christmas count. Redpolls were spread throughout the state but in relatively small flocks. The only reports of large flocks came from Chippewa and Portage counties. On the whole, it was a good year for winter birds—considerably above average.

Early Spring Season

No real bird migration reached the state in February. Temperatures ranged below normal over the entire state during the month, delaying any possible early arrivals. Contrary to the usual pattern, not a single Killdeer was reported in February. Only one flock of Canada Geese was reported as possible migrants—23 birds in Waukesha Co. on Feb. 25. And only one Bluebird report—from Rock Co. on Feb. 24.

The 1957-58 winter season ended with winter birds much more in evidence than early spring arrivals.

Here are the highlights of the winter season:

Red-throated Loon: The only report was one bird on the Milwaukee Christmas Count, Dec. 22.

Horned Grebe: Dane Co., Dec. 1 (Tom Ashman); 2 birds wintered in Milwaukee (Mary Donald); 3 birds on Dec. 22 (Lake Geneva Christmas Count).

Pied-billed Grebe: Reported in Waukesha Co., 2 birds on Dec. 21-22 (Tom Soulen); one bird in Wisconsin River at Sauk City, Jan. 1 (Sam

Robbins); present all season near Madison, Dane Co. (Tom Ashman); one bird wintered at North Lake, Waukesha Co. (L. E. Compton); one bird near the Petenwell Bridge, Juneau Co., Dec. 28 (Ray White, et al.); departed from Brown Co. on Dec. 14 (Ed Paulson); seen in Walworth Co., Dec. 22 (Lake Geneva Christmas Count).

Double-crested Cormorant: Late straggler in Manitowoc Co. on Dec. 14 (John Kraupa).

Great Blue Heron: Departed from Dane Co., Dec. 14 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); at least 2 birds wintered in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins), with 4 birds present in the Petenwell Dam area on Feb. 8 (Dan Berger).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Reported from Madison, Dane Co., Feb. 6 (Eugene Roark).

Whistling Swan: An unusual number of reports for the winter season: departed from Brown Co., Dec. 1 (Ed Paulson); 5 birds present in Oconto Co., Dec. 2 (Carl Richter); one bird near Petenwell Dam, Adams Co. on Jan. 13 (Dan Berger) remaining throughout the season (Sam Robbins).

Canada Goose: Late departure dates from Adams Co., Dec. 22, flock of 50 birds (Eugene Roark) and Brown Co., Dec. 22 (Ed Paulson); wintering birds were reported from Milwaukee, one bird (Mary Donald) and from the Mekan River area in Waukesha Co. (Ray White); 23 birds in Waukesha Co. on Feb. 25 may have been early spring migrants (Ed Peartree, Nellis Smith). Also reported on the Green Bay, Lake Geneva, Racine and Wausau Christmas Bird Counts.

Gadwall: 3 birds wintered in the Yahara River, Dane Co. (Dick Wills); 2 birds seen on the Hartford Christmas Count.

Pintail: Several wintered in Milwaukee (Mary Donald, Mrs. A. P. Balsom); one bird present in Dane Co. (Wm. Hilsenhoff); also reported on the Racine Christmas Count.

Green-winged Teal: Wintering birds reported from Adams Co. (Sam Robbins) and Milwaukee Co. (Mary Donald, Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Blue-winged Teal: One bird discovered on the Christmas Count in Adams Co., Dec. 28, by N. R. Barger remained throughout the season (Sam Robbins).

American Widgeon: One bird wintered in Milwaukee (Mary Donald, Mrs. A. P. Balsom); reported on the Racine Christmas Count.

Shoveler: The only report was of one bird on the Waukesha Christmas Count.

Wood Duck: Single birds were reported on the Adams and Wausau Christmas Counts; a female was observed in Milwaukee between Jan. 21 and Feb. 28 (Mary Donald, et al.).

Redhead: Numerous reports throughout the period from Dane and Milwaukee counties (many observers); also seen on the Lake Geneva Christmas Count.

Ring-necked Duck: Reported only from Dane Co. on Jan. 3, Feb. 2 and Feb. 24 (Eugene Roark).

