

The passenger pigeon. Volume 31, Number 1 Spring 1969

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A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY



The Passenger Pigeon

Spring 1969

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 1

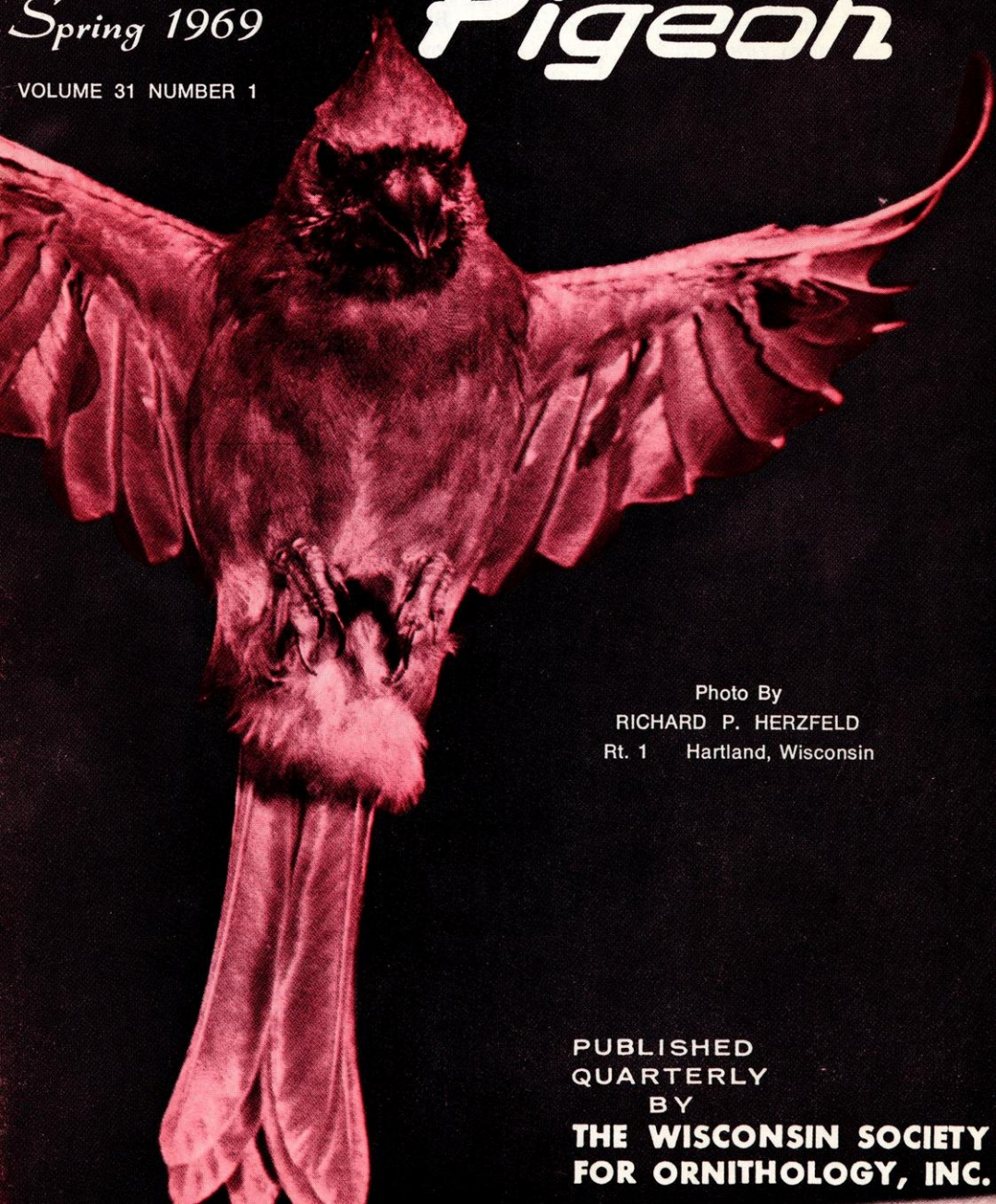


Photo By

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IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Impressions of Indian Bird Life	195
By Harold G. Liebherr	
The 1968 May Count	203
By Irma Chipman	
In Memoriam	200
By Erna Zafe, Ed Cleary	
Letters to the Editor	206
Field Notes	209
By Irma Chipman	
By the Wayside	222
News of General Interest	225
From Other Journals	227

Line Drawings are by Mrs. Carol Rudy of Summit Lake, Wis.

*Drawing of Red Wattled Lapwing is from
Salim Ali's "The Book of Indian Birds"*

*Inside Cover Photo of Friendship Mound, Roche-a-Cri
by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

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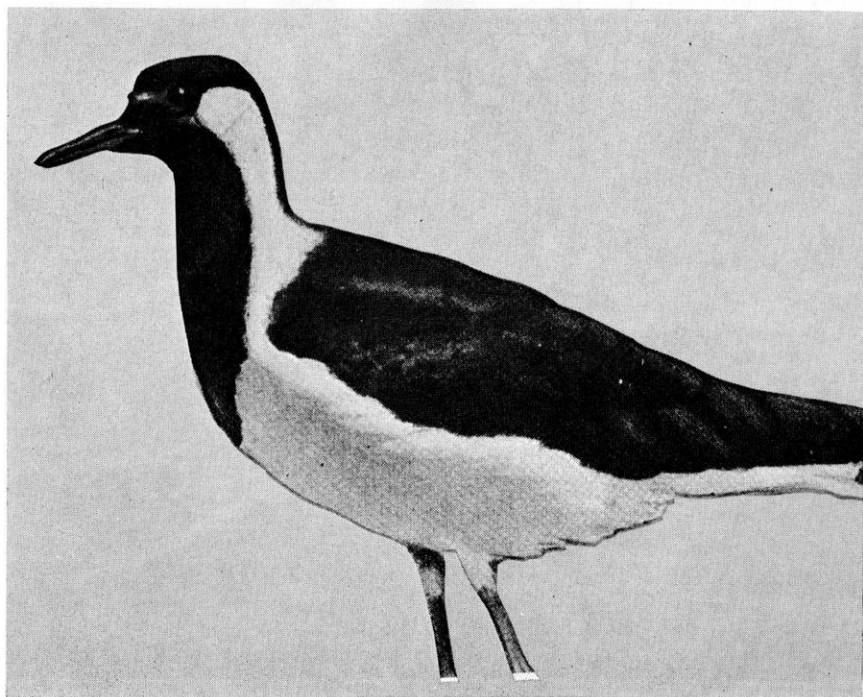
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IMPRESSIONS OF INDIAN BIRD LIFE

By HAROLD G. LIEBHERR

India: This one word conjures up visions; visions about Hindu temples, stately princes astride elephants, a hungry, begging populace, and strange animals on a faraway continent. Such visions crossed my mind as I completed plans for a two month stay in that far away country. I had been employed by the National Science Foundation as a consultant to a summer training program for Indian high school teachers. While my responsibility was to provide the teachers with examples of science teaching techniques used in the United States, I also hoped that I could learn much about the culture and biology of India.

Any person in a new area is first impressed with the differences that exist between his country and the one he is visiting. My experience was no different. Everywhere I went there seemed to be bird life and all species were unknown to me. A visit to a book seller introduced me to "The Book of Indian Birds" by Salim Ali. This book complete with



RED WATTLED LAPWING

color plates, though lacking the field mark identification system of the Peterson Guides, proved most helpful. Most of the illustrations were highly accurate and the text material gave distribution, food, and nesting information.

