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BIRDING AT BELOIT

PHOTO BY RALPH MORSE
COURTESY BELOIT DAILY NEWS



The PASSENGER PIGEON

A Magazine of Wisconsin Bird Study

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1955 In Review . . .

By **BILL FOSTER**

From Wisconsin during 1955, observations were reported of 286 species, plus the hybrid Brewster's Wabler—a total of which corresponds closely with the 287* species and two hybrids reported for 1954.

The Louisiana Heron was added to the state list on September 19, 1955, when Mr. and Mrs. Walter Peirce observed an adult along Burnett's Ditch on Horicon Marsh, and confirming color photographs were obtained the following day. See **1956 Passenger Pigeon 25**. Other 1955 rarities included Avocets at two places in September; an Iceland Gull at Milwaukee from January to March; a Townsend's Solitaire at Cedar Grove in December; two independent reports of a male Western Tanager at Madison in May; and Hoary Redpolls at several places in late November and December.

The year began during a mild winter which produced by mid-March a migration that was in full swing and ahead of schedule in southern Wisconsin. Then temperatures dropped, remained low for two weeks, and migration stalled. By the time northward movement resumed at the end of March, many species were behind schedule and the pattern for April was that of birds moving hurriedly through without building up any real concentrations. Indeed, spring migration was a disappointment from this time forward. From the last week of April through the third week of May the weather was generally dry and warm, and the only migration "wave" of consequence occurred May 2-4, immediately after the one important storm system of the period moved in. Otherwise, the warm weather discouraged bird song early in the day, caused foliage to develop rapidly—and the birds, moving singly rather than in flocks, were hard to find.

Summer was unpleasant, exceptionally hot, and in portions of the state, exceedingly dry. Intermittent breaks in temperature late in August piled up concentrations of land birds and produced the best fall warbler migration in years. But the drought remained serious in south central Wisconsin until it was broken by heavy rains early in October. Most of November and the first three weeks of December were unusually cold, causing ponds and lakes to freeze ahead of schedule and driving out straggling summer residents and transients which generally winter in limited numbers. The last ten days of the year were mild, but by then bird populations had pretty much settled down for the winter.

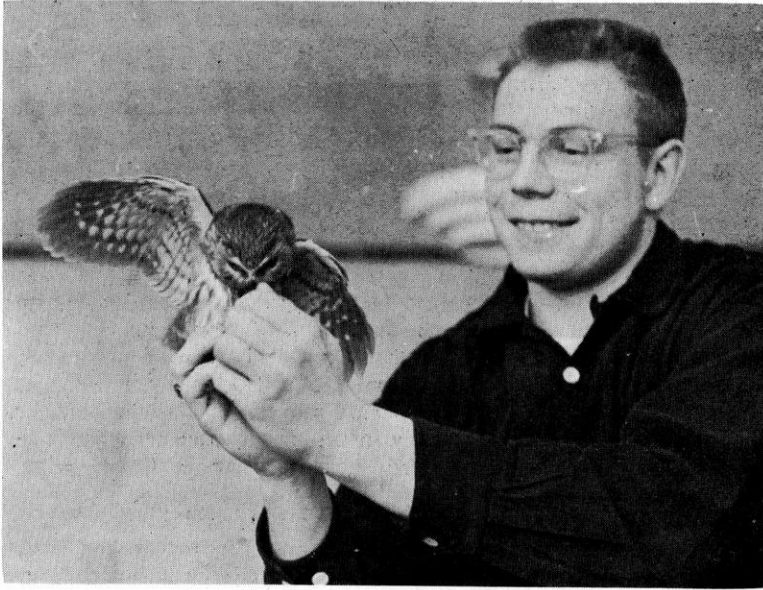
Sight Records and Bird Distribution

A great many reports of birds were accumulated in Wisconsin during 1955. Because of **The Passenger Pigeon**, a substantial number of these reports have become part of a permanent public record—an accumulation of information which, hopefully, adds a cubit or two to the total knowledge about Wisconsin birds.

*The 1954 total was reported as 288 species (see **1955 Passenger Pigeon 99**), but this figure included the Rock Dove, a species excluded from the 1955 total.

Most of these reports were based upon sight records, and a few comments on sight records may be appropriate. Standing alone, an isolated sight record has little value in an absolute sense. It may represent an erroneous identification; or a correct identification of an escaped bird or accidental visitor not previously reported nor likely soon to recur; or it may be a correct identification which could have been supported by additional records if the observer had continued to go afield.

But the isolated sight record may take on a significance previously lacking when further sight records of the same species accumulate, for then the individual sight records may form part of a consistent, intelligible pattern. This is neatly illustrated by the case of the Yellow-crowned



SAW-WHET OWL TRAPPED AND Banded IN BARRON COUNTY ON
DECEMBER 23, 1955.

PHOTO BY JOHN BUTLER

Night Heron in Wisconsin. The first reported sight record came from Mrs. Phelps Wyman at Milwaukee on May 15, 1941 (see **1941 Passenger Pigeon 76**). Further sight records accumulated in the years that followed, including the discovery of a Yellow-crowned Night Heron near Racine on June 27, 1955 (see **1955 Passenger Pigeon 152**). And when all the sight records made during the 15-year period are considered, they form a consistent pattern: the Yellow-crowned Night Heron is a rare and local summer resident along the Mississippi River near La Crosse and in s.e. Wisconsin from Racine northwest to Horicon Marsh.

So far as sight records reported from Wisconsin in 1955 are concerned, two general observations are appropriate.

First, by 1955 Wisconsin ornithology had come of age sufficiently that every section of the state was receiving some coverage regularly by competent field observers. A statewide network of more than 60 persons

furnished **The Passenger Pigeon** with regular and detailed reports of their observations, and another 50 reported on a casual or irregular basis. Coverage was more intensive in southeastern Wisconsin than elsewhere, but the significant fact was that every section of Wisconsin was at last receiving regular attention.

Second, enough field work was being done that most species were represented by a host of separate observations. For example, 250 of the 286 species reported were seen six or more times during the year—and only eight of the 286 species were reported only once.

In short; in light of the amount, competence, and location of the field work done, it becomes possible to reach, on a species-by-species basis, some tentative conclusions about bird distribution and abundance in Wisconsin during 1955. That such conclusions can only be tentative is obvious: more, much more, field work is needed annually before a year-to-year picture of bird distribution and abundance in Wisconsin can faithfully reflect the true facts. Nonetheless, the work done in 1955 was important enough to justify grouping the results in rough categories for comparison with future years when more information and better means of analysis are available.

Birds Regular and Statewide in Distribution: 162 Species

A list of 162 species is set forth in Table 1. For a given species to be included on this list, its 1955 records had to meet two requirements: (1) that the species occurred in all sections of the state; and (2) that its occurrence in every section was regular enough that a competent observer could reasonably expect to find the species annually in the county where he lived or in a county immediately adjoining his home county.

Most of the species in Table 1 belong there without debate simply because the 1955 reports clearly satisfy both requirements for inclusion on the list. But in some cases the supporting evidence is less clear. Some species included in Table 1 were not in fact reported from every section, but they were reported frequently enough from representative areas to warrant the inference that they were or regular state-wide occurrence during 1955. Some examples of this include the Canvas-back, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-winged Swallow and Migrant Shrike.

On the other hand, some species, that were in fact reported from all sections were omitted from Table 1 simply because their occurrence in one or more sections could only be regarded as unusual. The best example is the Ruffed Grouse, a conspicuous bird over much of Wisconsin but absent generally from the southeastern counties. Yet a freshly killed Ruffed Grouse was found along a road during the 1955 Christmas count at Racine, a quite unusual record (see **1956 Passenger Pigeon 19**). But this lone record for the far southeast fails to meet the requirement that the species may be expected there as a regular matter; the Ruffed Grouse, accordingly, is found in Table 2.

If the present trend in Wisconsin ornithology continues, state-wide coverage is bound to improve still more. It will be interesting to compare Table 1 with a similar list that might be prepared ten years from now; the probability is that several species now relegated to Table 2 may deserve to be included in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Birds Regular and Statewide in Distribution: 162 Species

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Loon | Black-billed Cuckoo | Yellow-throated Vireo |
| Horned Grebe | Screech Owl | Blue-headed Vireo |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Great Horned Owl | Red-eyed Vireo |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Barred Owl | Warbling Vireo |
| Great Blue Heron | Long-eared Owl | Black and White Warbler |
| Green Heron | Whip-poor-will | Golden-winged Warbler |
| American Bittern | Nighthawk | Tennessee Warbler |
| Canada Goose | Chimney Swift | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| Mallard | Ruby-throated | Nashville Warbler |
| Black Duck | Hummingbird | Parula Warbler |
| Gadwall | Belted Kingfisher | Yellow Warbler |
| Baldpate | Flicker | Magnolia Warbler |
| Pintail | Red-headed Woodpecker | Cape May Warbler |
| Green-winged Teal | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Myrtle Warbler |
| Blue-winged Teal | Hairy Woodpecker | Black-thr. Green Warbler |
| Shoveller | Downy Woodpecker | Blackburnian Warbler |
| Wood Duck | Eastern Kingbird | Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| Redhead | Crested Flycatcher | Bay-breasted Warbler |
| Ring-necked Duck | Phoebe | Black-poll Warbler |
| Canvas-back | Alder Flycatcher | Palm Warbler |
| Lesser Scaup Duck | Least Flycatcher | Ovenbird |
| American Golden-eye | Wood Pewee | Grinnell's Water-thrush |
| Bufflehead | Olive-sided Flycatcher | Northern Yellow-throat |
| Ruddy Duck | Horned Lark | Wilson's Warbler |
| Hooded Merganser | Tree Swallow | Canada Warbler |
| American Merganser | Bank Swallow | Redstart |
| Red-breasted Merganser | Rough-winged Swallow | English Sparrow |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Barn Swallow | Bobolink |
| Cooper's Hawk | Cliff Swallow | Eastern Meadowlark |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Purple Martin | Western Meadowlark |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | Blue Jay | Red-wing |
| Broad-winged Hawk | Crow | Baltimore Oriole |
| Rough-legged Hawk | Black-capped Chickadee | Rusty Blackbird |
| Marsh Hawk | White-breasted Nuthatch | Bronzed Grackle |
| Sparrow Hawk | Red-breasted Nuthatch | Cowbird |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | Brown Creeper | Scarlet Tanager |
| Virginia Rail | House Wren | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Sora | Winter Wren | Indigo Bunting |
| Coot | Long-billed Marsh Wren | Purple Finch |
| Semipalmated Plover | Short-billed Marsh Wren | Pine Siskin |
| Killdeer | Catbird | Goldfinch |
| Woodcock | Brown Thrasher | Red-eyed Towhee |
| Wilson's Snipe | Robin | Savannah Sparrow |
| Spotted Sandpiper | Hermit Thrush | Vesper Sparrow |
| Solitary Sandpiper | Olive-backed Thrush | Slate-colored Junco |
| Greater Yellow-legs | Gray-cheeked Thrush | Tree Sparrow |
| Lesser Yellow-legs | Veery | Chipping Sparrow |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | Bluebird | Field Sparrow |
| Least Sandpiper | Golden-crowned Kinglet | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | White-throated Sparrow |
| Herring Gull | American Pipit | Fox Sparrow |
| Ring-billed Gull | Cedar Waxwing | Swamp Sparrow |
| Black Tern | Northern Shrike | Song Sparrow |
| Mourning Dove | Migrant Shrike | Lapland Longspur |
| | Starling | |

Birds Only Locally Common or Uncommon Generally: 88 Species

The list of 88 species in Table 2 is made up of in-betweens, neither the rarest nor the most widely distributed birds reported during 1955. Had further information been available, these 88 species could doubtless have been subdivided into more detailed categories. But the list as it stands is a hodge-podge of species that turned up at least six times during 1955—and which, at the same time, failed to meet the requirements for inclusion in Table 1 because in some sections of Wisconsin they occurred irregularly or not at all.

Most of the birds listed in Table 2 were reported frequently enough in one or more sections of the state to be regarded as locally common, and perhaps as regularly established there, at some or all seasons. And there were a few birds listed in Table 2 which turned up only a bit more frequently than the species whose occurrence in Wisconsin can only be regarded as unusual at the present time. The birds of unusual occurrence are reported on in detail in the section which follows.

TABLE 2

Birds Only Locally Common or Uncommon Generally: 88 Species

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Red-throated Loon | Willet | Philadelphia Vireo |
| American Egret | White-rumped Sandpiper | Prothonotary Warbler |
| Little Blue Heron | Baird's Sandpiper | Blue-winged Warbler |
| Black-cr. Night Heron | Red-backed Sandpiper | Black-thr. Blue Warbler |
| Least Bittern | Dowitcher | Cerulean Warbler |
| Whistling Swan | Stilt Sandpiper | Pine Warbler |
| Snow Goose | Western Sandpiper | Louisiana Water-thrush |
| Blue Goose | Sanderling | Kentucky Warbler |
| Greater Scaup Duck | Wilson's Phalarope | Connecticut Warbler |
| Old-squaw | Northern Phalarope | Mourning Warbler |
| White-winged Scoter | Franklin's Gull | Yellow-headed Blackbird |
| Turkey Vulture | Bonaparte's Gull | Orchard Oriole |
| Goshawk | Forster's Tern | Brewer's Blackbird |
| Bald Eagle | Common Tern | Cardinal |
| Osprey | Caspian Tern | Dickcissel |
| Duck Hawk | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Evening Grosbeak |
| Pigeon Hawk | Snowy Owl | Pine Grosbeak |
| Ruffed Grouse | Short-eared Owl | Redpoll |
| Prairie Chicken | Pileated Woodpecker | Red Crossbill |
| Sharp-tailed Grouse | Red-bellied Woodpecker | White-winged Crossbill |
| European Partridge | Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | Grasshopper Sparrow |
| Bob-white | Acadian Flycatcher | LeConte's Sparrow |
| Sandhill Crane | Canada Jay | Henslow's Sparrow |
| King Rail | Raven | Lark Sparrow |
| Florida Gallinule | Tufted Titmouse | Oregon Junco |
| Golden Plover | Bewick's Wren | Clay-colored Sparrow |
| Black-bellied Plover | Wood Thrush | Harris's Sparrow |
| Ruddy Turnstone | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | Lincoln's Sparrow |
| Upland Plover | Bohemian Waxwing | Snow Bunting |
| | Bell's Vireo | |

Birds With Five or Fewer Reported Occurrences: 36 Species

Any line is arbitrary which attempts a separation between that which is usual and that which is not. The birds listed in Tables 1 and 2 produce a total of 250 species, all of which reportedly occurred six or more times during 1955. The quality and quantity of field ornithology in Wisconsin is currently high enough to justify the conclusion that any

species is unusual in the state which reportedly occurs no more than five times within the year. And probably such species are sufficiently unusual to justify repeating the time, place, and name of the observer reporting each occurrence.