Canvasback: Departed from Brown Co., Dec. 14 (Ed Paulson); numerous reports throughout the period from Dane and Milwaukee counties (many observers); also reported on the Lake Geneva Christmas Count.

Lesser Scaup: Departed from Brown Co., Dec. 22 (Ed Paulson); present in La Crosse Co. after Jan. 25 (Leo J. Egelberg) and Rock Co. after Feb. 19 (Frances Glenn, Bernice Andrews).

Common Goldeneye: A common winter resident on Lake Michigan, and even quite common inland wherever there is sufficient open water. Noted as present during the period in almost all counties from which reports were received.

Bufflehead: Departed from Adams Co., Dec. 7 (Sam Robbins); wintered in Dane and Milwaukee counties (many observers); also observed on the Hartford, Lake Geneva and Racine Christmas Counts.

Oldsquaw: Present throughout the period from Sheboygan to Kenosha counties in Lake Michigan, but not reported elsewhere.

White-winged Scoter: Present throughout the period in Milwaukee (Mary Donald); also reported on the Lake Geneva and Racine Christmas Counts.

Surf Scoter: The only report was of 2 birds on the Lake Geneva Christmas Count.

Ruddy Duck: Wintered in Milwaukee (many observers); no other reports.

Hooded Merganser: Wintering birds were reported from Adams, Dane and Milwaukee counties; other reports came from Brown Co., Dec. 14 (Ed Paulson), Waukesha Co., Dec. 21 (Tom Soulen) and the Lake Geneva Christmas Count.

Common Merganser: Wintering reports from Adams, Brown, Dane, La Crosse and Milwaukee counties, and a single report from Vilas Co., Feb. 28 (Alfred Bradford); reported on 17 Christmas Counts.

Red-breasted Merganser: Reported as wintering only in Milwaukee Co., but also reported on the Hartford, Kenosha, Lake Geneva, Madison, Mazomanie, Mishicot and Racine Christmas Counts.

Goshawk: Reports of this large woods hawk were received from only four counties: Price, Dec. 28 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); Brown, Feb. 13 (Ed Paulson); Outagamie, near Shiocton, Jan. 1 & 10 (Alfred Bradford); Waukesha, Feb. 19 (Mary Donald, Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Karl Priebe).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Seen in Waukesha Co., Dec. 1 (Mrs. Paul Hoffman) and Jan. 5 (Ed Peartree, Nellis Smith); Sauk Co., Jan. 1 (Sam Robbins); Dane Co., Jan. 5 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); Juneau Co., near Necedah, Jan. 12 (Dan Berger); present in Milwaukee Co. after Jan. 23 (Mary Donald). An unusual northern record was the bird found on the Wausau Christmas Count.

Cooper's Hawk: Reported from all central and southern counties, with the most northerly observation in Marathon Co., Dec. 6 (Mrs. Spencer Doty).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Wintering birds were again reported from Adams and Chippewa counties in addition to the usual wintering records from all southern counties from which reports were received.

Rough-legged Hawk: Quite common throughout the period in the more southern areas, with the most northerly report from Oconto Co., Dec. 2 (Carl Richter). Wm. Hilsenhoff reported seeing 7 birds on a trip from Madison to Oshkosh.

Golden Eagle: N. R. Barger and his son, Norval, Jr., carefully observed an immature bird of this species in Grant Co. on Dec. 27.

Bald Eagle: Many reports for the period, especially from counties bordering the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. The 34 birds reported on the Adams Christmas Count was one of the higher counts for the entire country, the highest being 50 birds at Clinton, Iowa.

Marsh Hawk: Many reports throughout the period from all southern counties. Most northerly reports were on the Adams Christmas Count and from Brown Co., Feb. 20 (Ed Paulson).

Sparrow Hawk: Reported from most southern and central counties, with most northerly observations in Brown, Dunn and Marathon counties.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Two reports from Marinette Co.: one bird budding in a white birch tree on Dec. 28, Jan. 1 and Jan. 4 (Carl Richter) and seen on Jan. 1 and Feb. 16 (Raymond Stefanski). Also reported by Wm. Hilsenhoff, Dec. 28, on the Prentice Christmas Count.