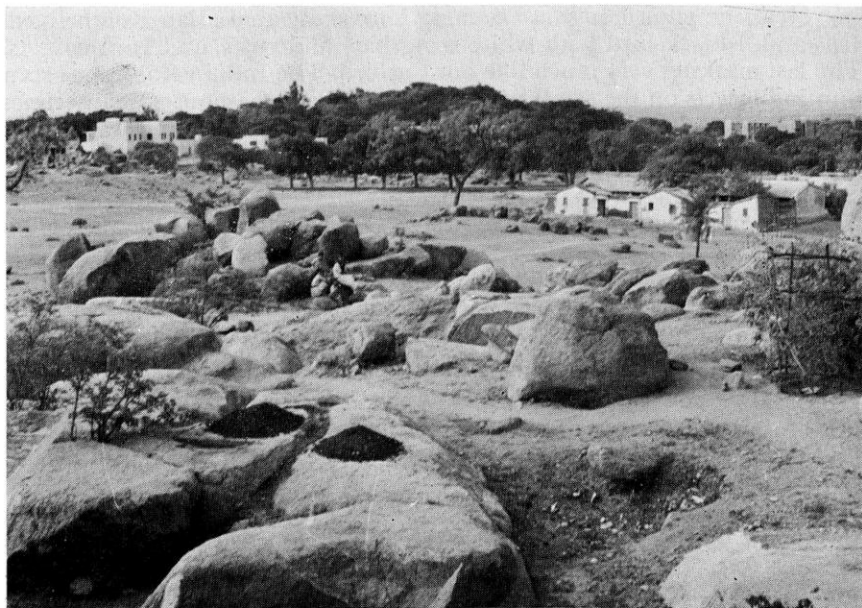
One of my first encounters was with the small brown birds roosting in the trees near the hotel. They chattered incessantly and fought each other for scraps of food. These were the familiar House Sparrows, and I couldn't help wondering if they had been imported from England along with many other British traditions. Here my past knowledge aided me, but I was to rely more and more on my new bird guide to introduce me to the other species of Indian birds.

It is almost impossible to identify Vultures as any other bird. In all, three species of vultures, the Black, the Whiteback and the White Scavenger, were seen. They were usually found in large concentrations in bare trees in the rural areas of the country. There would be 15 to 20 of them in one tree and not far away a similar number in another tree. In any one particular area the vultures appeared to be all of one species. Occasionally, near a road a cow carcass could be seen whose bones had evidently been picked clean by the nearby scavengers—the Vultures.

The Hoopoe, a bird which behaves very much like a Flicker, frequented the lawns of formal gardens and monuments. It is about the



*THE FORMAL GARDENS IN WHICH PARAKEETS AND THE HOPOE
WERE FOUND*



*THESE ROCKS NEAR THE GUEST HOUSE PROVIDED A
SWINGING ROOST FOR THE INDIAN ROBIN*

same size as a Flicker with black and white feathers on its back giving a ladder-like effect. The bird would hop over the lawn and drive its long bill into the grassy areas. I could only assume it was dining on insects. Natural cavities in trees provided it with nesting spots.

After watching the Hoopoe I began to realize that the birds I had observed behaved very much like birds I knew from the United States. True, they were not the same species as the American birds, but they were filling the same ecological niches the American birds did, but in a different ecological setting. Every ecosystem would need scavengers, different species of vultures filled this niche in the two widely separated countries. Ground feeding insect-eaters would be a part of most ecosystems and two unrelated birds, the Hoopoe and the Flicker, filled this niche in countries halfway around the world from each other. Then it became clear that I should look beyond the differences between the birds I was familiar with and the birds of India. How were my newly identified species similar to the ones I knew in the United States?

Most of my stay in India was spent at Osmania University in the city of Hyderabad. Hyderabad is in south central India located on the Deccan plateau. This area knows two seasons of the year, a rainy season during the monsoons and a dry season. Most of the area is covered with a desert-like vegetation, that had small leaves and protective thorns. Ground cover was almost absent with more soil visible than vegetation. However, soon after the monsoons began the dryness and sparsity of vegetation disappeared and the earth began to flower.

Near the guest house at Osmania University an Indian Robin lived. It is an all black bird with white wing bars and rusty undertail coverts. The last marking very much like our Catbird. The Indian Robin was seen hunting insects on the small patches of lawn near the houses, many times fluttering upward to catch them on the wing. Its sweet song was always one of the first to be heard after the break of day.

The buildings of Osmania University were covered with large colonies of House Swift nests. These nests were cemented to the walls of the buildings by the bird's saliva and resembled the large colonies of Cliff Swallow nests found on the barns of Wisconsin. The swooping gliding flight of the House Swift was like that of the swallows and Martins of the U. S. and allowed them to catch insects in flight. Their flights always became more frequent during the hours of dusk rather than the middle of the day.

My daily walk at the University, from the Guest House to the Biology Building, took me through a formal garden. I could always depend upon seeing several species of birds here, one of which was the Roseringed Parakeet. This all green bird, with a red ring at its neck, flew in flocks of 10-15 with great speed from tree to tree in the garden. It is difficult to compare its role in the ecology of India with a similar species in the U.S., because the parakeet of our continent is extinct. However, a description of the Carolina Parakeet by Dr. Frank Chapman describes them as flying "... like startled Doves through the pines twisting and turning in every direction and flying with such rapidity, they were soon lost to view." If "the pines" was changed to "the palms" this description would also fit the Indian species. The Parakeets can be found in many of the bird markets of the larger cities. If sales of these birds increases as India's population increases they too will become as extinct as their American counterpart.

The water courses and small lakes held their share of wading birds. The Gray Heron is not only of a size identical to the Great Blue Heron, but also of similar plumage. The Little Egret resembles the Snowy Egret in size, plumage, and coloration, even to having yellow feet and black legs. The Paddy Bird is like the American Bittern. All of these birds frequent watery places and fish for meals in a manner similar to the American birds mentioned. It was a common sight to see a flock of Egrets fly overhead at dusk moving from a feeding area to a roosting area. Water holes were also a place to see the Red-wattled Lapwing. This bird reminded me of the Killdeer. A noisy call always made you aware of its presence and it enticed the observer onward by trailing a "broken" wing.

Summer, the dry season, was in full force during my stay in India. Summer in India means an endless succession of hot, sunny days with no rain. Each and every day dawned bright and clear, and as the day progressed the heat became more intense. Few clouds formed in the sky and no afternoon thunderstorms broke the heat. The vegetation dies down at this time of year, in a manner very similar to our winter months. Only a few trees retain their leaves and dried leaves are scattered over the ground. The jungle of the Deccan plateau left me disappointed. There was no underbrush and unlimited vision through the trees was possible.

It was in these circumstances that I sighted several species of birds that I remember for their striking unusualness rather than their similarity to ones in Wisconsin.

The Paradise Flycatcher is an all white bird with a black head and is about the size of a crow. Its most startling feature is two long, narrow, ribbon-like tailfeathers, about two feet in length. Features like this allow little doubt when making an identification. The Crow Pheasant is aptly named. It is about the size of a Ring-necked Pheasant and is all black except for rust colored wings. This ground dweller moved through the



*THE SPARSE VEGETATION OF THE DRY SEASON
PROVIDED LITTLE FOOD FOR THE CATTLE*

underbrush keeping the few leaves present between itself and the viewer. But the scene that will linger the longest came early one morning. Just as the sun was rising above the horizon, my companions and I were traveling to a water hole with hopes of seeing some Indian mammals.