A total of 36 species—bringing the annual total for Wisconsin in 1955 to 286 species—falls into this category of unusual birds. The list which follows furnishes details of their occurrence:

HOLBOELL'S GREBE: One at Kagamo Lake, Barron County, on Apr. 17 (John Butler); one in Lake Michigan, Ozaukee County on Oct. 1 (S. Paul Jones); and two birds on Clear Lake, Vilas County on Oct. 9 (Les Compton).

EARED GREBE: One in breeding plumage on Horicon Marsh, May 14 (Sam Robbins); two in winter plumage on Silver Lake, Waukesha County, on Oct. 16 (the L. E. Comptons).

WESTERN GREBE: Noted in Lake Michigan from Virmond Park, Ozaukee County, on Apr. 17 (Carl Frister); and again May 14 and Nov. 26 (Tom Soulen).

WHITE PELICAN: A single bird, first noted June 16 by R. Labisky, remained along the Federal Dike on Horicon Marsh until mid-September.

SNOWY EGRET: One to four individuals were noted along Strook's Ditch on Horicon Marsh from Sept. 2 (John Wilde) until Sept. 24 (Dick Wills).

LOUISIANA HERON: First record for Wisconsin established when a single bird was observed and photographed in color along Burnett's Ditch on Horicon Marsh, Sept. 19-20 (Mr. and Mrs. Walter Peirce and Ed Prins). See 1956 *Passenger Pigeon* 25.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Established as a species breeding in Wisconsin by a nest found June 27 in the s.w. corner of Racine County (Judge J. Allan Simpson); and a first Minnesota nest was reported June 25 just across the Mississippi River from Wisconsin in the La Crosse area. See 1955 *Passenger Pigeon* 152, 153. One was later seen at Horicon Marsh, Sept. 18 (the Carl Fristers).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: A stray bird fed with penned Canada Geese at the State Conservation Headquarters at Horicon from Apr. 30 until May 16 (Dick Hunt).

EUROPEAN WIDGEON: A male (and female, too?) remained at Goose Pond in Columbia County between Apr. 30 and May 8 (Bill Foster); and a male was reported in Adams County on May 15 (Sam Robbins).

HARLEQUIN DUCK: A dusky bird, identifiable as a young male, remained in the harbor at Port Washington between Feb. 5 and Mar. 14 (Carl Frister).

SURF SCOTER: Two birds in Lake Michigan, Ozaukee County, on Oct. 18 (Mary Donald); and one in Green Bay on Nov. 5 (Ed Paulson).

AMERICAN SCOTER: Eight in Lake Michigan from Virmond Park, Ozaukee County, on Mar. 12 (Bill Foster), and one at that place on Oct. 17 (Mary Donald). The species was also noted at Cedar Grove on Oct. 17 (Dan Berger) and Nov. 6 (Gordon Orians).

GOLDEN EAGLE: An adult was noted at Cedar Grove on Oct. 4 (Dan Berger), and an immature was seen there on Oct. 9 and 13 (Dan Berger). An immature was noted on Horicon Marsh, Dec. 30 (Dick Hunt and Harold Mathiak).

KNOT: Fall records from these locations: twelve at Superior, Aug. 1 (Sam Robbins); Castle Rock Lake, Adams County, Aug. 22-30 (Sam Robbins); and Mason Lake, Adams County on Sept. 3 (N. R. Barger); and Lake Superior, Bayfield County, Aug. 31 and Sept. 2 (David Bratley).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: One observed fifteen minutes through a 30X Balscope at the north end of Horicon Marsh, Aug. 14 (the Roy Lounds).

MARBLED GODWIT: One in Bayfield County May 15 (Carol and Gordon Bly).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Spring only, from these counties: Dane on Apr. 27-29 and again May 11 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Columbia on May 14 (Tom Soulen) and May 23 (S. Paul Jones); and Manitowoc on May 15 (Tom Soulen).

AVOCET: Two independent observations: Dane County, south of Madison, on Sept. 4 (Mrs. William F. Davidson of St. Paul, Minn.); and north shore of Lake Winnebago on Sept. 22 (Mrs. Dale Vawter). See 1956 *Passenger Pigeon* 38.

PARASITIC JAEGER: Reported from Lake Michigan, Ozaukee County, on Oct. 16 (Mary Donald).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Finding one of these at Kenosha has become an annual affair for Mrs. Howard Higgins, who got her 1955 bird on Feb. 20.

ICELAND GULL: A (second-year?) bird remained at Jones Island, Milwaukee, between Jan. 30 and Mar. 13 (Carl Frister and many others).

BARN OWL: A dead bird was found near Madison on Mar. 20 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); and a successful nesting in Ozaukee County was under observation by Mary Donald and others between mid-May and late July.

RICHARDSON'S OWL: One found at Milwaukee on Jan. 23 (the Carl Fristers).

SAW-WHET OWL: A pair was present at the Arboretum in Madison between Feb. 3 and Apr. 7 (Bill Foster); and in Barron County John Butler observed one bird during the spring and caught and photographed one on Dec. 23.

ARKANSAS KINGBIRD: John Wilde reported a bird of this species near Evansville, Rock County, on Sept. 11 and again Sept. 25.

HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE: The bird wintering at Madison was last reported there Mar. 26 (Dick Wills); and Tom Soulen reported the species in Oneida County on Apr. 4.

CAROLINA WREN: One or two wintering birds remained at Virmond Park, Ozaukee County, until the end of March (Carl Frister); Rev. George Henseler reported a successful nesting in Fond du Lac County; Sam Robbins reported a lone bird near Superior on Aug. 1; and Dick Wills found a bird in the Arboretum at Madison on Dec. 25 which was still there at the end of the month.

MOCKINGBIRD: One in Fond du Lac County late in April and in early May (Rev. George Henseler); and one at Milwaukee on Nov. 6 (Carl Frister).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: Two birds reportedly reappeared at Superior on Mar. 8, where they had been noted earlier in the winter. See 1955 *Passenger Pigeon* 59, 130.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: One noted at Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County, on Dec. 29 (Tom Soulen and others). See 1956 *Passenger Pigeon* 81.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: One at Milwaukee on May 6 (Mary Donald).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: One in Dane County on June 25 (Sam Robbins and Bill Foster); and in Pepin County on Aug. 3 (Sam Robbins).

HOODED WARBLER: Mary Donald reported a female from Ozaukee County on May 24; and a male was observed June 5-7 at the Arboretum in Madison (Bill Foster).

WESTERN TANAGER: The same male bird, apparently, was independently observed in Forest Hill Cemetery at Madison on May 8 (Roy Lound) and May 12 (Mrs. Janet Ela). See 1955 *Passenger Pigeon* 160.

HOARY REDPOLL: Noted at Milwaukee on Nov. 20 (Mrs. I. N. Balsom); five at Madison on Dec. 26 (Mrs. R. A. Walker and Bill Foster); and one in Adams County on Dec. 31 (Sam Robbins).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: Several noted in Iowa County accompanying LeConte's Sparrows on Oct. 2 and 8 (Dick Wills and others); and Gordon Orians reported one from Dodge County on Oct. 5.

Hybrids and Hypothetical Records

HAWK OWL: Harold Mathiak (who reported a Hawk Owl at Horicon on Jan. 2, 1944) was "99% certain" he saw another there on Dec. 19, 1955.

BREWSTER'S WARBLER: A male of this Blue-wing x Golden-wing hybrid spent most of the summer four miles west of Friendship, Adams County, seen between May 15 and June 28, and again Aug. 23 by Sam Robbins; and Charles Kemper saw a male at Chippewa Falls on Aug. 25.

NEWS . . .

A complete catalog of books and pamphlets, pictures and stationery and wall charts, bird houses and feeders, binoculars and records—everything now carried by the W.S.O. Supply Department—is now available. The catalog runs to 26 pages and lists 522 items including 350 different volumes. You can get your copy by writing to Mr. Harold Kruse, Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville, Wisconsin, and enclosing a dime.

Two additional contributions have been received for the Prairie Chicken Survival Fund; from Frederick Hamerstrom and Locke A. Sprague.

Because of action taken at the Beloit annual meeting, it is now possible for both husband and wife to become W.S.O. members with annual dues of \$3 instead of \$4, with one copy of **The Passenger Pigeon** being mailed to each address. This is our new "husband-and-wife membership," and we hope many families will take advantage of it.

(more news on page 80)

BIRD ISLAND OF THE CORONADOS

By DOROTHY HELMER

Once a year the San Diego Audubon Society sponsors a trip for the public to see wildlife in a natural habitat on a coastal island, Bird Island of the Coronados, off the coast of Lower California. Last year the date was May 21, the height of the nesting season, and I was fortunate to be able to go. They call it "an experience of a lifetime." It really is!

Here are the "Cliffs of Coronado" which Fisher and Peterson describe in a chapter of "Wild America." The five Coronado Islands are piles of ancient volcanic rock, rising suddenly out of the Pacific twenty miles or so to the south-west of San Diego. They are Mexican territory. Our Bird Island (the one Peterson calls North Island) is farthest out and second largest of the group, seven-tenths of a mile long, 460 feet high at the biggest hump. I thought it looked a good deal like a sleeping buffalo.

Formerly the San Diego County Museum of Natural History sponsored the trip, but was sued so often for damages—everything from skinned knees to broken bones—that it finally stepped out in favor of the Audubon Society. It charters a small boat—ours had one deck with rows of benches and a canopy with an iron railing around it, inclosing more benches which were open to the sky. It had room for 150 passengers, and the fee for the trip was six dollars. All reservations were taken early, with guests coming from far away. One woman was from Massachusetts. I am from Illinois. Many were from the Sierra Club interested in the good climbing on the rocks. It was a colorful crowd in functional outing clothes. Some elderly ladies came in street suits and coats and street oxfords. We practically had to sign away our lives before going abroad, waiving claims against the boat company for accident, "by act of God, or otherwise."

Lt. jg. Burt Monroe, Jr., was our bird man and he is good. When he finishes his hitch in the Navy he expects to make ornithology his profession. Paul Popejoy, president of S.D.A.S. was plant authority; Kenneth K. Rinker, an expert photographer, was trip leader. All of them did a good job briefing us on the boat, going and coming.

I have wondered how conservationists and naturalists who know and cherish this wildlife sanctuary in one of our remaining outposts of wilderness might look upon its invasion by such a large group of people. The public was "being educated" of course, and our visit was short.

In San Diego Harbor among the big grey warships, while we waited to ship out, we saw Forster's, Caspian and Least Terns. Most of the gulls at this season were the large dark-mantled Westerns which nest on the Coronados. There were a few California and Ring-billed Gulls, an adult Glaucous-winged Gull and immature Heerman's Gulls. We saw Cormorants, Brown Pelicans, a few shorebirds in flight, and on a buoy, three harbor seals.

After clearing Point Loma out of the harbor, we headed into a brisk cool wind and our little boat rolled considerably. Fortified by drama-mine tablets where necessary, most of us were able to stay top-side and

enjoy the view. Round floaters of kelp, eight inches in diameter, trailing long stems and leaves all of a rich brown, bobbed up alongside the ship. A small flock of Western Gulls followed us. We passed Cormorants, a few Red-breasted Mergansers and Surf Scoters, an Arctic Loon, a Red Phalarope and an adult Sabine's Gull in breeding plumage.

Sooty Shearwater Seen

Now we could expect to see at least a few of the true oceanic or pelagic birds—perhaps even an Albatross, though July and August are the months for Shearwaters, and Fulmars are most numerous in November, December and January. It was the nesting season for Petrels and Murrelets and we would hunt for them on the island. Lt. Monroe helped us spot them at sea and analyze their characteristic flight. The oceanic birds “do not flap much but wheel and turn, banking sharply, gliding and scaling on rigid wings.” As contrasts he pointed to a Cormorant hurrying by us close to the water, taking a bee line. Then we watched a Sooty Shearwater in the distance, a narrow silhouette against the sky, now and again disappearing among the waves. Fulmars and Shearwaters are about as big as medium-sized Gulls, the Fulmars being the more chunky and gull-like. The Albatross is perhaps twice as large, with an impressive seven-foot wing-spread. Murrelets are chubby little grey and white birds related to Puffins, and the Petrels in flight somewhat resemble Nighthawks. We found all of them except the Fulmars—not many but enough to whet our appetites for more! To see some of these birds, we strained our eyes to the horizon, but before the day was done we had a pretty good idea of how to spot sea-birds and what they are like,—graceful and hardy, big birds and little ones, odd, dark and mysterious, individually striking, ranging far over the oceans in calm and storm, all their lives at sea.

In about two hours we reached the Island. When I saw that pile of rock loom out of the water before us with no path to the top visible, I felt more queasy than I did a few weeks before when I started up Hill R to collect rattlesnakes. Someone pointed aloft to a smear of greenery on some moist-looking rocks: “Up there where the gulls are sittin’ is the only fresh water on the Island.” Las Coronados were first named “Las Islas Desiertas” by Cabrillo in 1542 and except for their wildlife they are still deserted. “It gets cold and lonely on the island, so don’t miss the boat!” A warning whistle would give us half an hour to get on board.

The climbing would not necessarily be precipitous, but falling rocks and unsteady footing were hazards. Last year a climber was badly injured by a rock fall. Another, more ambitious than hardy, had to be rescued from an unscheduled climb down to the seal rocks.

“Stay on the path and do not start a rock slide,” we were admonished. “The iceplant is slippery underfoot and the cactus full of prickles. So beware!” And watch out for the gull nests we would find in our path; don’t step on the eggs.

We anchored in a sheltered cove on the eastern, landward side of the island and were ferried ashore twenty at a time in a small boat with an out-board motor which did not run very well. The ocean felt awfully deep. I have been more at ease in a canoe on a white-capped Wisconsin

like. However, we soon reached shelving rocks which made a good landing place. Now for the climb.

"Follow the leader—." What leader? What path? People from boat-loads ahead of us already dotted the steep trough between the humps of the Island, rambling a zig-zag course pretty much on their own. The trail seemed to be a very impromptu affair, footprints just now registered on the sliding sands. Well, I was all for "wilderness" and this seemed to be it.