KILLDEER NEST. NO MIGRANT KILLDEER HAD BEEN REPORTED BY THE END OF FEBRUARY.

PHOTO BY NORVAL BARGER, JR.

Virginia Rail: One bird was present in Adams Co. until Dec. 19 (Sam Robbins); one bird seen along a little stream near Fort Atkinson, Jefferson Co., Feb. 2 (the L. E. Comptons & Clarence Anthes).

American Coot: Wintering records received only from Dane, Washington and Waukesha counties; also recorded on the Lake Geneva and Racine Christmas Counts.

Common Snipe: Four birds wintered in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins); three birds were seen about a mile from water in the Kettle Moraine area, Waukesha Co., Jan. 6 (L. E. Compton); one bird was seen along a small stream in Waushara Co., Feb. 16 (Ray White). Also reported on the Mazomanie and South Wayne Christmas Counts.

Bonaparte's Gull: Reported only from Milwaukee: Dec. 5 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom), and again on the Christmas Count, Dec. 22, 45 birds.

Black-legged Kittiwake: The Carl Fristers' report of this unusual species on Dec. 8 in the Milwaukee Harbor is described in "By the Wayside."

Mourning Dove: Wintering birds reported throughout the southern and central areas, with a few birds noted as far north as Barron, Marinette and Polk counties.

Snowy Owl: Very scarce, with only two reports for the entire period: individual birds at Racine on Dec. 28 and occasionally thereafter (several observers) and on the Wausau Christmas Count.

Long-eared Owl: Reported from Dane, Milwaukee, Rock and Waukesha counties; also on the Kenosha, Lake Geneva and Racine Christmas Counts.

Short-eared Owl: Only three reports: Dane Co., Dec. 21 (Sam Robbins); Milwaukee Co., Dec. 30 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); Lake Geneva Christmas Count.

Saw-whet Owl: The only report for the entire season came from Sam Robbins who found a fresh road-killed bird about 14 miles south of Adams on Highway 13 on Dec. 24.

Belter Kingfisher: Present in Barron Co. until Feb. 23 (Eugene Butler), and wintered in 3 places in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins); also reported from most southern counties.

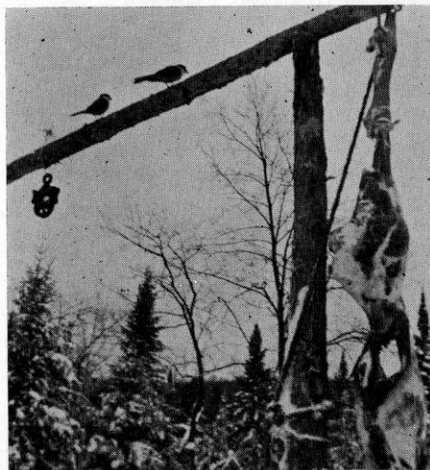
Yellow-shafted Flicker: Appeared on 13 Christmas Counts, with the most northerly report from Wausau. Also noted in Adams Co., Dec. 24 (Sam Robbins), Columbia Co., Jan. 19 (Donald Cors) and in Milwaukee Co., Jan. 22 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and Jan. 27 (Mary Donald). Present all season in La Crosse Co. (Leo J. Egelberg) and Rock Co. (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Reported from most southern and central areas and as far north as Brown, Polk and Washburn counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Wintered in Adams, Barron, Brown, Dane, La Crosse, Polk, Rock, Vernon and Waukesha counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Reported from Rock Co., Jan. 15 (June Ohm); no other reports.

Gray Jay: Reported from Forest Co., Dec. 9 and Jan. 15 (Nils P. Dahlstrand) and Vilas Co., Feb. 28 (Alfred Bradford); also seen on the Sarona (Audubon Camp) Christmas Count.



GRAY JAYS LOOK OVER CAMP MEAT
DURING DEER HUNTING SEASON.