No mammals were to be seen, but instead a Peacock appeared on the far side of the water hole. This gaudy bird appeared more beautiful in its native habitat than any similar bird had ever appeared in a zoo. The early morning sun glinted off of its brilliant blue plumage and its raucous call echoed through the jungle. This sight and sound experience will be remembered forever.

The endless heat of the summer ends with the rainy season. When the moisture laden winds from the Indian Ocean reach the inland areas, the monsoons begin. The rainy season is initiated with a few afternoon storms. These are of short but intense duration. As the clouds begin to cover the sky, the temperature falls, and the rains become more frequent. The frequency will increase until rains of several days, or even a week's, duration are not uncommon.

With the coming of the rain the insect life greatly increases. Ants emerge from the ground and the winged pairs fly their nuptial flights. Beetles, including a large, four inch, Stag Beetle, are attracted to the lights of buildings and rooms without screens are soon turned into crawling, squirming, living insect collections. With the increase in insect life there is also an increase in other forms of organisms. Geckos emerge from their hiding places to feed on a table of plenty. The birds appear to increase in number overnight. Where previously only one or two pairs of a species were present, now many can be seen. The welcome waters from the skies also cause the plant life to emerge from its dormancy.

The coming of the monsoons coincided with the end of my assignment in India. It would have been nice to observe the complete change in the ecosystem I had been observing, but when you are traveling at the convenience of others all wishes cannot be fulfilled.

I am thankful for the opportunity I had for viewing the flora and fauna of the sub-continent of India firsthand, even though my view was restricted to a small portion of life in a short period of time. Recollections indicate that I had indeed been fortunate. I had added 53 species of birds to my life list; I had noted the great similarity of roles these species had played in their ecosystem when compared to birds in North America; and I had learned that there was more of a familiar nature in India than I had ever suspected. A biologist is never alone, although in a new land unknown to him. He is surrounded by much that reminds him of other species in the land he knows so well.



Then Win and Ed—one by one,
As their day was done,
Walked down the trail alone
Quietly—serenely—in the twilight's
Softer tone!

And when they had reached the end of
The trail they both had trod,
May they enjoy together
The universe of God!

—Erna Zafe

WINFORD FONDER

On July 1, 1968, our close friend and dedicated club member for over 32 years, Winford Fonder, known by all of us as "Win", passed away.

Throughout his busy and eventful life he was affiliated with many civic, fraternal and professional groups and also many state conservation and bird study projects.

He and his wife Mildred were charter members of the Green Bay Bird Club.

Win was the third president of the club, and served in that capacity again from 1964 to 1966.

Oldtimers will always remember him for the movies he took on field trips. For many of us it was our first chance to see ourselves in movies.

Win will live forever in the hearts of countless friends he acquired in his lifetime.

Edwin D. Cleary

ED PAULSON

On December 31, 1968 our dear friend and faithful club member for 33 years, Edward O. Paulson, known so well by all of us as "Ed", passed away.

Time will not permit me to list all the important positions of trust he held during his lifetime in the many organizations of which he was a member.

So I will confine my remarks to his many years of continuous service and sincere dedication to our Green Bay Bird Club and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

Ed and his wife Lottie joined the club in 1935 when it was first formed so both were charter members.

He will certainly be regarded as one of its most ardent and enthusiastic members and will always be remembered for his great generosity, his wonderful patience and his untiring efforts in working for the club's interest.

He was president of the club several times and served on its Board of Directors for many years. He was always ready to be a field trip leader, a duty he performed a countless number of times.

He was interested in bird study as a hobby all his life and became an authority on Wisconsin's song and water birds. He had the amazing ability to instantly identify them at a glance.

His yearly record of birds observed during each succeeding year topped that of all other observers in the club and in fact beat many records of Wisconsin's best observers for his yearly counts ranged from 198 to 215 species. His record for the last year of his life was 214 species.

For 20 years he kept migration records for the U. S. Department of Interior Wildlife Center and for 21 years he kept seasonal records for the W. S. O. He and I worked together on this as a team.

Three days before his death he participated in our 33rd Christmas Count. On his list were two species—an Oregon Junco and a Swamp Sparrow which set his last and final record for of the 25 others taking part no one else had those two species on their list!

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of this devoted friend of all of us.

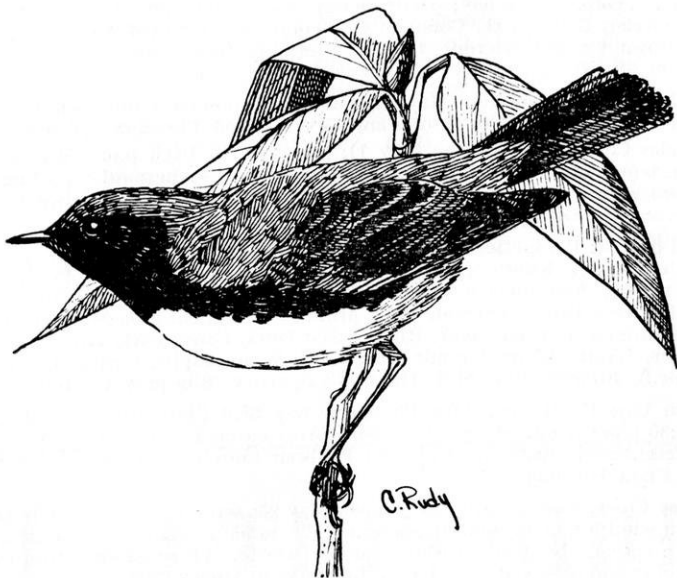
It is to individuals like Ed that we give the honor of having made a better world because of their having lived in it.

His devotion, responsibility and many accomplishments might well be a memorial guide for us in the years ahead.

Edwin D. Cleary

The 1968 May Count

By IRMA CHIPMAN



BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

The first warm days of spring came about March 1st causing some early migrants. With little or no snow to melt there was no sudden run-off of water, thus shorebirding was not as good as last year. Most of March and April was mild. May was cool and wet thus causing some migrants to linger longer. No great waves of warblers were noted. There were several observations of Tree Sparrows and Golden-crowned Kinglets on the counts this year. More observers took their counts earlier than last year. None complained of the weather but most days were partly cloudy and some had rain.

There were 19 counts this year—three less than last year. The counts totaled 224 species with other observers in May coming up with an additional 41 species to total 265 including one hybrid.

As we had no violent weather surrounding Wisconsin during May there was no rash of exotics but some interesting species were turned up never-the-less.

All warblers listed on the Wisconsin Check List were observed during May with the exception of the Prairie and the Hooded; all vireos plus the White-eyed and all sparrows.

To conserve space the forty additional species for May will not be listed here but will be found in the Spring Field Notes.

Antigo: 85 species. May 19, ten observers of the Antigo Audubon Club. Partly cloudy skies; 40° at 6 a.m.; a 15-mile radius of Antigo. Of interest were 6 Tree Sparrows.