The rocks were fissured and rotten, disintegrating into loose soil. If you reached for a boulder for support it was apt to move and start others moving. Prickly, succulent or shallow-rooted plants offered no hand hold. You just eased down a foot, pulled yourself up by your bootstraps, balanced and hoped for the best. Half way up, the path disappeared altogether and I thought of our nice, flat Illinois countryside with affection. Real climbers with big packs on their backs plodded past me using some special technique, but I did not have time to study them. Also one had to look out for stepping on the gulls' eggs or young—suddenly their nests were everywhere. Every now and then someone above called out "rock", but with the screaming gulls and pounding surf it was hard to make people hear. One big rock went bounding down from the top right toward a woman who was sitting on a ledge chatting. She glanced at the rock and went on chatting, then stepped aside at the last moment, when she knew which direction the rock was going to bounce. It went by right where she had been sitting. I suppose she was from the Sierra Club, and rocks on the loose were nothing new in her life.

Gulls and Pelicans

There was a lot to see and learn (and wonder about later), but I had all I could do to climb and try to watch the birds in passing. The island teemed with them. A cloud of Western Gulls rose from their nests. Usually there were three eggs, about three inches long, greenish grey with dark blotches; occasionally there were downy little chicks. The first Pelican nests we saw were about two-thirds of the way up among the rocks—a row of them close together. Big platforms of dried kelp supported chicks of various ages, one to a nest: the tiniest were black and naked; some were a little larger with the skin turning pinkish white; others were grown but still in short white down, and so weak and awkward they could hardly flop out of our way. They were grotesque. The old Pelicans merely moved a short distance to sit in a solemn row with their bills tucked down on their breasts. A close-up view of their heads as we passed by showed very beautiful coloring in geometric patterns; there were many pictures taken. Cormorants were nesting in the more inaccessible places. Great Blue Herons are said to nest in the prickly pear cactus and we saw one of them flying near the island. Small land birds like the Song Sparrow and Rock Wren—Coronado subspecies—were singing. A few late migrants were present. The advent of our large party was something of a tragedy to the Gulls and Pelicans; they would not return to their nests while we were near, and the eggs and young may have chilled a bit.

When we arrived at the top of the ridge, we looked down the more sheer descent to the west to a colony of sea lions basking on shelving rocks washed by the sea. We counted twenty-seven seals, mostly female with several bulls; sometimes a few sea elephants are found but no one seemed to know much about them. Here we had lunch and rested a few minutes, admiring the limitless view, now a sea-scape of grey and white with a high overcast. On a clear day it would be dazzling.

Empties and scraps of paper from lunches were put back into packs. A few good climbers tried for a closer look at the seals, while others took the easy, half-mile hike along the ridge. Burt Monroe wanted to look for nests of Petrels and Murrelets and a few of us joined him. He picked a good route down the way we had come, and we were soon near the bottom to look among outcrops of rock where Petrels had nested other seasons.

Black Petrel Nest Found

The men found likely crevices and shined their flashlights, but without luck; they were soon looking frustrated. Then Mrs. Heraty, one of the grandmothers of S.D.A.S. took the flashlight. She said men did not have enough patience for that kind of hunting. Clambering around the rocks, in no time at all she found a crevice between two big boulders which held a Petrel's nest. In the beam of the flashlight we could see a little head, all black, with a long bill hooked at the tip, and a beady eye.

It can be quite a job to dig a Petrel out of its burrow and some of us hesitated to disturb the bird on its nest, but it was suggested that anyone who did not want to watch could leave. First one man then another reached into the crevice, but their arms were either short or too chunky. Then a tall young Texan thrust a skinny arm into the hole up to the shoulder. The bird bit his fingers and backed off the nest, but he could just reach the egg. It felt cold, he said, and Burt said that meant it was infertile, so they brought it out. It was white, about an inch and a quarter long. It did feel cold. Then they tried to haul the bird out with a stick crooked at the end, but that did not work. Finally they dug away the loose soil at the back of the crevice and got the Petrel without injury.

It was a Black Petrel—dull coal black all over—its body robin-size but more slender, only not so its wings long and slender, long legs and webbed feet. A beautiful bird! The Petrel has such delicate wings, Burt said, there was risk in holding it for long; also it might disgorge in self defense. But it did not struggle and he decided to take it to the boat for all to see.

The tide was out and barnacles and sea anemones were exposed. People were gathering shells. A Rock Wren was singing. In all the excitement I had forgotten to watch in the cove for "the jelly fish which might go drifting by, the flying fish which often soar just about the surface, and the bright orange garibaldi among the kelp beds in the beautiful blue-green waters." Now we were absorbed watching two Oyster Catchers, black with bright red bills, flying back and forth along the shore. They were considered "a fabulous find" since they were 150 miles south of their known nesting range.

When noses had been counted to see that everyone was aboard, the boat weighed anchor and we steamed around to the west side of the island as far as the seal rock. We could see the up-ended rock strata twisted through the ages by uplifts and settlements as the islands rose or sank beneath the sea. Now clumps of yellow sea dahlias, a coreopsis, bloomed among the sparse greenery on the rust-brown rock. Seals slipped in and out of the splashing surf. We felt the surge of the Pacific.

In the meantime, Burt stirred up a lot of interest with his Petrel. Who could resist his enthusiasm and the charm of the Petrel? Even the Sierra Club took notice. Burt said not to be worried if the bird sank to the surface of the water when he released it—like anyone else, it might need time to gather strength in its cramped muscles. When we were at sea again, and all had looked and photographed to heart's content, he held out his arm and opened his hand to set it free. We held our breath. The Petrel lay still a moment, stretched and looked surprised, fluffed its feathers and flew out to sea, wavered as if it would fall, then settled on a steady course in the direction of the island and was too soon lost from sight.

Albatross Ahoy!

We relaxed, thinking the day was about over, when Burt let out a shout. There was a large bird riding high on the water like a celluloid toy. It had a longish neck and we could plainly see a white streak near the bill. The ship turned off course to nose closer, till the bird rose, glided low over the water and settled down not far away. Again we shifted course and nosed it up, hoping it would let out its splendid powers of flight, but again it scaled off, and we let it go, a dusky shape with narrow "sabre-like" wings, tremendously long. Albatrosses may be expected off the Pacific coast, but this sight of one was considered "far and away the most outstanding find of the day." Many of us had heard about the gooney birds which have been causing such a furore by nesting on the air-strip of Midway Island, and about Philip Du Mont's work the past winter in trying to dislodge them. We were glad to see a gooney bird—this one was the Black-footed Albatross.

All of these birds, with many others to be found locally, are mounted in an interesting display in the Natural History Museum of San Diego County. There is a square glass case in the middle of the floor, effectively lighted, devoted to the nesting birds of Coronado Island, showing the wild-sea-scape and the birds in their burrows and aeries among the rocks and native plants.

The breeding birds of Coronado Island, as listed by S.D.A.S., are: Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Black Petrel, Leach's Petrel, Western Gull, Xantus' Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, Rock Wren and Song Sparrow. Possibly the Great Blue Heron may be added. Birds that may be seen enroute include the Baird's and Brandt's Cormorants, Fulmar, and Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters.

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BINOCULARS AND BIRD-PHOTOGRAPHY

By BERNARD KAIMAN

Have you ever wished you could take photos of the birds that you see so clearly through your binoculars? Nowadays, it is quite easy to do just that, because a number of gadgets have recently become available which are designed to adapt binoculars to different kinds of cameras. However, for birders addicted to "do-it-yourself," there are excellent possibilities for arranging a workable camera-binocular combination, if one is willing to do a little improvising and experimenting.

Recently, my wife and I took a brief vacation in Florida. Knowing of the wealth of chances to take good bird pictures, particularly of the larger and more spectacular species, I worked out a system of taking photographs through my binoculars, which turned out to be simpler than expected.

The first problem was a device to hold the binoculars and the camera steady, and also in alignment. A simple piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood, 5" x 8", provides all the support needed. Two holes are drilled in the plywood. One hole is large enough to pass a thumbscrew which fits the tripod thread of my camera, and thus serves to hold the camera steady. The second hole has a hook in it which holds the center hinge rod of the binoculars, a hook made of an eyebolt which was bent open, and fitted with a wing-nut in order to tighten the binoculars down. The holes were centered and drilled as to permit perfect alignment between the two optical instruments, that is, light coming out of the eyepiece of the binocular passes in a straight line into the camera lens. This is the basic rig. In order to achieve perfect alignment between any particular camera and binocular, it may be necessary to raise one or the other a little. In my case, it was necessary to raise the camera just $\frac{1}{4}$ ", which was easily accomplished with a small piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood.

After you devise a rig for your own binocular-camera combination, there are several important photographic factors to consider in order to get clear sharp pictures. One, of course, is focus. The camera lens is always set at infinity, and all focusing is accomplished by adjusting the binoculars only. With the usual types of 35mm or 120 cameras with a view finder or rangefinder, focus must be preset. This is the way it's done with the ordinary center-focus binocular. Rig a ground glass (frosted side in) in the focal plane of the camera (I have often used ordinary household waxpaper, taped on smoothly but lightly, for this purpose). Then focus the binoculars on some sharply-outlined, distant object, looking through the left eyepiece with your right eye. Now, with the camera and the binocular mounted on the rig, and with the camera aperture wide open, as well as the shutter, aim at the same object, and turn the adjustable binocular eyepiece one way or the other until perfect focus is obtained on the ground-glass. Memorize the setting obtained, and that's all there is to it. When you want to take a picture, all you need do is turn the right eyepiece to your setting, and focus on the bird as usual through the left eyepiece. If the camera and binoculars are aligned, the picture should be in focus. Twin-lens cameras are being



SNOWY EGRET PHOTOGRAPHED WITHOUT (ABOVE) AND WITH (BELOW)
THE AID OF BINOCULARS.

PHOTOS BY BERNARD KAIMAN



used very successfully with binoculars, after working out a focusing system through the reflex lens. Movie cameras, too, are being successfully used with binoculars. My own camera is a single-lens reflex model, which is the easiest of all to operate, with its focusing through the view-taking lens.

A second factor in getting sharp pictures is movement. Experience with color films leads me to recommend very highly, the use of a good, steady tripod in order to eliminate camera movement. A cable-release also helps a lot. Bird movement can't be helped, but I might suggest that one begin by concentrating on birds with a tendency to stand steady such as the herons, etc., and not try pictures of warblers, etc., until the techniques are mastered. I believe that some of the newer, fast black-and-white films, however, will permit the faster exposures that will allow for hand-holding or shooting faster-moving birds.

This brings us to exposure, the third factor in getting good pictures. The camera diaphragm is always maintained at the wide-open position to avoid vignetting (a circular image). Exposure is varied by changing shutter speeds only. There are several steps to working out shutter speed. First, calculate the exit pupil of your binoculars:

$$\text{exit pupil} = \frac{\text{diameter of objective (large end)}}{\text{magnification}}$$

In some glasses, magnification is exaggerated, so check this by measuring. Hold the binocular in usual seeing position but at a distance of about 12" from your eyes. Using a millimeter ruler, measure the round disk of light that you see emerging from one of the eyepieces. Next calculate the fixed f/stop of your camera-binocular combination:

$$f = \frac{\text{focal length of the camera lens}}{\text{exit pupil (binocular)}}$$

For example, with an ordinary 35mm camera (focal length = 50mm), and the following binoculars, we get maximum apertures of:

$$\begin{array}{ll} 7 \times 50 = f/7 & 8 \times 30 = f/13 \\ 7 \times 35 = f/10 & 6 \times 30 = f/10 \end{array}$$

Another point to consider here is that there is some light loss in the binoculars which amounts to about 1/2 stop, so the above apertures should be decreased to f/8, f/11, f/16, and f/11, etc. There is one more step of comparing the maximum aperture of your camera-binocular combination worked out as above, with the normal maximum aperture of your camera, to arrive at an exposure factor for setting the shutter speeds. I think I can explain this best by example. If your binocular-camera maximum aperture is three stops smaller than the normal camera maximum aperture, then only 1/8th as much light is admitted into the camera through the binoculars, and shutter speed must be adjusted (slowed) to admit eight times more light. All the calculation can be done at home, and one need remember, in the field, no more than the final speed factor, "increase light by eight," or, "slow the shutter so as to get eight times more light."

A few more suggestions may be helpful. Telescopic lenses tend to produce flat pictures, lacking in contrast. Best results will be obtained

with contrasty films such as Plus-X or color films, or by shooting under contrasty light conditions such as bright sunlight. Practice focusing, especially with the ground-glass, until you know what to expect from your equipment. Always check focus quickly and without hesitation, to prevent eye-accommodation. Some people have some difficulty in focusing binoculars properly because of eye-accommodation and this is more so, the younger the person. Always make sure your binoculars and camera are in alignment, and that all adjustments are set properly. Use a light meter to help calculate exposure.

What focal length do you get with your camera-binocular combination? Multiply the focal length of the camera lens by the magnification factor of the binoculars. A 7 x 50 glass provides the equivalent of a 350mm lens when combined with a 35mm camera which has a lens of 50mm focal length.

Much of the data for this system was gleaned from three recent articles in photography magazines, **Modern Photography** of Nov., '55, **Popular Photography** of Dec., '55, and **U. S. Camera** of Feb., '56. The interested reader might find it worth his while to consult these journals, and of course, I'd be happy to help with questions that might arise. Bird photography can be fascinating, and is within the reach of most of us, since most birders own both binoculars and a camera. Devise a rig, work out the focusing and exposure factors, and be rewarded with close-ups of spring migrants, summer nesters, and winter feeders.

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A Glimpse of Superior-land

By SHIRLEY and SAM ROBBINS

It is common knowledge among clergymen that the only way to get a real vacation is to get out of town, out of reach of the telephone. It is equally well known that it is even harder for a mother of small children to get needed relief from her never-ending labors. So ordinarily when vacation time rolls around, we have made tracks for relatives in New England. This year a long trip was precluded by the anticipated arrival of another fledgling in the Robbins Nest a few weeks hence.

But what about a shorter trip? What about a camping trip? We had often talked about going camping when the family was a bit older. We had a tent that had scarcely been used. David (age 7) and Danny (age 5) could sleep in the car; Ricky (age 2) could sleep in his "port-a-bed." Next question: where should we go? Far enough away to see some new country; close enough to home to return in a few hours if needed. Shirley's scenic interests and Sam's ornithological compulsions both suggested northern Wisconsin.