PHOTO BY CARL RICHTER

Common Raven: Present throughout the season in the northern part of the state, with reports from Florence, Forest, Marinette, Oneida, Price, Vilas and Washburn counties.

Boreal Chickadee: Raymond Stefanski found this species in Marinette Co. on Jan. 26 and Feb. 9. (See "By the Wayside.")

Tufted Titmouse: Reported from Adams, Brown, Chippewa, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Lafayette, Langlade, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Pepin, Polk, Rock, Sauk and Vernon counties,

and it was noted on 16 of the 36 Christmas Counts. C. A. Kemper banded a bird during February, 1955, in Chippewa Co., and it has turned up each winter since then in the same spot.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A really big year for this species, being recorded in every county from which reports were received. The grand total of 159 individuals were reported on 23 Christmas Counts.

Brown Creeper: All reports came from the southern half of the state, south of a line between La Crosse and Green Bay.

Winter Wren: Recorded on two Christmas Counts: on Dec. 21 in Madison (Wm. Hilsenhoff), and on Jan. 1 near Mazomanie when one bird was seen in Iowa Co. (the N. R. Bangers & the Roy Lounds) and another bird in Sauk Co. (Sam Robbins).

Long-billed Marsh Wren: One bird reported by Mr. & Mrs. Norris Sanders and Andrew Ragatz, Dec. 21, on the Madison Christmas Count.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: On Dec. 21 on the Madison Christmas Count, Sam Robbins found a single bird. He searched the area again on Jan. 14 and 18 but was unable to find it.

Mockingbird: One bird was reported to have appeared daily for about a week in early February at a feeder in Oshkosh (the Ralph N. Buckstaffs).

Brown Thrasher: One wintered in Milwaukee (Mary Donald); one visited our bird feeders irregularly during the winter, beginning Jan. 18 (the Roy Lounds).

Robin: Numerous reports of wintering birds from as far north as Marinette Co.

Hermit Thrush: One bird in Grant Park, Milwaukee, Dec. 30, on the Hales Corners Christmas Count (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Eastern Bluebird: One bird reported on the South Wayne Christmas Count, Jan. 1; an early migrant in Rock Co., Feb. 24 (Frances Glenn, Bernice Andrews).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Plentiful during the fall and into December, but reported only from Adams, Dane and Milwaukee counties after the new year.

Bohemian Waxwing: One bird on the U. W. campus, Madison, Dec. 3 (Tom Soulen, Marilyn Bryan); 22 birds sitting quietly in a large bare tree on Goose Island, La Crosse, Jan. 17 (Leo J. Egelberg); one bird in Bayfield Co., Jan. 25 (David Bratley); one bird in Polk Co., Feb. 27-28, feeding on buckthorn berries (Mrs. Lester Pedersen).

Cedar Waxwing: Reported as wintering in Dane Co. (Wm. Hilsenhoff) and Milwaukee Co. (Mary Donald); other scattered reports, mostly from late January to the end of the period, with Leo J. Egelberg reporting "thousands at the peak on Feb. 12" in La Crosse Co.

Northern Shrike: Another good flight for the fourth consecutive year, and recorded on 18 of the 36 Christmas Counts. Birds uttering their call notes, which is unusual during the early winter, were noted in Oconto Co. on Dec. 1 (Carl Richter) and in the U. W. Arboretum, Madison, on Jan. 12 (the Roy Lounds).

Myrtle Warbler: Individuals turned up on two Christmas Counts: Racine, Dec. 28 (George Prins) and Mazomanie, Jan. 1 (Sam Robbins).

Eastern & Western Meadowlarks: Wintering birds were widely reported south of a line between La Crosse and Green Bay. Apparently not quite as wide spread nor numerous as in the previous year.

Red-winged Blackbird: An estimated 3,000 birds wintered near Madison (Wm. Hilsenhoff). Most northerly reports were from Barron Co., Dec. 16 (Eugene Butler), Brown Co., Dec. 22 (Ed Paulson), and Chippewa Co., Feb. 4 (C. A. Kemper).