Appleton #1: 144 species. May 11; 18 observers in eight parties. Area covered, center of Appleton to include Neenah, Menasha, Greenville, Shiocton, Kimberly and Kaukauna. Temp. 40° to 68°; partly cloudy skies; wind calm. Of note were: Canada Goose, Shoveler, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Y. B. Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Appleton #2: 97 species. May 25, number of observers not mentioned. Sixteen species of warblers noted. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes still present.

Douglas County: 139 species; May 11; 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; wind 5-18 mph; temperature 35°-58°; five observers; Richard F. Bernard reporting. Unusual occurrences were 2 Willets and 2 Piping Plovers, 5 Long-billed Dowitchers (based on call notes and were rusty on abdomen).

Fond du Lac: 120 species with 35 additional species for count period. Ten observers in 4 parties. Rockne Knuth reporting. Sky partly cloudy; wind SE at 15 mph; temperature 40° to 60°. Area covered: Fond du Lac County including Supple Marsh, Eldorado Marsh, Marytown Dump, Lakeside Park, Mullet Creek and Kettle Moraine State Forest. Species of interest: Canada Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Common Scoter, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, 19 Water Pipits, Cerulean Warbler (well documented), Brewer's Blackbird, Henslow's Sparrow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Green Bay: 137 species. May 12; Green Bay Bird Club; partly cloudy skies; 5:45 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; temperature 51° to 56°. Area covered: Same as last year. Unusual species were: Harris Sparrow seen by Ed Paulson; Lincoln Sparrow seen by Ed Cleary; Pipit by Clara Hussong.

Honey Creek, Sauk County: 85 species. May 25; seven observers; partly cloudy and some rain; wind NE at 15 mph; temperature 50° to 55°. Rain and mist all p.m. which held down species observed. Warbler numbers scarce. Three Golden-crowned Kinglets heard singing and observed at 25 feet in hemlocks in Honey Creek Valley by Don Beimborn and Ed Peartree.

Hudson (primarily Willow River): 74 species. May 18; sky overcast; rain; temperature in the 40's. Manley Olson reporting. Ten Blue-gray Gnatcatchers observed.

Kenosha: 121 species. May 13; sixteen observers in 6 parties; Louise Erickson reporting. Area covered: Kenosha County. Of note were 2 Gallinule, 25 Black-bellied Plovers and 290 Cormorants (all carefully observed), 1 Whip-poor-will, 15 Redheaded Woodpeckers, more Chickadees than usual, 8 Golden-winged and 3 Brewster Warblers together at Tenschers (carefully identified), 2 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 1 Cerulean Warbler, 62 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 2 Lincoln Sparrows.

Milwaukee: 156 species: Area covered Milwaukee and all parts of Ozaukee County. May 25; eighteen observers from 3:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; temperature 52° to 59°; skies overcast; wind ENE 10-17. Of note were: Golden-crowned Kinglet; Sandhill Crane (Cedarburg Swamp), 2 Orchard Orioles, Yellow-breasted Chat, Common Egret, (migrating over Curry Park).

Oconomowoc Area: 111 species; May 12; 5:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. S-Paul Jones Bird Club. Sky partly cloudy; wind SW at 15-18 mph; temperature 48° to 72°; ground dry. Warblers were reported as scarce—most species only 1 or 2 birds.

Oshkosh: 124 species; May 11; 28 observers plus Dr. Caspar's Ornithology Class from WSU in ten parties. Sky cloudy to clear; wind south; temperature 47° to 65°. Of interest were large numbers of Golden Plovers (214), Black Terns (2,105 est), Lapland Longspur (150), 1 late S. C. Junco, 19 Water Pipits and a Loggerhead Shrike.

Portage: 107 species; May 4, Portage County Birders in 13 parties. Area covered Portage County; weather chilly and ground wet with intermittent rain and sunshine. No Red-bellied Woodpeckers sighted in 1968 nor Mockingbirds or Tufted Titmice. No noticeable warbler waves. Unusual were Tree Sparrow noted by Arol Eppe and party and Lapland Longspur by F. M. Baumgartner. Pigeon Hawk and Rusty Blackbird also observed.

St. Croix County: 13 species; May 15. Sam Robbins observer. (Count not up to past years because of afternoon and evening schedule conflicts which limited the count to the morning hours.) 25 species of warblers, 14 species of sandpipers and 13 species of sparrows noted.

Sheboygan: 65 species. May 20; cloudy with light rain; temperature 40° to 60°; Selected spots in Sheboygan County. H. Koopman. 15 species of warblers found.

Viroqua: 63 species; May 4. Viratine Weber observer. Sky mostly clear; temperature 69° to 75°; 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Swainson's Thrush still present.

Waukesha County: 132 species; May 11; thirty members and friends of the B. F. Goss Bird Club. John Bielefeldt reporting. Notable species for date and area: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Worm-eating Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow; 20 species of warblers recorded. Partly cloudy skies and temperature 40° to 60°.

Waupaca and Shawano: 54 species; May 26; three observers. Moderately windy with intermittent showers all day; temperature 50°. K. D. Rill reporting.

Wausau Bird Club: 138 species. May 12, thirty-two observers. Area covered: Marathon County, mostly near Wausau, Mead Wildlife area. Sky cloudy with showers; temperature 49° to 61°; winds light and variable. Species of interest were: Red Crossbills, 6 Bonaparte Gulls, 2 Prairie Chickens, Dunlin, 30 Yellow-headed Blackbirds, 2 Lark Sparrows and a Fox Sparrow.

Yellow Stone Lake, Lafayette County: 78 species; May 11, two observers: Roy Lounds and N. R. Barger. Six a.m. to 7 p.m.



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Letters To The Editor...

I was advised by the Museum staff in Milwaukee to inform you of the sighting of a White Gyrfalcon in northern Wisconsin. I sighted the bird in March 1962 in a woodlot in Bayfield County ten miles south of Ashland, Wisconsin. The bird was approximately twenty-five yards away when sighted. It was a large white falcon with dark spots. The color resembled a Snowy Owl. I did not have my binoculars to examine it closely but it flew like a Prairie Falcon which I have seen many times.

Sincerely,

John McClure, Jr.
Estherville, Iowa

* * * * *

March 5, '69

The Winter 1968 **Passenger Pigeon** is another very attractive issue, Charles—wish the Department could tell you just where that cover picture (and inside too) was taken because I imagine others would like to know, just as I do. Walter's story came out very nicely, and those pictures by Mrs. Rudy do dress up the issue.

Snow is about gone here but we hear on WAA Morning Round-up that you still have a good bit.

Titmouse is singing as I write, and "our" robin who has been eating raisins here all winter sang on February 28—what a thrill!

By the way, I saw the pictures that young man Connor took of the Great Gray Owl. I've heard that he will be writing to you about his experience, and I do hope he'll send one of the pictures—one shows the so-called "bow tie" very clearly. Another amusing one has two twigs crossed in front of its face and makes him look cross-eyed.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Trudi Scott, Madison

Mr. Connor's story will be forthcoming in a later issue with his picture.—EDITOR

* * * * *

Dr. Charles A. Kemper
733 Maple Street
Chippewa Falls, Wis. 54729

Dear Sir:

I would appreciate an assist from you in my efforts to build a library of ornithological periodicals. In your section, "From Our Exchange Journals" on page 146 of Vol. 30, No. 3 of **The Passenger Pigeon**, you mentioned a publication with which I am unfamiliar, **The Audubon Warbler**. Since I am restricting my acquisitions to printed journals (as opposed to the raw mimeographed newsletter style) I would like to know the method of reproduction of **The Audubon Warbler** (no pun intended). If it is more than just a mimeographed newsletter I would also appreciate information on where to send a subscription or membership.