So it was that on a very hot morning, July 28, 1955, we set forth for Superior-Land. It was not primarily a bird trip. Late July is not a particularly good time for a bird trip to Superior-Land; the song period is over for most birds, and very little of the fall migration is under way.

Yet anyone who knows Sam knows that any trip is in a sense a bird trip. It goes against his grain to drive by a bird and not stop to identify it. An attractive bit of habitat exerts a tremendous pull on him, and when he stops to "squeak," the boys often add their own "shh-pshh-pshh." If there is a way to squeeze in an hour of observation before breakfast, Sam will make the most of it. This story is about those few ornithological sidelights that worked their way into this week-long trip.

Friday, July 29

Our first experiment in camping with the family was a success; in fact, it was our best night of the trip, being the only night that we were not bothered by excessive rain or mosquitoes. The night was spent near Mondeaux Dam, in a section of the Chequamegon National Forest in northern Taylor County. On the map it looked to be an area that was entirely new to us, but upon arriving there we recognized it as a spot we had visited briefly in the summer of 1948. We remembered seeing a Raven there, and hearing Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers. None of those were to be seen this morning. Sam sneaked out for a short pre-breakfast walk, contenting himself by watching families of Redstarts and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and hearing a Short-billed Marsh Wren, an Alder and an Olive-sided Flycatcher.

By lunch-time we had moved over into the Flambeau River Forest in southeastern Sawyer County. Spaghetti and meat balls are not at their appetizing best when eaten cold, but it was too windy to risk a fire. Too windy for birds, too, except for a handsome pair of Loons swimming just off shore.

We wanted the boys to see some of the huge trees in the "Big Chunk"—one of the few remaining stands of virgin timber in Wisconsin, for the preservation of which conservationists have been hard at work. But a recent storm had rendered dangerously muddy the road that led close to the area. It was so oppressively hot that Shirley could rightfully have claimed "cruel and inhuman treatment" had Sam gone chasing after some of the warblers he heard chipping in the big trees. Yes, we did see some big trees, but undoubtedly we missed the most beautiful part.

We are novices when it comes to identifying birds by their shadows; but a shadow passing across the road just north of Winter was big enough to bring us to a fast stop. It was big enough for a Raven or a Turkey Vulture, we thought; after stopping we had a splendid view of a Turkey Vulture that took its time circling overhead before loafing its way southward. Another five miles, and we spotted our first Ravens.

By mid-afternoon we were settled in a little wayside park near Teal Lake where we planned to spend the night. This was to be the main ornithological venture of the trip; Sam had gotten directions from A. W. Schorger of where to search for the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker and the Canada Jay. While the boys made roads in the dirt for their toy cars, and Shirley relaxed in the hammock with a detective story, Sam went off to do some preliminary scouting in order to know where to spend the early morning hours most profitably. Myrtle Warblers chipped here and there; Hermit Thrushes chimed in with occasional bits of heav-

only music; a few White-throated Sparrows joined in; a Brown Creeper and a few Red-breasted Nuthatches put in an appearance. Sam's mouth watered. With birding as interesting as this in the afternoon, think how good it would be the next morning!

On the way back to camp, one huge cedar tree stood out enough to be worth a stop. There was nary a bird to be seen or heard, but since a little "squeaking" couldn't do any harm, out came the interminable "shh-pshh-pshh." Immediately, as if dutifully answering the bark of a drill sergeant, one bird flew into the cedar tree—then a second, then a third. Three of the most gorgeous Canada Jays one could hope to see! Their interest in Sam dissipated more quickly than his interest in them; they soon flew off, gurgling to one another—no doubt snickering about another one of those binocular-eyed humans. It was a thrilling end to an interesting day.

Saturday, July 30

This is the story about the morning that never came. We had no more than settled down for the night when flashes of brilliant lightning and fierce growls of thunder scared us into breaking camp. A dry motel in Hayward appealed to us much more than a soaking wet tent, especially when we ran into pelting torrents on the way to Hayward. A dry motel was not easy to find; but one last desperate possibility finally found us in a cabin well out of town. Maybe we were sissies to give up camping so easily; maybe we were sensible. Our host told us in the morning that it was the hardest thunderstorm he had experienced in ten years.

By the time the weather cleared and we drove back to Teal Lake, it was late morning; the woods were dripping wet and disappointingly quiet. No Hermit Thrushes or White-throated Sparrows singing; six Blue Jays holding forth where the Canada Jays had been. The only consolation was a glimpse of the only Blue-headed Vireo and Magnolia Warbler encountered on the trip.

We decided to cut cross lots on back roads to get to Mellen and Copper Falls State Park. One of these roads took us by a little park near East Twin Lake where we stopped for lunch. The only birds that cared to be about in the wind, however, were a few Ravens. These back roads meander through very flat, swampy woodland. We could well imagine that on a June morning there would be a concert provided by a variety of thrushes, vireos and warblers. We saw and heard very little this afternoon. It was hot; it was windy; we were all a bit tired and fussy. But we did make several stops—not so much for birds as to gauge the probability of getting through flooded portions of the road; the many creeks and streams that wander through this flat land are evidently not much lower than the surrounding land under normal conditions, and since the heavy rains of the night before, swollen streams had backed up over the roads at numerous points. We heard one Morning Warbler at one of these stops, and guessed that this bird was probably a common breeder in this terrain.

We had no idea what to expect from Copper Falls State Park ornithologically, and we have no better idea even now. If the number of

species of birds could match the number of human beings there on a hot Saturday afternoon in mid-summer, we would have to re-write the checklist of Wisconsin birds—or more probably the entire North American checklist! The falls certainly deserve to be ranked as one of Wisconsin's outstanding scenic wonders. We had expected to camp at the park, but decided we did not want to be quite as social as the crowds in the camping ground would have demanded. Even had we stayed there overnight, it is doubtful that we could have learned much about the birds; how one would hear birds over the roar of the waterfalls, we do not know.

Our map suggested that there were other suitable camping possibilities nearer to Ashland, so we set out in search for one. We had to search mighty hard for the first prospect; when we finally found it, it turned out to be an old abandoned scout camp that was now playing host to a mosquito convention. The next possibility was right at Ashland, but it took an extensive road detour to get us there. It must be said for the detour that it ended the afternoon dearth of birds; two Marsh Hawks and a Sparrow Hawk were seen, one migrant Solitary Sandpiper fed in a nearby puddle, and from a small creek two Green-winged and one Blue-winged Teal were flushed.

The city park in Ashland had several interesting features. It had excellent picnic facilities for an enjoyable supper; it had lots of nice fresh water—very much appreciated at the end of an uncomfortably sultry day; it had steep bankings that were made to order for three boys literally bouncing with energy; it had some interesting birds. As we ate supper, a Cardinal chipped in the nearby bushes; in the tree-tops, along with resident Redstarts and Yellow Warblers, there was the sound of a thin chip that sounded like an early fall migrant, the author of which proved to be a Tennessee Warbler. We had wondered if we would see evidence of fall land bird migration on the trip; here was a single migrant, at least. Hardly had we finished with this bird when four finch-like birds sauntered overhead; their identity was announced by the unmistakable call-note of the Red Crossbill.

It was nearly sunset when we came upon a lovely camping ground by a quiet lake west of Ashland—as secluded as Copper Falls Park had been crowded. It was ideal, except for one thing. As the sun descended, so did the mosquitoes; we battled them with spray, insect repellent and constant back-slapping, but it was a losing battle. We finally retreated to a motel near Ashland.

Sunday, July 31

More heavy showers during the night made us thankful we had given up the camping idea. It cleared just in time for Sam to get out for a couple of hours before breakfast—much too short to take in fully the coniferous woods, the hilly farmland, and the lake shore and marsh that make up the Ashland area. The coniferous woodlands got the least attention; but the presence of several Red-breasted Nuthatches, White-throated Sparrows and a Canada Warbler suggested the probability that other Canadian-zone birds were well represented. The rolling fields and frequent deciduous farm woodlots that mark some of the territory

just west of Ashland provided a type of habitat we had not seen since leaving Clark and Taylor Counties; thus it was that birds we had "left behind" on our first day reappeared—Crested Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow Warbler and Red-headed Woodpecker.

On the western edge of the city of Ashland is an area that deserves detailed, prolonged study; it would doubtless rate as one of "Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts" if it could receive adequate attention from ornithologists. Fish Creek flows through an extensive marsh area just before entering Lake Superior; on this day a few Mallards, Black Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebes, Great Blue Herons, a Green Heron and a Hooded Merganser were seen; doubtless this was but a small fraction



SPOTTED SANDPIPER NEST

PHOTO BY EDWARD PRINS

of the water and marsh birds present. Eight Yellow-headed Blackbirds were present, quite probably the remnants of a breeding colony. Across the highway is the western edge of Ashland harbor; it is one of the very few stretches of sand bordering Lake Superior that we saw on this trip. A few Herring Gulls, Common and Black Terns flew overhead; the only shorebirds seen were Semipalmated Plovers, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, but the sand bars there would surely attract a much greater variety in the course of a whole migration season.

This is one of precious few spots where one can approach the lake by road where there is any semblance of sandy beach attractive to shore birds. During the course of the day, we drove the highway from the Michigan line to Superior. We even took the ferry to Madeline Island. Only once in Ashland County and once in Iron County were we able to drive right to the lake; there the shore was rocky, and Spotted Sandpipers were the only birds that seemed to appreciate it. We were surprised at the dirty color of the water. It may have been mostly iron in

the soil off the Iron County shore; but people told us that just west of Ashland the water was usually clear, but temporarily discolored by the soil washed away by the recent heavy rains. We wondered how many cubic feet of precious topsoil were being wasted before our eyes! How long did it take to create the soil that was now vanishing in almost the twinkling of an eye?

Monday, August 1

The next morning, after another rainy night, Shirley and the boys enjoyed a peaceful sleep in a cabin near Superior, while Sam drove and walked about upsetting the peace of any birds he could find. Even before starting out, he sensed more than the usual amount of late summer bird activity from some Black and White Warblers, a Pine Warbler and some Redstarts—all chipping noisily, adding occasional erratic song fragments, and moving restlessly from tree to tree.

From then on there was never a dull moment; every stop by any patch of trees or shrubbery produced little groups of warblers, vireos, flycatchers and sparrows. Doubtless many of the birds were summer residents there. But several of the flocks were obviously not family groups; they were the sort of mixed flocks of warblers that one characteristically sees in fall. In these flocks were not only the warblers one would expect to breed in these cut-over woodlands near Lake Superior—Black and White, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Mourning, Canada, Ovenbird, Yellowthroat, Redstart; also present were several Tennessees, Bay-breasts, and one female Black-throated Blue Warbler. The conclusion was unmistakable: the fall migration had gotten under way. Judging by the contrast with the previous morning's observations, the migration had just now started—this very morning.

A glimpse at the Lake Superior shoreline showed more of the usual rocky shore, and more of the ever-present Spotted Sandpipers; although this time there was one Solitary Sandpiper in a tiny muddy spot. Overhead a comedy act was taking place. If you have sometimes wondered at the audacity of a Kingbird giving chase to a Crow, you should watch a Kingbird attacking a Raven. It was an ornithological David-and-Goliath act.

Just east of Superior there are several creeks and the Amnicon River flowing into the lake, and at places rather deep ravines have been formed. It was on the slope of one of the ravines that an unusual call note demanded attention. It was loud and ringing; it was vaguely familiar, but sufficiently unfamiliar to take a few moments of frantic memory-searching to identify the bird. After several repetitions, the note drove home: this was the note used by the Carolina Wren that spent the day in our back yard on July 21, 1953. The bird showed itself briefly, confirming the identification, then flew to the other side of the ravine. One is fortunate to find a Carolina Wren in southeastern Wisconsin; here was one in the far northwest corner of the state.

This was one of those mornings when one hates to call it quits. But it was to be a vacation for the whole family, rather than one member of it. It was Monday, with a washing to do. While this was being taken care of at a laundro-mat, the boys were fascinated by the long trains on

the huge coal and ore docks, and the boats in the harbor. But the call of the birds was still working on Sam. Why he should want to stop at a parking space that looks out on Allouez Bay was hard to figure. Even if there were any shore birds on that distant sand bar, they could not possibly be identified at this range. Anyway, we stopped. The binoculars showed that there was a flock of shore birds on the sand bar—not “peeps,” either, but large enough to be interesting. Then occurred one of those strokes of fantastic luck. Bird-watchers dream about such luck occasionally, but the dreams never come true. Almost never; this one did come true. The birds were at least a quarter of a mile away; while we watched through the binoculars, the birds took flight, and with 360° of direction from which to choose the direction of flight—300° of which would be more auspicious for them habitat-wise than flying in our direction—twelve birds flew almost directly toward us, veered slightly, and passed overhead not more than fifty yards away. The size, shape and flight pattern clearly showed the birds to be Knots. It was only the second time Sam had seen Knots in Wisconsin away from the Milwaukee lake shore.

The Return Trip

It was a fitting climax to start us homeward. We drove the ten miles from Superior to Pattison State Park that afternoon and pitched our tent under the supervision of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker that appeared to be the owner of the trees we were renting. More showers were forecast for the night, we were told, but since this had so far been a camping trip with virtually no camping, we were determined to stick it out.

It rained all right—enough to bring to our attention a small leak in the tent; there was thunder and lightning enough to cause a realignment of children and adults. But when the Sapsucker returned in the morning, he found us hale and hearty and mostly dry.

The morning hours found us driving slowly through Douglas and Burnett Counties, stopping occasionally to look and listen for whatever birds might be found by the roadside. The stops produced a Mourning Warbler, a few Black and White, Golden-winged and Nashville Warblers, Redstarts, Alder and Olive-sided Flycatchers. These flycatchers had been daily occurrences in the northern counties on this trip. The Olive-sided were few in number—about what we expected. The abundance of the Alder, however, was one of the real surprises of the trip. The two previous mornings of scouting around Ashland and Superior showed this species to be more numerous than the Wood Pewee or any other flycatcher—except perhaps the Kingbird. It may be that the Alder Flycatcher sings later in the season than others of the family; but even if the song period in June should alter the ratio somewhat, it could not cover the fact that the Alder Flycatcher is a very common bird in the brushy cut-over areas of northern Wisconsin.