Rusty Blackbird: Reported from Adams Co., Dec. 7 (Sam Robbins) and on the Green Bay, Madison, Mazomanie and Monroe Christmas Counts. Dane Co. was the only area where it was reported to be present throughout the period.

Common Grackle: Widespread wintering of a few individuals, with reports from as far north as Bayfield Co., Feb. 20 (David Bratley), Brown Co., a few during the whole period (Edwin Cleary), and Polk Co., one bird wintered (Mrs. Lester Pedersen).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Recorded on the Madison, Mazomanie and Waukesha Christmas Counts. Present in Brown Co., Dec. 2 (Ed Paulson) and through the entire period in Dane Co. (several observers). The L. E. Comptons reported a female at their feeder on Jan. 22 and intermittently thereafter in Waukesha Co.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: On the Madison Christmas Count, Dec. 21, Eugene Roark and Tom Ashman found a bird in plumage corresponding to that of the first year male, but it could not be found thereafter.

Evening Grosbeak: A very good flight, with reports from 20 counties. Comments from Sam Robbins, Adams Co., and C. A. Kemper, Chippewa Co., indicate that the birds were more numerous in their area during the early part of the winter, but large concentrations were reported from many other areas during the entire period. Victor Laveau reported from 50 to 100 birds at the Wisconsin Audubon Camp throughout the winter, the Henry Koenigs of Sauk City fed large numbers throughout the winter, and Carl Richter reported them to be common around Oconto with quite a number killed by cars as they fed on the sanded roads.

Pine Grosbeak: A fine flight extending over the entire state, with records from virtually all reporting counties. Typical comments were: "very common," "numerous," "largest fall and winter flight ever seen."

Hoary Redpoll: A male bird reported in the Cedarburg Swamp, Ozaukee Co., Jan. 28 (Mary Donald, Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Karl Priebe).

Common Redpoll: A heavy flight throughout the state. Everyone reported finding them, with the largest flocks recorded in Chippewa Co. on Feb. 15, "flock of at least 1,000—a black swarm" (C. A. Kemper) and Portage Co. on Feb. 21, about 2,000 birds (Dan Berger).

Pine Siskin: Remained in Adams Co. until Dec. 24 (Sam Robbins); noted in Brown Co. on Dec. 22 (Ed Paulson); present in Dane Co. throughout the period (several observers); a small flock wintered in Outagamie Co. (Alfred Bradford). Also reported on the Antigo, Beloit, Lake Geneva, Mazomanie, Milwaukee, South Wayne, and Waukesha Counts.

Red Crossbill: Only three reports: Dec. 21 on the Madison Christmas Count, Dec. 21 in Oneida Co. (Nils P. Dahlstrand) and Feb. 27 in Rock Co. (June Ohm).

White-winged Crossbill: Present throughout the period in Dane Co. (several observers), Milwaukee Co. (Mary Donald) and Polk Co. (Mrs.

Lester Pedersen). Also noted in Barron Co., Dec. 1 (Eugene Butler); Bayfield Co., Jan. 5 (David Bratley); Juneau Co., Dec. 14 (Sam Robbins); Oneida Co., Dec. 8 (Nils P. Dahlstrand); Rock Co., Feb. 27 (June Ohm); and Waukesha Co., not as plentiful at Christmas as they were in November (Tom Soulen); and recorded on 10 Christmas Counts.

Rufous-sided Towhee: A female wintered in Waukesha (Mrs. Paul Hoffman); also noted in Estabrook Park, Milwaukee, on Dec. 22 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and in Dane Co. on Jan. 4 and 26 (Eugene Roark).

Oregon Junco: Present throughout the season in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins), Dane Co. (Tom Ashman) and Waukesha Co., 2 birds (Mrs. Paul Hoffman). Also reported in Brown Co., Jan. 29 (Ed Paulson); Milwaukee Co., Dec. 22 (Mary Donald) and Dec. 30 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); Sauk Co., 2 birds on Jan. 1 (Sam Robbins).