Incidentally, on the same page referred to above, your complimentary remark about the **Maine Field Naturalist** seems to me to be misplaced. The format now being used by the Maine journal was originally adopted by the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1958 (and more completely by 1964). In the fall of 1967, in an economy move, The Maine Audubon Society and several other New England Audubon groups agreed to share the same publication—the one issued by Massachusetts Audubon. The only differences being in a change of title page, and an occasional independent advertisement. Maine Audubon's only publication of purely Maine vintage is their "Maine Audubon Society News Letter" published in conjunction with the Portland Society of Natural History.

Sincerely yours,

G. Bernard Van Cleave

2314 East Stratford Court
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
January 30, 1969

THE AUDUBON WARBLER IS mimeographed NEWSLETTER OF THE
PORTLAND (Washington) AUDUBON SOCIETY.—Ed.

Oconomowoc, Wis.

April 3, 1969

Dear Charles,

The last **Pigeon** was fine except my phone number. Where did that one come from?

414-567-4086 is proper.

Also Cox' number is for the farm and not their regular Beloit number.

And Sam is still listed from Roberts.

Dave Bratley states that from his work at the Smithsonian our **Pigeon** is one of the top journals ranking right with the big ones like **Wilson, Auk, Bird-Banding** etc. Particularly the quality and the meticulous field notes.

Banding will be fine if the weather will ever let me. Have seen all Ducks, Geese, Swans, Mergansers, 2 Grebes, all Blackbirds, Fox, Song etc.

and Junco and Tree are on the move.
See you at Point.

Sincerely,
Ed Peartree

Ed.:—Thank you. The corrections have been noted and made.
"Keep those letters coming, folks."

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Woodland Operetta: Most everyone knows that the Parrot, Mynah, and the Parakeet can be taught to say a few understandable words. A Crow or Raven if taken quite young can also be taught to repeat a few. In various parts of the world there are many mimics; these are—European Marsh-warblers, Redbacked Shrikes, Black Thrushes, Birds of Paradise, Lyre Birds, Bower Birds and Bull Finches. Here in the United States we have quite a few others also, such as: The Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher and canaries; a few hawks seem to be able to change their calls occasionally also. When one is in the wooded treas a Blue Jay can throw you off if the bird cannot be seen when the sounds are heard. And the Common Starling can fool a person on occasion.

On March 3, 1969, the writer was walking on N. 53rd St. between Nash St. and Vienna Ave., one of the few tree-lined streets remaining in the city, when his curiosity was aroused by the volume of what seemed to be the squeaky rasping call of a Starling. Upon investigation, two Starlings were sighted in a large elm tree and a Crow was perched in the same tree just a few feet from them. When the Starlings finished their almost inaudible squeaking, the Crow would mimic them with a volume of sound in proportion to its size over that of the Starlings. At the opening of the scene as it first appeared, the Crow was trying to make its usual call and it was finding it hard to reach its pitch, or it had a sore throat. However, while this action was going on another Crow entered the area and promptly announced its presence, whereupon Crow #1 returned its greeting as only a Crow could do, but then returned its attention to the Starlings, and the show continued on for several minutes. Whenever the Starlings gave voice to their feelings the Crow would go through the motions of **cawing** but the sound it produced was a duplicate of the sounds of the Starlings.

The proper cameras and sound effect recorders would have produced a priceless strip of film. Such scenes on Nature's stage are always so quick in developing and in such impromptu settings, and they are over with so suddenly that few of them can be recorded. The slamming of a car door in a nearby alley pulled the curtain on this particular scene with only the writer for an audience; there was no time to find other witnesses.

Perhaps others have had similar experiences, there is no point in telling a falsehood—they are too hard to remember.

Observing yours,
Gerald E. Lindsay
Milwaukee



FIELD NOTES

By IRMA CHIPMAN

Spring Season

March 1-May 31, 1968

March came in like a lamb and was the first warm day of the winter season. Being an 'open winter' in Wisconsin there was very little snow to melt so there was no sudden thawing which last year gave good shore birding.

March was warm and brought in many early migrants—some unusually early. The March temperature was 10° above normal, second with the least amount of snow and the fourth warmest since records were kept. It was a typically windy month and very dry. When the first migrant Robins began to arrive the frost depth in central Wisconsin was four to six feet and there was little hope of getting worms except in some areas where it had thawed next to buildings. They were observed eating kernels of corn, staghorn sumac berries and juniper berries. Migration moved at a slow steady pace and there were few days of great waves.

April had above normal temperatures with moderate precipitation and most days were very windy. In late April migration slowed down. Daryl Tessen reports that he cannot remember such a slow migration. April 26 a Cardinal hatched 4 young at Wautoma (Irma Chipman) and all fledged.

The first part of May was very dry and very windy. It was a month of contrasts. Either it was extremely cold or extremely warm. In mid-month the much needed rains came. No great warbler waves were noted except perhaps May 14-17. May 17-22 included flycatchers, vireos, shorebirds and sparrows. The wave noted was May 29-June 1 from Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Madison and Appleton. May had 21 days of rain out of the 31 days and the temperature was 2° below normal. Quite a few areas reported many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. On the May Counts most observers saw no concentrations of warblers with perhaps only one or two of a species at one time.

273 species observed for the season compared to 290 last year.

Seasonal Summary

Common Loon: Earliest observation April 2 in Oneida County by Thomas Nicholls. Rather general within a few days.

Red-throated Loon: Noted at the usual Ozaukee County concentration point between Apr. 6 and May 5 (Dennis Gustafson). No other reports.

Red-necked Grebe: May 2 observed in Douglas County by Richard F. Bernard and Marvin Granlund.

Horned Grebe: Observed in Brown County March 31 (Cleary & Paulson). Still present at Loon Bluff, Ozaukee County May 5 (Gustafson). Reports from seven other counties. Fewer observations this year and smaller numbers.

Eared Grebe: One near Roberts, St. Croix Co., on May 30 (Sam Robbins). It is observed there almost annually and is the only report for the season.

Pied-billed Grebe: First noted March 3 in Waukesha County (David Bratley); March 10 in Menominee County (Katharine Rill); northern tier of counties not reached until the first week in April.

White Pelican: No reports.

Double-crested Cormorant: Present April 18 in Burnett County at Crex Meadows (Bernard). Present in April in six other counties: April 19, in Monroe (Gustafson) and Pierce (Robbins) counties. (Robbins observed a flock of 32 passing up the Mississippi at Prescott); Waushara County April 26-27 (Chipman); Marinette County April 27 (H. L. Lindberg); April 27 in Burnett County (N. R. Stone); April 28 in Wood County (Foster & Wood) when eleven were seen on Petenwell Flowage.

Great Blue Heron: First observation March 18 in Milwaukee (Elmer Strehlow). Well distributed over the state by the end of March. April 6, in Burnett County Tom Nicholls observed 35 sitting on nests in the rookery at Crex Meadows.

Common Egret: Fifteen observations from 12 counties, the first being March 23 in Jefferson County (Richard Sharp); March 29 in Pierce County (Robbins); Winnebago County April 11 (Wm. Hilsenhoff). Reached as far north as Burnett County on May 2 (Stone).

Snowy Egret: No reports.