Southern Wisconsin birders would be interested in these Alder Flycatchers; the song of the northern Wisconsin birds is markedly different from the song of the birds that spend the summer in the swamps of southern Wisconsin. Most of the birds of the middle-west—including southern Wisconsin—sing the “fitz-bew” song; the birds of northern Wisconsin sing the “wee-bee-o” song familiar to bird students of New York

and New England. Our experience on this trip lends supports to the theory that there are two races of the Alder Flycatcher—one a northern and eastern form, the other a form of the south and west; it suggests that both forms occur commonly in Wisconsin, but probably with little overlapping. Our home area of Adams County lies within the overlapping area; both songs are heard there in summer, but in differing habitat.

A hot afternoon in early August is a poor time to visit Crex Meadows. The birds that were undoubtedly present were not sufficiently bothered by our intrusion to make themselves known. But it was grand just to see the magnificent habitat for waterfowl which the Wisconsin Conservation Department has been developing. When will W.S.O. schedule a field trip to this region?

The night found us camped at Interstate Park at St. Croix Falls, with a Wood Thrush doing his best to provide a lullaby for the boys. 3:00 a. m. found us packing up to avoid the nightly shower. There was nothing else we planned especially to see; we expected to get home that day; why not start now before getting soaked? Minutes after we started off, the rain came. When daylight came, skies were clear again, and we were back in the land of Western Meadowlarks, Indigo Buntings, Vesper and Field Sparrows, and Dickcissels.

One further adventure remained. It is a pity to let the early morning hours go by, passing through unfamiliar territory, without at least an ornithological pause. Our route took us through a corner of Pepin County, and aroused our curiosity. Over the past several years W.S.O. field note editors have probably received fewer field notes from Pepin County than from any other Wisconsin county. What kind of terrain does this little-known area have? Are there any particularly inviting areas for birds here which might be visited more frequently if observers knew about them?

We think we found such an area. Driving south on C.T.H. "N," we came to an attractive spot near Ella where the road curves around a hillside overlooking the Chippewa River about nine miles above the point where the river joins the Mississippi River. In less than ten minutes we had heard Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the river bottoms, heard a Yellow-breasted Chat and an Orchard Oriole on the hillside, and seen a Broad-winged Hawk and a Migrant Shrike nearby. The probability is that there are miles of excellent bird territory along the Chippewa River waiting for detailed study from active bird students who can spend some time there. We predict that when such study is made, this area will rank as one of "Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts."

Two Lark Sparrows seen in Adams County on the way home brought the trip's total to 135 species. But it was not a list-chasing trip. Nor was it in any sense a scientific fact-finding expedition. It was purely and simply a nice joy-ride to a part of Wisconsin that was new to us. The ornithological impressions we gained may be "old stuff" to some observers; further observation might prove that some impressions need some revision. But we were delighted with our first glimpse of Superior-Land, and we wish that the combined efforts of many bird students might bring together greater knowledge of one of Wisconsin's more neglected areas.

Adams, Wisconsin

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

By HELEN NORTHUP

Beloit College and the Ned Hollister Bird Club of Beloit were joint hosts to the seventeenth annual W.S.O. convention, May 4-6, 1956, with 169 registrants in attendance. The Wright Art Hall and the handsome new Eaton Chapel were ideal for the Friday evening reception and the Saturday sessions, and the Saturday luncheon and banquet were served in local churches, conveniently reached on foot by even the feeblest of us.

The convention got off to a fine start at 7:45 on Friday evening with Vice-President Liebherr's welcome at the reception. President Emlen provided stimulating entertainment in the form of four German ornithological films which had been made under the supervision of Konrad Lorenz, world-famous student of animal behavior, and other German ornithologists. Birds shown in these films were Mallards, Grey Geese, European Cuckoos and woodpeckers. Following the films, a display of German ornithological books belonging to Professor Carl Welty of the Beloit College Department of Biology, was enjoyed while the Ned Hollister Bird Club presided at a very gracious reception.

Saturday morning brought out the true bird enthusiasts at 5 a. m., when David Cox and Dorothy Hammel led two field trips in the Beloit area. Gray skies and a little rain were disappointing, but there were warblers about and a good variety of other birds. The rain increased steadily as the day wore on. The morning session began with a welcome from Beloit College's president, Dr. Miller Upton, with Professor



W.S.O. MEMBERS IDENTIFYING BIRDS ON BELOIT BIRD HIKE.

PHOTO BY RALPH MORSE, COURTESY BELOIT DAILY NEWS

Welty presiding. Howard Young of the La Crosse Collège faculty, read a paper, "Suggestions for Nesting Studies," Professor J. J. Hickey, of the University of Wisconsin Department of Wildlife Management, reported on "Studies of Bird Songs by Aldo Leopold." B. L. von Jarchow, former W.S.O. president from Racine, discussed "Notes on the Wood Duck," Laurence R. Jahn of Horicon talked on "Waterfowl Breeding in Wisconsin," and the final paper was "Murre Studies in the Eastern Canadian Arctic" by Jack Millar, Research Assistant in Zoology at the University.

The afternoon session, presided over by Harold Liebherr, was planned on the general theme of "Birding in Wisconsin." Jacque Vallier gave an enthusiastic account of "Wisconsin Audubon Camp—First Year Report." Mrs. L. M. Logeman of Milwaukee showed a very good nature film made by herself and Mrs. William Simmons. Professor Welty gave a "Report on Wisconsin Scientific Areas." Helmut Mueller, teaching assistant in the Department of Zoology at the University, talked on "Activities at the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station." Harold Peters, of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from Atlanta, Georgia, spoke on the "Mourning Dove Banding Project," and Gerald Vogelsang, W.S.O.'s Education Chairman, gave an account of the "W.S.O. Field Activities."

The minutes of the annual business meeting, which followed, are reported below. 185 persons assembled for the Saturday evening banquet. Professor Hickey, a past W.S.O. president, presided at the banquet

We don't know how the Beloit hosts did it, but their arrangements for the convention were complete to the last detail—even to the point of having a Whip-poor-will serenading the guests at the Hilton Hotel Saturday night.

and introduced himself as the key speaker, whereupon he read an appropriate and amusing satire on birding. For Murl Deusing's superb film, "Adventures in Africa," wildlife scenes taken on safari for the National Broadcasting Company, the group returned to Eaton Chapel.

Sunday morning was sunless but also blessedly rainless, and a field trip in Mrs. Melva Maxson's beautiful woods near Milton was much enjoyed. A warbler wave had been staged in the night; warblers were everywhere, and a Prothonotary Warbler rewarded those who made the long walk as planned by the leaders, Chester Skelly and Mrs. Maxson. Coffee in the Maxson's little cottage was a cheerful note on which to end a fine convention.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Beloit, May 5, 1956

The annual business meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology was called to order by President Emlen at 4:05 in the Beloit Chapel. Approximately 62 persons were present.

The Reverend Howard Orians moved to dispense with reading of the minutes of the 1955 meeting, since they were published in the Summer 1955 issue of the **Passenger Pigeon**. Seconded by Judge Simpson, carried.



PROF. CARL WELTY, RETIRING PRESIDENT JOHN EMLEN, SECRETARY HELEN NORTHUP, NEW PRESIDENT HAROLD LIEBHERR.

PHOTO BY C. KINGSBURY, COURTESY BELOIT DAILY NEWS

Judge Simpson proposed an addition to the by-laws to create a husband-and-wife membership for a fee of \$3, which would provide one subscription to the **Passenger Pigeon**. This was made a motion by Carl Hayssen, seconded by Mr. Polacheck and carried.

Judge Simpson read the following proposed amendment to Article II, Section I: After the words "The purpose of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in and promote the study of birds of Wisconsin," add the following words: "toward a better understanding of their biology and the basis of their preservation." Moved by Judge Simpson, seconded by Miss Pickett, to adopt the purpose as amended by Mr. Emlen. Carried.

Judge Simpson read a proposed change in the by-laws to enlarge the Board of Directors by three by adding the chairmen of the committees on conservation, research and publicity. This would increase the Board to fourteen members. Seconded by Mr. Frister and carried.

Judge Simpson moved to make the quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors five, which should include two constitutional officers. Seconded by Mr. Cox and carried.

Miss Pickett, membership chairman, reported on new members and listed various sources of names which she has used in soliciting new members for the Society.

Mr. Polacheck, endowment and advertising chairman, reported on the advertising which he has secured for **The Passenger Pigeon**.

Mr. Vogelsang, education and publicity chairman, reported on the year's field trips.

Mr. Frister read a report for Mr. Kruse, in charge of the W.S.O. Supply Department, on the year's business.

Mr. Vogelsang, conservation chairman, gave an account of the history of the Prairie Chicken Survival Fund Committee and its efforts to purchase land. He reported that Mr. Paul Bove has been contacted to watch for suitable land for the W.S.O. to buy. Mr. Gromme urged members to attend county meetings where an open season on the Prairie Chicken is to be discussed.

Mr. Robbins, editor, called attention to several features in the current issue of **The Passenger Pigeon**. He announced progress on Owen Gromme's **Birds of Wisconsin**, and called attention to Mr. Gromme's request for field notes from W.S.O. members. He expressed strong appreciation of the work of G. William Foster, field notes editor, and Alice Fosse, business manager, both of whom are retiring at this meeting.

Mr. Frister, treasurer, gave the annual financial report. Mr. Alvin Throne, chairman of the auditing committee (with Walter Scott and Carl Frister), reported. He said that "the books are in perfect condition." Mr. Robbins moved, seconded by Mr. Polacheck, to accept both reports. Carried.

Mr. Orians, chairman of the nominating committee, (with Mrs. Hickey and N. R. Barger) listed the following slate of officers. He moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the slate. Carried.

President: Harold Liebherr, Beloit

Treasurer: Carl Frister, Milwaukee

Vice President: Frank King, Madison

Editor: Sam Robbins, Adams

Secretary: Helen Northup, Madison

Mr. Robbins urged that the Beloit College and the local committee for W.S.O. deserve the whole-hearted thanks of the convention for the great success of the meetings.

Mr. Emlen announced that the 1957 convention will be held at the American Baptist Assembly on Green Lake on May 3-5, 1957. The 1957 meeting of the Wilson Club will be held in Duluth in June.

Mr. Hickey asked Mr. Harold Wilson about the recent sale of the Sister Islands in Green Bay without the apparent knowledge of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission or the W.S.O. members. Mr. Hickey urged the Board of Directors of the W.S.O. to take such action as they deemed expedient to preserve the integrity of these wildlife areas.

Mr. Emlen read a letter from the recipient of the W.S.O. scholarship to the Wisconsin Audubon Camp, Mrs. John Campbell of Milwaukee. Mr. Polacheck moved that the secretary inform the LaBudde family of the name of the recipient of this scholarship, which is called the Wilhelmina LaBudde Scholarship. Approved by Mr. Emlen.

Mr. Polacheck moved to adjourn at 5:10 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN NORTHUP, Secretary

MOURNING DOVE BANDING PROJECT

The Fish and Wildlife Service is faced with a lack of specific information needed in its management planning to assure adequate protection of the Mourning Dove. The only remedy to this situation will be a great increase in dove banding definitely associated with nesting areas over the entire breeding range. The most effective procedure appears to be to organize the banding of dove nestlings on a large scale. To achieve this much additional help is needed. Although only persons with banding permits may actually place the bands on these birds, all who are interested may be of great assistance in finding nests and reporting the presence of nestlings. Such organizations as sportsmen's groups, garden clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, or school classes may find this an interesting project.

Persons over 18 years of age, who are able to recognize Mourning Doves, and who are interested in obtaining a banding permit of their own and in keeping the necessary records themselves, may apply to the Bird Banding Office, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland. Individuals or organizations interested in helping find nests but not in the responsibility of actually placing the bands and keeping the records according to prescribed form are encouraged to assist licensed banders with this essential "nest scouting."

Doves start nesting early in the spring and continue until late summer or early fall and it is desirable to band examples of all broods throughout this long season. Dove nests are usually found from 6 to 10 feet high in trees or large bushes, but in prairie or open country will

frequently be on the ground. They are best found by watching a pair of birds until one goes to the nest.

Nestlings may be banded at any age but in cases of either very small or very well developed nestlings special precautions should be taken. If the foot is still too small to keep the size 3A dove band from slipping off, a piece of elastic adhesive tape wrapped around the leg, band and all, will hold the band in place until the foot has grown sufficiently. The adhesive will eventually come off and not handicap the bird. "Dalzoflex" elastic adhesive tape will be supplied to banders by the Bird Banding Office on request. If the nestlings are nearly ready to leave the nest they may jump out after being replaced. If this happens, or the birds act as though they might, both hands placed over the nestlings, keeping them quiet and in the dark for several minutes will usually prevent premature jumping from nests.

Adult doves banded in June or July, may be considered as representative of the breeding area and will supplement nestling bandings. Additional suggestions on methods of trapping doves at that season are available.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Laurel, Maryland

MILWAUKEE FIELD TRIP

The annual W.S.O. winter field trip to the Lake Michigan shore was held on Sunday, February 27, 1956. The forty-five members and guests taking part in the trip were treated to some exceptional ornithological rarities. The group assembled at the Smith Brothers' parking lot at Port Washington, and it was not long before everyone was studying the Harlequin Duck that had been spending its second winter in the harbor area. An added treat was provided by the presence of a Glaucous Gull.

Moving south after this auspicious beginning, the group stopped at Brown Deer Park in northern Milwaukee County. Both Red and White-winged Crossbills were found; everyone had prolonged looks at these rare northern visitors, and at some Pine Grosbeaks as well. Ducks in Milwaukee Harbor were not as plentiful as they have been some winters, but everyone enjoyed seeing the Snow Goose and Blue Goose that were spending the winter in the Juneau Park Lagoon.

OSHKOSH FIELD TRIP

There were lots of ornithologists and lots of Whistling Swans in the Oshkosh area on April 8, 1956, when Frank King led a caravan of 78 bird enthusiasts around the Lake Winnebago area on the W.S.O. spring field trip. Though Lake Winnebago was still largely frozen over, large numbers of Whistling Swans were seen on the open portions of the Lake and on Lake Butte des Morts. More Swans were seen on smaller ponds and flooded fields, and nearby were many of the early shorebirds: Wilson's Snipe, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpipers, and a few early Least Sandpipers. Of interest to many were the Loons at Neenah.

THE 1956 SUMMER CAMPOUT

By CLARA HUSSONG

Sixty-one members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology took part in the summer campout held June 15-17 in the north unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Besides counting 83 species of birds in the state forest, WSO members learned the meaning of such words as "kame," "esker," and "kettle."