Field Sparrow: This species, which is unusual in Wisconsin during the winter, can easily be confused with the Tree Sparrow which is plentiful during the winter months. The following records were all contributed by Sam Robbins who detected the individuals by the distinctive call note and subsequently checked carefully for the distinctive head and breast marks: one bird in Adams Co. on Dec. 28; 2 birds near Lake Delton on Dec. 24; and a flock of 6 birds and another single near Sauk City on Jan. 1.

White-crowned Sparrow: An immature bird came to Mrs. Lester Pedersen's feeder at Luck, Polk Co., on Dec. 23 and again on March 8, and one bird was seen in Waukesha Co. on Dec. 1 and 23 by the L. E. Comptons. A bird of the subspecies *Gambelii* was identified by the N. R. Bangers on the Madison Christmas Count and again on Jan. 11.

White-throated Sparrow: Present at a feeder in Dane Co. throughout the period (Tom Ashman); reported on the Appleton, Beloit, Green Bay, Madison, Oconomowoc Christmas Counts.

Fox Sparrow: For the second consecutive year Mrs. Joseph Mahlum reported one wintering in Rock Co.; on Jan. 4 Ray White found a bird with an injured wing in the company of a group of Juncos and Tree Sparrows in southern Dane Co.; also reported on the Milwaukee and Wausau Christmas Counts.

Swamp Sparrow: Present in Dane Co. throughout the period (several observers); remained in Barron Co. until Dec. 13 (Eugene Butler); noted in Manitowoc Co. on Dec. 14 (John Kraupa); noted in Waukesha Co. on Feb. 19 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom). Reported on the Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison, South Wayne and Waukesha Christmas Counts.

Song Sparrow: Reported from Adams, Brown, Dane, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Rock, Sauk, Waukesha and Winnebago counties; also on 17 of the 36 Christmas Counts.

Lapland Longspur: Present until Dec. 19 in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins); seen in Barron Co. on Feb. 26 (Eugene Butler) and in Brown Co. on Feb. 9 (Ed Paulson); present in Dane Co. throughout the period (Wm. Hilsenhoff). Recorded on the Green Bay, Madison, Mazomanie, Two Rivers and Waukesha Christmas Counts.

Snow Bunting: Reported from Adams, Bayfield, Brown, Columbia, Dane, Florence, Langlade, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Outagamie, Polk, Sauk, Washburn and Waukesha counties. Beatrice Bailey said that flocks of 600 to 700 birds were common in Washburn Co.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 6-7, 1958 (Friendship)**—W.S.O. fall campout at Roche a Cri State Park.
- September 7, 1958 (Green Bay)**—Green Bay Bird Club trip to Horicon Marsh.
- September 13-14, 1958 (State-wide)**—First target weekend for visible migration project and nation-wide hawk-counting project.
- September 20-21, 1958 (State-wide)**—Second target weekend for visible migration project and nation-wide hawk-counting project.
- October 5, 1958 (Cedar Grove)**—W.S.O. hawk trip to Cedar Grove Wildlife Sanctuary; meet on the ridge any time after 8:00 a. m., bring your lunch.
- October 12, 1958 (Green Bay)**—Green Bay Bird Club trip to the Flintville area.
- November 9, 1958 (Green Bay)**—Green Bay Bird Club afternoon and supper meeting visit to wildlife sanctuary at Green Bay.
- November 30, 1958 (State-wide)**—Field notes for the last half of August, September, October and November should be sent to Dr. Walter J. Breckinridge, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, for inclusion in "Audubon Field Notes."
- December 1-10, 1958 (State-wide)**—Field notes for the same period should be sent to Mr. Harold Liebherr, 2150 W. Marne Ave., Milwaukee 9, for inclusion in "The Passenger Pigeon."
- December 20, 1958-January 1, 1959 (State-wide)**—Christmas Bird Count period.

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MORE NEWS . . .

Recently added to the list of magazines received in exchange for copies of **The Passenger Pigeon** is the international ornithological bulletin **The Ring**, carrying news of bird banding activities from all over the world.

We are again proceeding with our "Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts" series, and hope to include write-ups of numerous of the state's best ornithological areas in the next few issues. If you know of an area that you think should be included, please contact the editor.

Is your supply of field card checklists

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