Little Blue Heron: Two reports. April 6-9 in Milwaukee (Mary Donald); in Waukesha County, May 13 one adult in full plumage seen by David Bratley 5 miles north of Eagle.

Cattle Egret: Three reports. A photograph of a flock of 5 appeared in the Racine Journal-Times, observed near Racine around May 1 (fide Nancy S. Barkley). May 4, one observed near School Lake—Hwy. 135 by Dick Sharp. May 9, one observed by Carl Richter in Oconto County. It was a first for Oconto County. Bird was weak and barely able to fly (all field marks).

Green Heron: Eight April reports. First observed was April 13 in Dane County (Hilsenhoff). North-central counties not reached until the first week in May. Well scattered by mid-May.

Black-crowned Night Heron: Eleven reports from 9 counties. First noted April 7 at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Gustafson) and in Milwaukee County (Strehlow). May 12 in Brown County (Cleary & Paulson).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Returned to Milwaukee nesting grounds by May 12 (Gustafson). One young carefully identified at Goose Pond in Columbia County on May 30 also by Gustafson.

American Bittern: March 17, Waushara County (Chipman); April 4, Winnebago County (Tessen); April 17, Burnett County (Stone); May 4, Lincoln County (Donald Hendrick). Pair nested behind the school in marsh for the 3rd year.

Least Bittern: Only one report. May 15, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Whistling Swan: First noted in Brown County March 2 (Cleary & Paulson); March 16 in Brown County (Rockne Knuth) says numbers were down on Lake Winnebago at Fond du Lac. The spring concentrations in the Fox River Valley area seemed smaller and of shorter duration than usual, perhaps because water areas farther north opened up earlier. Fewer than usual were also recorded in the northwest.

Canada Goose: First report March 5 of bird flying over the frozen lake at Wautoma (Chipman). It may have been a bird wintering at springs. Some reports on bigger lakes the second week in March. March 16 observed at Horicon (Barger). Peak flights April 15-22. A pair observed on Eldorado Marsh, Fond du Lac County May 14 a possible nesting pair.

White-fronted Goose: A bird with an injured wing was present at Green Bay, March 3-17 (Tom Erdman et al).

Snow Goose: Seven reports from six counties. Earliest March 16 in Brown County (Rockne Knuth). Six observed at Horicon Marsh March 23 (Gustafson).

Blue Goose: Nine reports from 8 counties. Earliest in Waukesha County March 10 (Mrs. Paul Hoffman); 16 sighted in Outagamie County April 15 (Tessen). A Blue-Snow Goose hybrid at Racine (a wintering bird) and still present March 16 (Gustafson).

Mallard: Major flights March 30-April 15. Reported as 'common as usual' in Lincoln County (Hendrick). May 25, Marinette County (Richter) reported a brood of young.

Black Duck: Peak migration date March 8. No comments on abundance.

Gadwall: Some wintered in Dane County (Hilsenhoff) also in Milwaukee (Donald). Peak migration April 28. May 14 a pair was observed in Fond du Lac County (Knuth).

Pintail: Two wintered in Milwaukee (Donald) and also in Winnebago County (Tessen). Migration peaks March 31, April 27-28. Last observation in Brown County April 28 (Cleary & Paulson).

Green-winged Teal: Most migrants arrived the third week in March. Peak migration dates April 16-20 and April 26-27. A pair at Fond du Lac May 14 (Knuth). Last observation date May 29 at Crex Meadows (Bernard).

Blue-winged Teal: First observation March 8, Jefferson County (Stock); March 20, LaCrosse County (Jerome Rosso). In Lincoln County numbers were down somewhat (Hendrick). Many found nesting in Marinette County (Lindberg).

American Widgeon: Observed in Iowa County March 8 (Hilsenhoff); March 14 in LaCrosse (F. Z. Leshner); March 19 in Burnett County (Stone); April 13 (7) in Bayfield County (Bratley). Still present in Winnebago County May 29 (Tessen) and still present at the end of the season in Columbia County (Hilsenhoff).

Shoveler: Observed March 17 in Fond du Lac (Knuth) and LaCrosse (Rosso); March 23 in Winnebago County (Tessen) who says they were unusually abundant. April 11 in Bayfield County (Granlund).

Wood Duck: Observed March 17 in St. Croix County (Olson); March 19 in Rock County (Melva Maxson); March 24 in Douglas County (Granlund). In Oconto County, three nests were found May 6-11. One with 22 eggs (Richter).

Redhead: Observed in LaCrosse County March 20 (Rosso); Douglas County April 11 (Granlund); Brown County April 18 (Cleary & Paulson); migration peak April 27. Two males present in Fond du Lac County May 11 (Knuth); still present the end of the season in Douglas County (Bernard).

Ring-necked Duck: Observed March 14 in LaCrosse County (Leshner); March 24 in Winnebago County (Tessen); March 30 in Douglas County (Bernard).

Canvasback: Present March 1 in Outagamie County—very early (Alfred S. Bradford); March 25 in Rock County (Maxson); March 29 in St. Croix County (Robbins); April 11 in Douglas County (Granlund) and still present there on May 31 (Bernard).

Greater Scaup: Arrived in Jefferson, Fond du Lac and Brown counties March 17; April 18 in Burnett County at Crex Meadows and still present there May 29 (Bernard); May 2, two were positively identified in Milwaukee County (Gustafson).

Lesser Scaup: Arrived in Price County April 7 (Alice Vincent) and a flock of 500 seen there April 14; April 27 an albino with a normal flock was seen in Door County (Adrian Freitag)—it stayed about a week. Peak migration dates April 14-15 and April 27.

Common Goldeneye: Well spread over the state by March 19. Peak migration dates March 13-17 and March 22-27.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Male carefully observed in Manitowoc County, March 5 (John Kraupa).

Bufflehead: Observed March 13 in LaCrosse County (Rosso); March 27 in Lincoln County (Hendrick); March 19 in Burnett County (Stone); March 31 in Douglas County (Granlund). Peak migration dates April 7, 10 and 27. They did not appear in Vilas County until May 11 (very late) (Alfred Bradford). Two still present in Milwaukee May 2 (Gustafson) and in St. Croix County May 15 (Robbins).

Oldsquaw: Observations from Kenosha, Manitowoc and Milwaukee counties. More than 70 were observed March 10 at Manitowoc (Knuth). Departure date for Kenosha was March 24 (James Hamers).

White-winged Scoter: Six observed March 28 in Ozaukee County (Gustafson) and one also observed by him April 6 at Loon Bluff; 20 birds on April 10 (Tessen).

Surf Scoter: Only one observation. April 30 two seen in Douglas County by Bernard.

Common Scoter: Only observation by Rockne Knuth in Fond du Lac County on May 11-12.

Ruddy Duck: Migrants well spread out over central counties by the last week in March. Migration peak April 27-28. A male present in Price County April 14 (Vincent).

Hooded Merganser: Present in Brown (Cleary & Paulson) and Iowa (Hilsenhoff) counties March 8; Lincoln County March 27 (Hendrick)—"greater in numbers than in past 6 years". No agreement on migration dates.

Common Merganser: Present in Douglas County March 19 (Granlund); Bayfield County April 13 (Bratley). Peak migration dates March 13 and March 20. Departure date March 10 Kenosha County (Hamers), April 19, Winnebago (Tessen) and St. Croix (Robbins) counties.