Richard Schwartz, Wisconsin Conservation Department forester, took us on a tour of the forest Saturday afternoon, and explained that the rolling land with its pot holes (kettles), pointed hills (kames), and gravelly ridges (eskers) was formed by the glacier which covered much of Wisconsin thousands of years ago. In its progress southward and consequent thawing the glacier gouged out holes which are now the lakes and smaller "kettles," and left long ridges of glacial deposit, and the pointed hills which add so much to the landscape.

In the virgin hardwood near Forest Lake trees are allowed to grow naturally, Schwartz said. This section, which looks much like the hardwoods as early settlers here saw it, will be left in its natural state as a memorial to the primeval hardwood forests of Wisconsin. No trees are harvested, and there is no help or interference from man.

Members also visited the Dundee Timber Harvest area near Mauthe Lake. Here full-grown trees—mostly red oaks—are cut down, some areas are thinned out to allow for better growth of chosen trees, and proper forest management is demonstrated. Natural reforestation is practiced here, with young oaks, ash, maples and basswood springing up in the shade of the bigger trees.

Birds observed in the heavily forested areas included the Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and the Cerulean Warbler. The Veery was a common species in the Lake Mauthe area, around which campers hiked, led by Harold Koopman of Plymouth. Warblers heard and seen in the hike around the lake were the Black and White, Mourning, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Northern Yellow-throat and Redstart.

Tents were pitched in the Long Lake Recreation Area and meals were cooked on camp stoves. Campers were awakened Saturday and Sunday mornings by the singing of such birds as Cardinals, Baltimore Orioles, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, Field Sparrows, Indigo Buntings and Redstarts.

Jerry Vogelsang, conservation chairman of W.S.O. planned the week-end trip. He was assisted in local arrangements by Myron Reichwaldt, of Plymouth, who unfortunately had to leave that week-end for the annual encampment for army reserves at Camp McCoy. Miss Lillian Marsh of Manitowoc was in charge of the campfire program Saturday night.

Showers and muggy weather could have spoiled the campout, but we didn't let it do so. Most of the rain fell during the night, and almost none during hiking and mealtime.

332 Beaupre Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin

W.S.O. PUBLICATIONS

The Birds of Wisconsin. An annotated list of the birds of Wisconsin, originally published in 1903 by L. Kumlien and N. Hollister, revised by A. W. Schorger in 1951. Kumlien and Hollister listed each species of bird known to have occurred in Wisconsin up until 1903, with data about migration, wintering and breeding, and comments on the abundance of each species. Schorger's revision added additional species that have been found subsequent to 1903, and pointed up the major changes in abundance that have taken place in the first half of the twentieth century. The most authoritative book on Wisconsin birds which has been published to date. Paper bound; 122 pages. Price, \$2.00.

Silent Wings. A booklet containing much of the material available on the extinct Passenger Pigeon, edited by Walter E. Scott. It contains articles by Aldo Leopold, H. H. T. Jackson and A. W. Schorger, and was published at the time of the erection of the Passenger Pigeon monument at Wyalusing State Park in 1947. 44 pages. Price 25c.

Wisconsin Birds. A check-list with migration charts prepared by N. R. Barger, the late Elton E. Bussewitz, Earl L. Loyster, Sam Robbins and Walter E. Scott. It is a handy pocket-size booklet useful for recording birds on field trips; the charts give the status of each species, and show the times of the year when each bird is present and when it is most abundant. The booklet also contains a bibliography of Wisconsin ornithology prepared by A. W. Schorger. 32 pages. Price 25c.

PACKAGE OFFER: TO INTRODUCE READERS TO THESE W.S.O. PUBLICATIONS, THE SOCIETY IS OFFERING THE THREE BOOKLETS (\$2.50 VALUE) FOR \$2.00. ORDER FROM THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

Field Check-list. A four-page card check-list of the more common birds to be found in Wisconsin. Handy for recording birds on field trips and keeping records. Price: 2c each, 15 for 25c, 75 for \$1.00.

Order from the W.S.O. Supply Department, Mr. Harold G. Kruse, Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville, Wis.

MORE NEWS . . .

Several research projects of state-wide and nation-wide scope currently need your assistance. We hope that as many observers as possible are contributing their data: (1) to Robert J. Williams, 1921 Kendall Avenue, Madison 5, for the Great Blue Heron nesting study (see 1955 *Pass. Pigeon* 158); (2) to Owen J. Gromme, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee for his forthcoming book on Wisconsin birds (see 1956 *Pass. Pigeon* 29); (3) to B. M. and M. S. Shaub, 159 Elm Street, Northampton, Mas-

sachusetts, for their Evening Grosbeak studies (see 1956 *Pass. Pigeon* 3-15); and (4) to Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland, for the nation-wide "Cooperative Migration Study" (see 1955 *Pass. Pigeon* 32).

After three years of splendid work as Circulation Manager of *The Passenger Pigeon*, Miss Alice Fosse has now found it necessary to give up this position. Mrs. H. M. Williams, 1921 Kendall Avenue, Madison 5, now takes over this job. Any future changes in address should be sent to her.

Winner of the Wilhemina LaBudde scholarship to the Mid-West Audubon Camp, offered by the W.S.O. last spring, was Mrs. John Campbell of Milwaukee.

We note in the **Audubon Field Notes** summary of the 56th Christmas Bird Count that Wisconsin had the highest count of individuals in North America for several species: Milwaukee had the largest number of American Mergansers (10,168); Adams led the count on Great Horned Owls (41) and Common Redpolls (2857); Madison and Adams had high counts on Hoary Redpolls (5).

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is embarking on an intensive Mourning Dove research project (see page 77) in which W.S.O. members can help by locating nests and banding young in the next few years. This bird is a game species in some southern states, but is protected in many northern states, including Wisconsin. When a newspaper item last spring suggested the possibility of making this species a game bird in Wisconsin, the W.S.O. Board of Directors entered a prompt protest.



FIELD NOTES

By **BILL FOSTER**

The Winter Season

December 1955-February 1956

The Townsend's Solitaire which Tom Soulen reported from Cedar Grove on December 29, 1955, probably rates top honors as the most unusual record of the winter season in Wisconsin. This stately, gentle thrush is primarily a bird of the high mountain country of the West. Its seasonal migrations tend to be more nearly altitudinal than latitudinal since most Solitaires simply drop in winter to lower elevations adjoining the mountains. But occasional birds disperse eastward in winter and in recent years one or more Solitaires have turned up somewhere in the Middle West almost annually.

Dr. A. W. Schorger's 1951 revision of Kunlien and Hollister's **Birds of Wisconsin**, p. 117, reports that a Townsend's Solitaire was collected in Sauk County around Feb. 20, 1910; and that Elsie Williams observed one at Hudson in St. Croix County during December 1942. Concededly, these records are infrequent, but they should remind Wisconsin observers who in winter get a look at what appears to be the rare Mockingbird that it will pay to look twice: the bird may be the still rarer Townsend's Solitaire. The Solitaire, though smaller, resembles the Mocker.

It took a species as unusual as the Solitaire, however, to crowd out of first place several other species which competed for that spot. A Harlequin Duck reappeared again this winter at Port Washington, this time resplendent in the plumage of an adult male. (A male in immature plumage was seen by numerous observers at Port Washington during February and March of 1955; see **1955 Passenger Pigeon 120, 122, 126.**) And a young

Glaucous Gull also turned up at Port Washington from January into early March and was seen there by many observers. Honorable mention should also be made of Hoary Redpolls, which several observers picked out of the clouds of Redpolls that invaded south central Wisconsin.

By December 1st the autumnal movement of birds into, through, and out of Wisconsin is largely complete. Waterfowl, which in numerous instances remain in suitable habitat so long as the water stays open, are the principal exception. The unusually cold weather which had dominated the closing days of November carried over into December, and the first three weeks of that month were unseasonably cold. The protracted period of low temperatures closed lakes throughout most of the state and by mid-December and thereby pushed out most of the loons, grebes, geese, ducks and gulls before the Christmas Count period had opened. The usual contingent of waterbirds that winter on Lake Michigan and along the open sections of rivers did remain after that time, but the customary migrants had gone.

The below-normal temperature pattern of November and early December perhaps had an influence on the southward push of winter finches into Wisconsin. The arrival in force of Evening Grosbeaks and Redpolls during November was reported for the Autumn Season (See **1956 Passenger Pigeon 33-34**) and the invasion of Pine Grosbeaks as far south as central Wisconsin by the end of November was also noted there. But the finch flight was curious and can be described accurately only by reference to individual species. Evening Grosbeaks, seen by many in southeastern Wisconsin during November and December, tended to disappear from that area during January and February, but reports from central and northern Wisconsin in the same period demonstrated that the species was present in numbers in many places. Pine Grosbeaks became quite numerous after December 1st in the northern two-thirds of the state, and many observers in that area reported an exceptionally good year; but for southern Wisconsin about the only reports came in late December and early January, and it was generally agreed that Pine Grosbeaks had been much more plentiful in southern Wisconsin during the preceding winter. Redpolls were everywhere in great numbers throughout the period; and a few observers were fortunate enough to scan flocks of these flighty birds carefully enough to pick up Hoary Redpolls, the striking white-rumped northern cousins of the Common Redpoll. Crossbills of both species showed up in small bands in most sections of the state at one time or another during the winter season, but the reports were too few to justify the conclusion that this was a "good" crossbill winter.

Almost certainly, too, the cold weather of late November and early December pushed southward out of Wisconsin many birds which, under ordinary circumstances, would have spent the winter, or most of it, in the state. Whether this should properly be regarded as part of the fall migration is conjectural, and effects of this weather in reducing the size of wintering bird populations will be noted in the section which follows.

A warming trend set in around Dec. 21 and for almost five weeks thereafter temperatures around Wisconsin remained relatively mild. During this period there was little evidence of bird movement; things had more or less settled down for the winter.

The 1955 Christmas Bird Counts were taken between Dec. 24 and Jan. 2 and the results are reported in detail at **1956 Passenger Pigeon 15-24**. As noted there, the 1955 counts were better organized and more intensive in coverage than at any previous time, but the results indicated that winter bird populations were considerably smaller than they had been in recent time. Other evidence during the winter period points to the same conclusion. Striking reductions in numbers were evident in the instances of the Golden-crowned Kinglet and several sparrows, notably the Tree, Swamp and Song Sparrows which either disappeared completely from places where they could ordinarily be expected in winter, or were present in far smaller numbers. There were no winter reports whatsoever of Harris's and White-crowned Sparrows.

But not all the stragglers were driven out by the intense cold and as usual there were reports of isolated birds which elected to stay behind in Wisconsin rather than follow most of their kind to customary wintering areas well south of us. Among the herons these included the Great Blue and the Black-crowned Night Herons, and the American Bittern. A lone Snow Goose and a lone Blue Goose dropped in at the Juneau Park Lagoon in Milwaukee and wintered there successfully. Among the land birds which are common either in summer or in migration and generally absent in winter, there were reports of wintering Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Hermit Thrushes, Towhees, a Vesper Sparrow, one lone report of a Field Sparrow, and a few Fox Sparrows. Doubtless, each of these species is represented by a few individuals in Wisconsin every winter but too little winter field work is done over the state as a whole to obtain a reliable picture of their relative abundance from year to year.

Among the birds which reach Wisconsin only in winter, or which are most likely to be found here only at this season, there were also some noteworthy strays. From Horicon Marsh came the report of an immature Golden Eagle which was seen there from late December through most of January. Snowy Owls, as might have been predicted, were much less common than in either of the two previous winters, but enough were present to demonstrate that the big "waves" are superimposed upon a small population which manages to reach Wisconsin every winter. The best owl report is one which must remain on the hypothetical list. Harold Mathiak of Horicon reported that he was "99% certain" that he saw a Hawk Owl at an island north of Burnett's Ditch on Horicon Marsh on Dec. 19. Mathiak's opinion deserves weight in this since he was among those who did see a Hawk Owl on the Marsh on Jan. 2, 1944 (see **1944 Passenger Pigeon 52**). The Bohemian Waxwing turned up a few times, but less frequently by far than during the winter of 1954-55.

Several more or less regular winter species deserve a bit of comment. Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared to remain relatively common in those northern areas of the state in which they nest, but for the rest of the state they appeared in greatly reduced numbers during the winter period. Northern Shrikes can probably be found annually in every Wisconsin county if the observer puts sufficient energy into the task. In the winter of 1954-55 little effort was needed to find them at any time during the winter. This winter a good bit more effort was needed, and most observers found them only once or twice during the period. Well-marked

Oregon Juncoes are turning up regularly wherever Juncoes winter or appear in migration, but evidence is still too scanty to ascertain whether this represents a relatively recent invasion of the state or is simply a matter of more careful attention which is bringing to light the presence of a species which has generally been overlooked.

A few Horned Larks may be encountered in southern Wisconsin throughout the winter, and occasionally flocks of substantial size may be found. But from mid-February on they appear in the state in force, and February 1956 was no exception. As usual, there were a few January reports from the southernmost counties. Then, between Feb. 9 and 14, the species was reported by observers throughout Wisconsin, indicating that the bird swept over the state in a surprisingly short period of time, and that it had returned in numbers during that period.

A northbound flock of Canada Geese was reported from Winnebago County on February 10, which is unusually early, and the record may refer to a band of birds which somehow managed to winter in the state since there were records of wintering Canadas this year from as far north as Adams and Brown Counties. The only other February report came from Lafayette County on the 29th, and doubtless refers to transients.

After mid-February, both species of meadowlarks return to song in the counties of southeastern Wisconsin. Some birds of both species manage to winter there and whether the singing individuals contain a component of returned migrants is not clear, but it is clear that the two meadowlarks filter northward at a quite slow rate with the population continuing to build slowly long after the earliest birds have arrived.

Somewhat the same sort of thing appears to happen during February with some of the hawks. Observers, particularly in the southern counties where all three species winter in limited numbers, noted general increases in the numbers of Rough-legs, Marsh Hawks and Sparrow Hawks by the end of February.

But the first dramatic influx of returning birds occurred in the southernmost counties of Wisconsin during the last day or so of February. As stretches of open water widened where running streams entered frozen lakes, the first of the diving ducks returned: Redheads, Canvasbacks and Lesser Scaup; and as sheltered sections of marshes began to lose their snow, and then ice, the Red-wings returned—as did the very first of the Rusty Blackbirds and Grackles.

These symbols of returning spring were few, however, and were only seen at the end of the month of February, and then only along the southern border of Wisconsin. Elsewhere over the state as the winter season ended, the bird populations remained substantially unchanged from January. Redpolls, and not Red-wings, were more nearly characteristic of the landscape.

LOON: The only report during the period came from Bill Foster in Dane County who found two birds on Lake Mendota Dec. 10, the day before the lake closed.

RED-THROATED LOON: Eight birds reported in Milwaukee Christmas Count, Jan. 2; and a number of reports came from Ozaukee County during Jan. and Feb. where the species winters in Lake Michigan off Virmond Park.

HORNED GREBE: Last reported from Waukesha County on Dec. 4 (L. E. Comptons); and a crippled bird was observed Dec. 26 on the Madison Christmas Count.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: Single birds were reported as wintering in these counties: Adams (Sam Robbins); Brown (E. D. Cleary); Outagamie (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); and Waukesha (Mrs. L. E. Compton). A bird reported February 26 in Lafayette County by Ethel Olson and Lola Welch may have been an early migrant.

GREAT BLUE HERON: Reported from these counties: Adams, two birds wintered (Sam Robbins); Jefferson on Jan. 3 (Leonard Brosig); La Crosse, Dec. 7 through 11 (Alvin M. Peterson); Waukesha on Dec. 2 (Mrs. Emma Hoffmann); and Walworth, one on Lake Geneva Christmas Count, Jan. 2.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: One bird found at Necedah on Jan. 2 (Gordon Orians and Sam Robbins).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Winter stragglers were reported from these counties: Wood, two birds on Jan. 24 (George Knudson); Monroe on Jan. 27 (John F. Adamski); and Columbia on Feb. 24 (Therman Deerwester).

CANADA GOOSE: Wintering birds were reported from these counties: Adams, at least 13 birds (Sam Robbins); Brown, 80 birds at time of Christmas Count on Dec. 26; and Walworth County, 1000 birds at time of Lake Geneva Christmas Count on Jan. 2. Al Dunham of the Wisconsin Conservation Dept. reported a northbound flock in Winnebago County on Feb. 10 (exceptionally early for returning transients); and Ethel Olson and Lola Welch reported that birds returned to Lafayette County on Feb. 29.

SNOW GOOSE AND BLUE GOOSE: One each of these birds wintered at Juneau Park Lagoon, Milwaukee (many observers). No other reports during period.

GADWALL: One bird wintered at Milwaukee (Mary Donald and others).

BALDPATE: One bird wintered at Milwaukee (Mary Donald), and a single bird was reported on the La Crosse County Christmas Count on Dec. 27 (A. M. Peterson).

PINTAIL: Single birds were reported on Christmas Counts in Rock County on Jan. 1 (John Wilde at Evansville); and at Milwaukee on Jan. 2.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL: Pair in Adams County on Dec. 31 (Sam Robbins and John Holmes on Wisconsin Dells Christmas Count).

REDHEAD: Last noted in Waukesha County on Dec. 4 (L. E. Comptons); and Dane on Dec. 10 (Bill Foster). Wintering birds were reported from Ozaukee and Milwaukee Counties (many observers); spring transients appeared in Dane County Feb. 29 (Dick Wills).

RING-NECKED DUCK: Five were reported on the Lake Geneva Christmas Count on Jan. 2. The only other reports came from Ozaukee and Milwaukee Counties where a few birds wintered (many observers).

CANVAS-BACK: Noted in Waukesha County on Dec. 4 (Mrs. L. E. Compton); and Sauk County on Dec. 27 and Jan. 5 (Sam Robbins). Wintering birds were reported by many observers from Dane, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties.

GREATER AND LESSER SCAUP: One or both species reported during period from these counties: Adams (Sam Robbins); Burnett, 3 on Jan. 9 (Norman Stone); Dane, wintered (many observers); La Crosse, Dec. 27 (A. M. Peterson); Marinette on Feb. 25 (Raymond Stefanski); Milwaukee and Ozaukee, wintered (many observers). An increase in numbers Feb. 29 in Dane County (Dick Wills) marked returning birds.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE: Noted as wintering in nearly all counties from which reports were received.

BUFFLEHEAD: Wintered in Madison (Roy Lound) and Milwaukee (Carl Frister); and was noted on Christmas Counts at Lake Geneva on Jan. 2; Manitowoc on Dec. 29; and Racine on Dec. 28. Mrs. Howard Higgins noted the species also in Kenosha on Feb. 19.

OLD-SQUAW: Reported as wintering in all counties bordering Lake Michigan from Manitowoc south to Kenosha; no other reports.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: During February and early March 1955 many observers had ample opportunity to study a small brownish duck in the harbor at Port Washington in Ozaukee County. The white patches on its face, its size, patternless wings, and its silhouette identified it as a Harequin Duck, and a faintly appearing vertical white mark at the bend of the wing proclaimed it a young male. See 1955 Passenger Pigeon 120, 126. An adult male Harlequin Duck was found in the harbor at Port Washington on Jan. 1, 1956, by Tom Soulen and others, and the bird was still at that place as late as March. In this period countless observers saw the striking bird, often seeing it ride the calm waters within the breakwater in company with Ring-necks, Canvas-backs and Ruddy Ducks.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Thirteen birds were reported on the Milwaukee Christmas Count on Jan. 2 (Mary Donald and others).

RUDDY DUCK: Reported as wintering in Ozaukee and Milwaukee Counties (several observers); and was reported on Christmas Counts at Madison on Dec. 26 and Lake Geneva on Jan. 2.

HOODED MERGANSER: Wintering individuals were reported by several observers from Dane, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties; and other reports came from these counties: Burnett, 1 on Jan. 9 (Norman Stone); Brown, 1 on Green Bay Christmas Count, Dec. 26; and Walworth, 22 on Lake Geneva Christmas Count, Jan. 2.

AMERICAN MERGANSER: Abundant wintering species on Lake Michigan. Away from the lake it winters along stretches of water which remain open, though in smaller numbers and somewhat fewer places than the Golden-eye. Many winter reports, however.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Widespread in winter along Lake Michigan in much smaller numbers than American Merganser. Away from the lake, lingering transients were noted on these Christmas Counts: Mazomanie on Dec. 27; Lake Geneva on Jan. 2; and Allenville on Dec. 24.

GOSHAWK: Reported from these counties: Adams on Dec. 7 (Sam Robbins); Bayfield on Jan. 14 (David Bratley); Brown on Dec. 26 (Green Bay Christmas Count) and on Feb. 2 (E. D. Cleary); Washington (Hartford Christmas Count on Jan. 1); and Oconto on Feb. 29 (Carl Richter).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Reported from these counties: Dane on Dec. 26 (Madison Christmas Count); Lafayette, "wintered" (Ethel Olson

and Lola Welch); Manitowoc, one found dead Jan. 19 (John Kraupa); and Rock (two on Beloit Christmas Count, Dec. 26) and one Jan. 30 (Mrs. Melva Maxson).

COOPER'S HAWK: Many more winter records than for the Sharpshinned Hawk. Charles Kemper's reports from Chippewa County on Dec. 24 and 26 were the only records north of a line between La Crosse and Manitowoc, but the species was reported during the period from most counties south of that line.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: Charles Kemper reported the species from Chippewa County on Dec. 2. From Wood County south and east, the species was noted in most counties from which reports came, indicating a widespread, but limited presence of the species as a winter resident in southeastern Wisconsin.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Noted in almost all counties from which reports were received, with some observers noting that the species was more numerous early in December and again late in February, indicating that the population thins out in mid-winter.

GOLDEN EAGLE: An immature bird was observed on Horicon Marsh at the time of the Christmas Count on Dec. 30, and remained there throughout January (Dick Hunt and Harold Mathiak).

BALD EAGLE: The winter eagle roost along the Wisconsin River south of Petenwell Dam in Adams and Juneau Counties reached a total of 27 birds on Jan. 14 (Sam Robbins); 13 birds were noted along the Wisconsin River between Arena and Sauk City on Dec. 27 (N. R. Barger et al.); and Clarence Paulson reported six birds on the Seneca Christmas Count on Dec. 26 in Crawford County. Other isolated reports during the period came from Ozaukee County on Jan. 14 (Roy Lound); Sauk on Feb. 5 (Eugene Roark); and Vilas on Jan. 15 (Mrs. S. W. Doty). By the end of the period, Sam Robbins observed that a pair of birds was again attempting to nest in Adams County.

MARSH HAWK: Alfred Bradford observed the species in Outagamie County on Jan. 14. Otherwise, all records were confined to the area south and east of Sauk County, where the bird is a regular though not common winter resident. Several observers noted that it became more numerous in late February.

PIGEON HAWK: Persistent reports of this species suggest that a few of these birds may linger in Wisconsin well into the winter period. See 1955 Passenger Pigeon 89. Reports in this period came from Milwaukee County on Jan. 2 (Mary Donald) and Feb. 26 (Carl Frister); and from Rock County on Feb. 5 (Harold Liebherr).

SPARROW HAWK: Single birds were noted on Christmas Counts at Wausau on Jan. 2 and at Sparta on Dec. 26. Otherwise the species was reported only from an area south and east of a line running between Lafayette County in the southwest and Brown County in the northeast. Several observers noted an increase in birds present after early February.

SPRUCE GROUSE: Raymond Pripps (fide, N. R. Barger) reported 16 birds in Vilas County on Jan. 14.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE: Mrs. Roy Lound reported one bird in Adams County on Jan. 2, an unusual record there. The only other report came from Norman Stone in Burnett County on Jan. 25.

COOT: Lingering birds were reported as spending the winter, or most of it, in these counties: Adams (Sam Robbins); Brown (E. D. Cleary); Dane (many observers); La Crosse (Alvin Peterson); Lafayette (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Milwaukee (Mrs. I. N. Balsom); Outagamie (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); Walworth (Lake Geneva Christmas Count on Jan. 2); and Waukesha (Mrs. L. E. Compton). The first transients appeared in Lafayette County on Feb. 24 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch) and in Dane on Feb. 28 (Dick Wills).

KILLDEER: Several surprising records were received: Adams on Jan. 2 (Mrs. Roy Lound); Brown on Dec. 26 (E. D. Cleary); and Monroe County, about Jan. 16 (David Hammes). Ethel Olson and Lola Welch reported returning birds in Lafayette County on Feb. 29.

WOODCOCK: John Kraupa wrote from Manitowoc County: "A flock of 15-20 Woodcocks was reported in a Two Rivers yard on the morning of Dec. 2. One of these birds died and was brought to me. It was exceedingly thin." The only other report came Jan. 16 from David Hammes in Monroe County, who reported the species was wintering there.

WILSON'S SNIPE: Reported from these counties: Brown on Dec. 26 (E. D. Cleary); Juneau on Jan. 2 (Sam Robbins); La Crosse, Jan. 24-27 (Alvin Peterson); Dane, three on Dec. 27 (Gordon Orians et al.); Lafayette on Dec. 27 and Feb. 29 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); and Waukesha, "wintered" (Mrs. L. E. Compton).

GLAUCOUS GULL: A young bird (2nd year?) was noted in the harbor at Port Washington on Jan. 8 by Mrs. I. N. Balsom and the Carl Fristers. The bird was still present early in March (Bill Foster), and had been seen by countless observers in the interim. The bird had a massive bill and was strikingly larger than the abundant Herring Gulls also present.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: The only report came from Racine on Dec. 28, where 150 birds were noted.

MOURNING DOVE: Noted from nearly every county from which reports came, including such northwestern counties as Burnett on Dec. 7 (Norman Stone); Chippewa on Dec. 23 and Feb. 12 (Charles Kemper); and Washburn on Dec. 22 (Beatrice Bailey).

SNOWY OWL: Reported from these counties: Brown on Feb. 16 (E. D. Cleary); Dodge, Horicon on Dec. 19 and 30 (Harold Mathiak); Jefferson on Jan. 7 (Leonard Brosig); Manitowoc (Christmas Count on Dec. 29); Milwaukee on Jan. 2 (Mrs. I. N. Balsom); Ozaukee on Jan. 14 (Roy Lound); and Winnebago on Dec. 24-27 and again Feb. 3 (Stan Wellso).

HAWK OWL: Harold Mathiak reported that he was "99% certain" that he saw a Hawk Owl on Horicon Marsh at an island north of Burnett's Ditch, Dec. 19. Mathiak and S. Paul Jones reported an earlier sight record from Horicon on Jan. 2, 1944 (see 1944 **Passenger Pigeon** 52). The record is not offered for its authenticity, but as a reminder that this casual northern visitor should be looked for in winter in Wisconsin.

LONG-EARED OWL: Reported from these counties: Adams on Dec. 31 (John Holmes and Sam Robbins), and Jan. 2 (Gordon and Betty Orians); Calumet on Dec. 26-30 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); Chippewa on Dec.

26 (Charles Kemper); Dane and Milwaukee, wintered (many observers); Rock on Dec. 26 (Beloit Christmas Count); Sheboygan on Feb. 26 (Harold Koopmann); Walworth on Jan. 2 (Lake Geneva Christmas Count); and Winnebago on Dec. 24 (Stan Wellso).

SHORT-EARED OWL: Reported from these counties: Dane, wintered (many observers); Chippewa on Feb. 11 (Charles Kemper); Manitowoc on Dec. 18 (John Kraupa); Sauk on Jan. 31 (David Walker); Vilas, five on Jan. 18 (R. C. Hopkins); and Waukesha on Jan. 21 (Sam Robbins).

SAW-WHET OWL: John Butler caught and photographed a Saw-whet Owl in Barron County on Dec. 23; and a pair again wintered in the same area of the Arboretum at Madison as in the winter of 1954-55 (Dick Wills on Jan. 2 and others thereafter). See **1955 Passenger Pigeon 120, 121**. And Carl Richter also found one in Oconto County on Feb. 29.

KINGFISHER: Numerous reports from the counties south of a line through La Crosse and Adams Counties. North of this the only reports came from Barron County, "wintering" (John Butler); and Chippewa County on Dec. 7 (Chas. Kemper).

FLICKER: There were numerous December reports from counties south of a line connecting La Crosse and Green Bay. There were few records after December, and no records north of the indicated line.

PILEATED WOODPECKER: Reported from 18 counties, which indicated the presence of this handsome bird throughout the valley of the Wisconsin River and in much of the area north and west of the Wisconsin. The only other area was in the neighborhood of Green Bay, with reports from Brown and Door Counties.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: A surprising number of winter reports from as far north as Barron County, were John Butler reported the species to be wintering. The records indicated the species to be more widespread in the central and western counties than in the eastern counties adjoining Lake Michigan.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: Reported from Washburn County in northwestern Wisconsin on Feb. 10 by Beatrice Bailey, and there were one or more reports from nearly all other counties south and east of there from which information came.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: Two were reported on the Beloit Christmas Count on Dec. 26; and one was reported at Madison on the same date (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

CANADA JAY: The only report came from Vilas County, where the species is a resident (Fred I. Babcock).