Red-breasted Merganser: Present in most usual areas the last week in March. An adult seen with 8 young May 31 in Price County (Chipman).

Turkey Vulture: First observation March 31 in LaCrosse County (Rosso); present in most counties the second week in April.

Goshawk: Eight reports from 8 counties. First observation in Brown County March 6 (Cleary & Paulson); March 16 in Oconto and Forest Counties (Richter). Charles Sindelar found an active nest in northwestern Wisconsin. Female on eggs. Details lacking of time and place.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Reached most breeding areas by March 31.

Cooper's Hawk: Three observed in Lincoln County March 25 (Hendrick); seen in Douglas County April 4 (Granlund).

Red-tailed Hawk: Observed in Lincoln County March 16 (Hendrick) 2 days earlier than previous years; Burnett County April 5 (Stone); Barron County March 23 (Alta Goff).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Observed in Marinette County March 24 (Lindberg); a nest observed in Waukesha County (Bielefeldt) May 5.

Broad-winged Hawk: Observed in Milwaukee County April 10 (Donald); Price County April 11 (Vincent); Douglas County April 17 (Granlund and Bernard). In Milwaukee County, 110 observed April 20-21 (Gustafson) and 189 on April 21 (Strehlow). In Fond du Lac County an immature seen May 25 (Knuth).

Rough-legged Hawk: First northern observation March 3 in Oconto County (Richter); March 8 in Burnett County (Stone); March 12 in St. Croix County (Robbins). Latest departure date May 19 in Outagamie County (Tessen).

Bald Eagle: 21 reports. Donald Hendrick in Lincoln County observed 2 on March 2 and on March 7. Saw them on four other occasions. Says prospects look good and believes these were four pairs as they were in widely separated areas. One over the city of Waukesha May 5 (Les Compton).

Marsh Hawk: Observed in Burnett County March 8 (Stone); Price County March 18 (Maybelle Hardy); 13 seen in Burnett County at Crex Meadows April 6 (Nicholls); reported as scarce in Milwaukee County (Donald).

Osprey: Early arrivals noted on April 6 in Manitowoc County, April 11 (Lylene Scholz), April 7 at La Crosse (Rosso), and Burnett County, April 11 (Stone).

Peregrine Falcon: Burnett County on April 18 (Bernard) and April 26 (Bernard) and April 26 (Stone); St. Croix County on April 30 (Robbins); Milwaukee on May 5 (Lisa Decker); Dodge County on May 12 (Tessen).

Pigeon Hawk: Active nest discovered in Oneida County in early May, where a pair nested in 1967 (Sindelar). Four other scattered reports.

Sparrow Hawk: Arrived in almost all northern counties by the last week in March. In Lincoln County Donald Hendrick said arrival, April 17 about as usual but greater in numbers. On April 21 sighted ten within a 2.5 mile stretch of road. On April 9 Thomas Nicholls sighted 15 on Hwy. 8.

Ruffed Grouse: Very few reports from southern counties but good reports from northern areas.

Prairie Chicken: Two reports from Waushara County, April 7 (Ashman) and April 11 (Leshner) when 26 were seen at the Hamerstrom Booming Ground; 21 seen on April 19 in Portage County (Gustafson) and 1 in Adams County.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Four reports. In Burnett County, peak April 28 (Stone), April 18 at Crex Meadows (Bernard), Douglas County March 23 (Bernard) and 1 seen in Price County May 1, in Chequamegon Nat'l Forest (Nicholls).

Gray Partridge: Eleven reports from ten counties. April 3, in Rock County (Gyda Mahlum), May 28, two were seen on Hwy. 51 in Waushara County (Hilsenhoff)—the farthest west he has seen this species. Twice reported in St. Croix County in May (Steve Goddard and Robbins).

Bobwhite: Only 9 reports—none north of Waushara County.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Reported from thirteen counties.

Turkey: Two reports. April 10 in Juneau County (Bernard Zager), May 23 in Clark County (Virginia Seiling).

Sandhill Crane: Four March reports. March 19, Waupaca County (Rill), March 25, Waushara County (Chipman), March 23, Jefferson County (Sharp) and March 29 Burnett County (Stone).

King Rail: Two reports. May 25, Ozaukee County (Donald) and May 28 (Gustafson).

Virginia Rail: Fifteen reports. Four April reports: April 28 Burnett County (Stone), April 29 Douglas County (Bernard), April 30 Dane County (Ashman) and Fond du Lac County (Knuth).

Sora Rail: Earliest report, April 13 in Winnebago County (Tessen); April 19 Dane County (Evelyn Werner), and April 27 Burnett County (Stone).

Yellow Rail: Two reports. May 9 in Marinette County in marsh along the bay (Lindberg) and May 16 in Oconto County (Richter)—first heard this year.

Common Gallinule: Two April reports from Horicon marsh, April 6 one found dead (in spring plumage) and April 27, one alive (Gustafson). The bird found dead was only a day off from tying the state arrival record. Two in Winnebago County on April 30 were also early (Tessen).

Coot: Well scattered over the state by April 15.

Semipalmated Plover: Two earliest birds reported May 8 from St. Croix County (Robbins) and Marinette County (Lindberg), May 9 in Dane County (Hilsenhoff) and on May 11 in Fond du Lac (Knuth), Outagamie (Tessen) and Douglas (Bernard) counties.

Piping Plover: Two reports. In Douglas County, two sighted May 11 and again on May 24 (Bernard); Brown County May 18 (Ashman).

Killdeer: Earliest observation March 7 in Waushara County (Chipman), Kenosha County March 8 (J. Hamers) and in many counties on March 9. Reached the northern tier of counties by the last week in March.

Golden Plover: Five observations. The earliest April 28 in Brown County (Cleary and Paulson), May 8 (5) in La Crosse (Leshner), May 9 in Columbia County (Hilsenhoff), May 14, Fond du Lac County (Knuth) and May 19 in Milwaukee (Donald).

Black-bellied Plover: Thirteen observations from 10 counties. Earliest report from Brown County May 6 (Cleary & Paulson); had reached Douglas County by May 19 (Bernard). Latest reports from Winnebago County, May 30 when 35 were sighted (Tessen) and Columbia County (6) by Gustafson.

Ruddy Turnstone: May 11 in Douglas County. Still present there and in Winnebago County (Tessen) at the end of the period.

Woodcock: Earliest reports from Dane County, March 21 (Ashman) and March 23 (Hilsenhoff); reached most central counties by March 28 which was the peak migration date; Lincoln County April 6 (Hendrick), he says, "about one week earlier than last year". Heard and seen in flight on April 1 in Oconto County (Richter) and on May 16 a nest found with 4 eggs.

Common Snipe: Reached Burnett County April 1 (Stone), Price County, April 12 (Vincent); peak migration dates April 18 and April 26-27. In Lincoln County it arrived on April 12 (Hendrick) and was one week earlier than last year.

Upland Plover: First observed in Winnebago County April 17 (Natzke), Portage County April 19 (Gustafson), Douglas County by May 11 (Bernard).

Spotted Sandpiper: One on April 21 in Marinette County (Lindberg) is early.

Solitary Sandpiper: Earliest report April 21 in Ozaukee County (Gustafson), several other sightings April 27-29. Last observation in Milwaukee County May 24 also by Gustafson.