TUFTED TITMOUSE: Charles Kemper notes that this species is increasing in Chippewa County, which presently marks about the north-west extension of its range in the state. There were no winter records from counties adjoining Lake Michigan, but there were widespread reports from counties south and west of Winnebago County, with the bird commonest from Rock County west to the Mississippi.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Reports came from all sections of the state, but agreement was general that numbers were down considerably from the winter of 1954-55.

BROWN CREEPER: South of a line between La Crosse and Green Bay the Creeper appeared generally distributed, though in limited num-

bers. North of this, the only reports came from Vilas (Fred I. Babcock); Lincoln (Merrill Christmas Count on Dec. 28); and Marathon (Wausau Christmas Count on Jan. 2).

WINTER WREN: Reported from Sauk County on Dec. 22 (David Walker); and on the Sheboygan County Christmas Count on Dec. 29.

CAROLINA WREN: Dick Wills found a single bird in the Arboretum at Madison on Dec. 25, and the bird was last reported from that place on Jan. 5 by Sam Robbins.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN: The only report came from Sam Robbins in Adams County on Dec. 7.

CATBIRD: Reported from Milwaukee County on Dec. 2 (Mrs. I. N. Balsom) and from Waukesha County from Dec. 30 through Feb. 2 (Ed Peartree).

BROWN THRASHER: Mrs. Walter Rogers reported one bird wintering in Outagamie County; and Stan Wellso reported a bird from Winnebago County on Dec. 24.

ROBIN: From the abundant reports it is clear that Robins are apt to turn up in any part of Wisconsin during the winter—and occasionally in some numbers, though the great bulk winters south of the state.

HERMIT THRUSH: Reported from these counties: Crawford on Dec. 26 (Clarence Paulson); Manitowoc on Dec. 5 (John Kraupa); Milwaukee, Jan. 1 through 28 (Mrs. Robert Stenger); and Rock, Dec. 29 through Jan. 6 (Mrs. Melva Maxson).

BLUEBIRD: Ethel Olson and Lola Welch reported one bird in Lafayette County on Dec. 27, and again on Feb. 26, the February date probably reflecting an early return of the species since returning birds were noted in Vernon County on Feb. 29 (Richard Weber) and Sauk County on Feb. 29 (August Derleth).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Tom Soulen and others had the good luck to study carefully this casual visitor from the Rocky Mountains when they encountered it at Cedar Grove in Sheboygan on Dec. 29.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: Numbers greatly reduced from those of two preceding years. There are few reports after the end of December, and what reports there were came from the south central counties.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Fewer than in preceding winter, which was an exceptionally good one. These reports were received: Wisconsin Rapids, one bird on Dec. 30 (Sam Robbins); Waupaca, 50 birds between Jan. 29 and Feb. 20 (Florence Peterson); and Green Bay, two birds on Feb. 26 (E. D. Cleary).

CEDAR WAXWING: This wanderer appeared throughout the state during the entire winter period, often in considerable numbers.

NORTHERN SHRIKE: Nearly all observers reported an observation or two, but agreement was general that numbers were way down by comparison with the preceding winter.

MEADOWLARKS: Wintering meadowlarks are frequently hard to separate since they even abandon the use of their diagnostic alarm notes. Agreement seemed general that fewer birds were wintering than usual, but some were found in January as far north as Barron County (John Butler) and Burnett County (Norman Stone). After mid-February there were

numerous reports from Dane County south and east—indicating at least a return of the birds to song, and probably a partial return to the state of both species in the last two weeks of February.

RED-WING: Charles Kemper noted the species in Chippewa County on Dec. 26 and there were scattered reports in December and January from many counties. Gordon Orians estimated 20,000 birds in a roost in Dane County on Dec. 29 and this roost doubtless accounted for the Red-wings reported within a wide radius of Madison during the winter. Evidence of returning birds was noted as early as Feb. 19 in Rock County when Mrs. Melva Maxson reported some 1500 birds, and John Wilde, also in Rock County, thought the birds he saw Feb. 25 were returning birds. Other reported migrants came on Feb. 26 in Jefferson County (Elizabeth Degner) and in Lafayette County (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); and on Feb. 29 in Dane County (Dick Wills).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Reported from these counties: Chippewa on Dec. 4 (Charles Kemper); Waukesha on Dec. 4 (Mrs. L. E. Compton); Brown on Dec. 26 (Ed Paulson); Dane on Dec. 29 (Gordon Orians); and Milwaukee on Jan. 2 (Christmas Count). Ethel Olson and Lola Welch noted returning birds in Lafayette County on Feb. 26.

BRONZED GRACKLE: Gordon Orians reported hundreds present in the Red-wing roost in Dane County on Dec. 29. Also reported from these counties: Waukesha on Dec. 4 (Mrs. L. E. Compton); Rock on Dec. 6 (Mrs. Melva Maxson); Winnebago on Dec. 24 (Stan Wellso); and returning birds were noted Feb. 29 in Lafayette County by Ethel Olson and Lola Welch.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Nearly everyone reported the species during the winter. They were not numerous in the counties of southeastern Wisconsin and there were almost no records for January and February in the area from Dane County south and east. In the north and west there were sporadic reports through the winter, sometimes of large numbers, and some observers fed flocks of fifty or so birds for substantial periods of time. All told, a good year.

PINE GROSBEAK: Reports that Pine Grosbeaks were "commoner than usual" came from these observers in the central and northern counties: Sam Robbins in Adams; Charles Kemper in Chippewa; Mrs. Spencer W. Doty in Marathon; and Fred I. Babcock in Vilas. But Pine Grosbeaks were much less numerous in the southeastern counties than in the preceding year, though there were reports from Dane on Dec. 26 (Christmas Count at Madison); Iowa on Dec. 27 (Sam Robbins et al.); Milwaukee on Jan. 2 (Mary Donald) and Feb. 26 (Mrs. I. N. Balsom); and Sauk on Dec. 27 (Gordon Orians).

HOARY REDPOLL: This rare species was noted at Milwaukee on Nov. 20 by Mrs. I. N. Balsom; five birds at Madison on Dec. 26 (Bill Foster and Mrs. R. A. Walker); one bird in southern Adams County on Dec. 31 (John Holmes and Sam Robbins); and five birds near Adams on Jan. 2 (Sam Robbins and Gordon Orians). Thereafter, Sam Robbins noted two birds in Adams County on Jan. 14 and one on Mar. 2.

REDPOLL: Everyone found them in numbers pretty much throughout the period. A really big Redpoll year.

PINE SISKIN: Reported throughout the period from Madison and Milwaukee by several observers. Other reports came from these counties: Adams on Jan. 2 (Bill Foster); Brown on Feb. 24 (E. D. Cleary); Burnett on Dec. 3 (Norman Stone); Door on Jan. 20 (Harold Wilson); Green on Jan. 2 (Monroe Christmas Count); Iowa on Dec. 27 (Sam Robbins); Lafayette on Dec. 27 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Marinette from Jan. 15 through Feb. 1 (Raymond Stefanski); Vilas on Jan. 25 (Fred I. Babcock); and Waukesha on Dec. 26 (Christmas Count).

GOLDFINCH: Scattered reports came from all over the state during the period but some observers thought the species was scarce by comparison with other years.

RED CROSSBILL: Not many reports. John Butler reported the species from Barron County during December and January; in Dane County Al Eynon found two birds Dec. 26 and the species was re-discovered Feb. 19 in a Madison cemetery by Eugene Roark where it was seen thereafter by many observers; seven birds were noted on the Waukesha Christmas Count on Dec. 26; and Mary Donald found the species in Milwaukee Feb. 9 with other observers finding it there after that time.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Reported from these counties: Bayfield, four on Dec. 1 (David Bratley) and one on Feb. 26 (Roy Lound); Dane, one bird on Dec. 26 (Al Eynon) and again on Feb. 25 (Bill Hilsenhoff); Milwaukee on Feb. 9 (Mary Donald) and on Feb. 12 and 26 (Carl Frister); Polk, three on Jan. 14 and five on Feb. 12 (Mrs. L. M. Pedersen); and Waukesha, 15 on Dec. 23 with last seen on Dec. 26 (Tom Soulen).

TOWHEE: The bird noted on the Appleton Christmas Count on Dec. 26 was still present Feb. 1 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers). Also reported on Christmas Counts in Madison on Dec. 26; Sheboygan on Dec. 29; and Allenville on Dec. 24.

VESPER SPARROW: Mrs. I. N. Balsom reported a bird from Milwaukee County between Jan. 31 and Feb. 26.

OREGON-TYPE JUNCO: Careful reports came from these counties: Adams, from Dec. 2 through Jan. and Feb. (Sam Robbins and others); Chippewa on Dec. 26 (Charles Kemper); Columbia on Jan. 15 (Eugene Roark); Dane, present throughout the period (many observers); Milwaukee, one on Jan. 1 (Tom Soulen); Rock, one bird wintered at Evansville (John Wilde); Vernon on Jan. 17 (Margarette Morse); and Waukesha, one or more birds present throughout the period (Ed Peartree and others).

TREE SPARROW: Some observers, such as John Wilde in Rock County, thought Tree Sparrows less common than usual, and it was absent from about a quarter of the Christmas Counts, with the absence most noticeable in the north-central and northern counties of the state.

FIELD SPARROW: The only report came on Jan. 5 from Sam Robbins who found one bird in Madison.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Lingering birds were reported as spending the winter, or most of it, in these counties: Barron (John Butler); Calumet (Mrs. Walter E. Rogers); Dane (many observers); Milwaukee (many observers); Outagamie (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); and Wau-

kesha (Ed Peartree and others). Isolated reports came from these counties: Manitowoc on Jan. 10 (John Kraupa); Walworth on Jan. 2 (Lake Geneva Christmas Count); Winnebago on Dec. 24 (Stan Wellso); and Wood on Dec. 30 (Sam Robbins).

FOX SPARROW: Reported from these counties: Chippewa on Dec. 3 (Charles Kemper); Lafayette, Dec. 13 and 27 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Sauk on Jan. 4 (Sam Robbins); and Waukesha, Dec. 5-8 (Ed Peartree) and on Waukesha Christmas Count on Dec. 26.

SWAMP SPARROW: Fewer reports than usual: Madison on Jan. 5 (Sam Robbins); Monroe on Jan. 2 (Christmas Count); and Milwaukee on Jan. 2 and Feb. 14 (Mary Donald).

SONG SPARROW: Reported from Crawford County on Dec. 26 (Clarence Paulson); otherwise the few stragglers noted were reported from the area bordered on the northwest by Wood County and on the northeast by Brown County.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: These reports (fewer than usual for the period) were received: Brown, Dec. 21 (Ed Paulson) and Jan. 3 (E. D. Cleary); Dane, Dec. 26 (Gordon Orians and others); Feb. 19 (Roy Lound); Iowa on Dec. 27 (N. R. Barger et al.); Outagamie on Dec. 26 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); Rock on Jan. 1 (John Wilde); Waukesha, on Dec. 26 (Christmas Count), and Feb. 9 (Mrs. L. E. Compton); and Winnebago, 25 on Dec. 24 and 1 on Jan. 29 (Stan Wellso).

SNOW BUNTING: The only reports from the southern third of the state came from Iowa County on Dec. 27 (N. R. Barger et al.) and from several observrs at widely separate times in Dane County. But in the northern two-thirds of the state there was considerable evidence that the species was widely distributed and on occasion was observed in considerable numbers.

ROY LOUNDS TO EDIT FIELD NOTES

Bill Foster's decision not to continue as field note editor was accepted with regret by all of us. He has done an outstanding job during the past year and we hope his responsibilities lessen during the next few years so that he'll be able to pick it up again.

Bill's successors will be Martha and Roy Lound,—a wife-husband team of thoroughly competent birders. Roy is a bank examiner with the State Banking Commission, while Martha is an analyst with the Unemployment Compensation Department of Wisconsin's Industrial Commission. Both are lifelong residents of the state. They have visited all its 71 counties and birded in most of them. But their birding has not been confined to Wisconsin. Since they started birding intensively about seven years ago, they have birded in such varied spots as Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, North Dakota, Montana, Oregon, Colorado, Texas and various points in between.

From now on send all your field notes to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lound, 110 Corry Street, Madison 4, Wisconsin. Help them along with a tough job by thoroughly documenting all your unusual observations.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 18-19, 1956 (Green Bay)**—Overnight Green Bay Bird Club field trip to Chute Pond.
- August 19-September 1, 1956 (Spoooner)**—Fifth session of Audubon Camp.
- September 1-10, 1956 (State-wide)**—Field notes for June, July and August should be sent to the Associate Editors.
- September 8-9, 1956 (Manitowoc)**—W.S.O. fall campout, with Headquarters at Lincoln Park in Manitowoc.
- September 9, 1956 (Green Bay)**—Green Bay Bird Club field trip along West Bay shore for shorebirds.
- September 30, 1956 (Cedar Grove)**—W.S.O. field trip to watch the hawk migration.
- October 7, 1956 (Green Bay)**—Green Bay Bird Club field trip to the Alfred Holz cottage.

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FALL CAMPOUT AT MANITOWOC

Dates: Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9.

Headquarters: Lincoln Park (northeastern part of city of Manitowoc)—one block north of highway 42, reached either by North Eighth Street or Lincoln Boulevard (N. 7th). Camping facilities at the park; field trips will start from here.

Organized Field Trips: Trips to Point Beach Forest, led by John Kraupa, will leave Lincoln Park Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. This is a favorite area for hunters, hikers and birders—one of the best birding territories in this region.

Informal Field Trips: Much of the birding will be within walking distance of the park: an abandoned dump just north of the park good for shorebirds and ducks; the Little Manitowoc and its mudflats; nearby Lake Michigan. Members of the Roger Tory Peterson Bird Club and W.S.O. will be on hand to guide you to these areas.

Evening Program: A short program will be held in the Lincoln Park Field House Saturday evening. W.S.O. photographers are invited to bring up to five 35 mm color slides of birds or animals for exhibit. Persons willing to exhibit slides should contact the co-chairmen before the end of August.

Co-Chairmen: Miss Lillian Marsh and Miss Merle Pickett, Tall Oaks—Michigan Avenue, Route 5, Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

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