Willet: Six reports from 4 counties. May 13, Dane County in University Bay (Wood); May 16, Fond du Lac County (Knuth); May 19, Milwaukee County (Gustafson); May 19, Winnebago County (Tessen); and May 20, Milwaukee County two sighted on pond near Hales Corners (Donald).

Greater Yellowlegs: First observed in Milwaukee County March 31 (Gustafson), April 5 in Dane (Werner) and St. Croix (Robbins) counties, April 4, two seen in Waukesha County (Bratley). Still present in Dane County May 20 (Bielefeldt) and in Douglas County at the end of the period (Bernard).

Lesser Yellowlegs: One seen in Dodge County on March 24 (Tessen) broke the state arrival record by one day, subsequently observed in St. Croix County April 5 (Robbins), April 6 in Outagamie County (Tessen) and La Crosse County (Leshner), April 11 in Burnett County (Stone). Still present in Dane and Douglas counties May 29 and Winnebago County May 30 (Tessen).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Another state record-breaker noted in Milwaukee County March 15 (Donald); later noted March 30, Columbia County (Gustafson), April 5, St. Croix County (Robbins); present in Brown County May 6-12.

White-rumped Sandpiper: First observation May 11 in Columbia County (Dryers). Fewer reports than last year.

Baird's Sandpiper: Earliest report from Douglas County on May 11 (Bernard). Eight reports. Still present in Dane County May 29.

Least Sandpiper: First reports May 3 from Columbia County (Bratley) and in St. Croix County (Robbins). Many scattered reports from May 8-12.

Dunlin: First observed May 9 in Columbia County (Hilsenhoff). Present in unusually large numbers in Winnebago, Fond du Lac and Brown Counties (Tessen).

Dowitcher: 25 in Fond du Lac County on May 17 (Tessen); 16 in St. Croix County on May 15 (Robbins); scattered reports at ten other locations.

Silt Sandpiper: More reports than usual. Two separate birds seen May 15-16 in St. Croix County (Robbins & Goddard), May 16 in Columbia County (Sharp), May 9 and 12 also in Columbia County (Hilsenhoff), one bird observed with a broken wing there May 18 (Gustafson). Five other reports from southern counties.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: No April observations. Observed in four counties May 11. Peak migration date May 15. Still present in Dane County June 15 (Hilsenhoff).

Hudsonian Godwit: Three observations from Dane County May 17-20 (Ashman, Bielefeldt, & Wood). May 14 in Racine County and May 18 in Columbia County, both in complete spring plumage (Gustafson). Another May observation in Ozaukee County (Harold Koopman).

Sanderling: Earliest date noted was May 11 at Lake Marion near Mazomanie by Earl Loyster (fide Barger). Most observations between May 16-22.

American Avocet: One near Eau Claire on May 18 (fide Charles Kemper) photographed by Paul Blanchard.

Wilson's Phalarope: First observation in LaCrosse County April 28 (Rosso), Winnebago (Tessen) and Jefferson (Sharp) counties on May 4. Still present in Douglas County at the end of the period.

Northern Phalarope: Six observations, five from Dane County. Wm. Hilsenhoff comments: "The abundance of Northern Phalaropes this season needs comment. There were 6 in Madison May 20; their numbers reached a peak of 10 on May 23; and 2 remained until May 31. I also saw 5 at Goose Pond on May 28 (there were still 7 in Madison), and on May 22 I was surprised to find a flock of 14 swimming in Lake Pepin (Pepin County) about a mile from shore".

Black-legged Kittiwake: A real find! April 14 at LaCrosse an immature sighted (Leshner) and subsequently collected.

Herring Gull: Large movements March 12 and 28 and April 25-27.

Ring-billed Gull: Two northward movements noted: March 19 and April 1. 60 noted in Winnebago County on June 2 (Tessen).

Franklin's Gull: Three observations. Milwaukee County April 7 (Donald), St. Croix County May 22 (Robbins) and Columbia County May 27 (Hilsenhoff).

Bonaparte's Gull: Present in several counties April 7. Major movement May 28. 1500 in Bay in Douglas County (Bernard) on May 7.

Forster's Tern: A bird at Fond du Lac on April 11 (Knuth) was two days earlier than the previous state arrival record. Present in Douglas County at the end of the period (Bernard).

Common Tern: First observation April 15 in Milwaukee County (Strehlow). Present in Burnett County at Crex Meadows May 29 (Bernard).

Caspian Tern: First report in Brown County April 26 (Cleary & Paulson), Marinette County April 27 (Lindberg), Milwaukee County May 20 (Gustafson), May 23 Pepin County (Robbins). Present May 9 in Douglas County and still present May 29—"more than usual" (Bernard).

Black Tern: No April reports. Observed May 3 in Waukesha County (Bratley).

Ringed Turtle Dove: Observed during March and April in Milwaukee County by Oscar Lemke and Dennis Gustafson.

Mourning Dove: Migration dates are hard to determine because of numerous winter residents. But Harold Mathiak reports a remarkably early nesting at Horicon: nest construction by March 22, with two eggs being incubated by March 25.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: First noted in Dane County May 15 (Ashman); generally well spread over the state by the last week in May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Appeared in Dane County May 11 (Ashman & Gustafson), Marinette County May 19 (Lindberg) and reported as scarce in Milwaukee County (Donald).

Screech Owl: Noted in Door County in the gray phase April 3 (Charlotte McComb). April 8 in Brown County where it nested (Fr. Wierzbicki).

Great Horned Owl: Ashman reports from Dane County of a nest with young on March 15.

Snowy Owl: Remained in Outagamie County until April 6 (Tessen), Portage County until April 10 (Joan Williams), and Brown County until May 3 (Cleary).

Burrowing Owl: A probable sighting at an airstrip in LaCrosse (Leshner) May 28.

Barred Owl: Observed at Cedarburg Bog, Ozaukee County, at least through April—probably nesting as usual (Gustafson); May 30, 4 owlets observed 15 miles E. of Park Falls (Gayle Tryggeseth).

Long-eared Owl: Observed in Dane County March 16 (Chauncey Wood), and Douglas County May 11 (Bernard).

Short-eared Owl: Three observations. Burnett County April 1 (Stone), Dodge County March 15 (Hilsenhoff), Portage County May 2 (Vincent Heig), and Douglas County March 28 (Granlund).

Saw-whet Owl: No reports.

Whip-poor-will: Milwaukee County April 22 (Sybil La Budde and Mary Donald). May 30 a nest found with two eggs in St. Croix County (Olson).

Nighthawk: Eight reports from 8 different counties, May 8-11, indicate this species was about a week early in arriving.

Chimney Swift: Also early were two birds in Sheboygan County on April 12 (Gustafson).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Earliest report May 6 at Milwaukee (Strehlow). May 13-14, in the city of Oconto 25-30 birds observed in bushes at one time (Richter). In Barron County by May 13 (Goff).

Belted Kingfisher: Northern push of migrants was the period April 16-19.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: Noted in Burnett County March 11 (Helen Caldwell) and reported as 'numerous' in Vilas County April 17 (Nicholls).

Red-shafted Flicker: Reported in the BADGER BIRDER of one seen in April at North Lake by Mr. Sims. No further information.

Pileated Woodpecker: Much nesting activity reported in Forest and Oconto Counties April 18-May 6 (Richter). Three nests reported by Alice Vincent in Price County.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Farthest northern counties reporting were Brown and Marinette.

Red-headed Woodpecker: General movement of this species April 29, May 2 and 10. Reported as 'not common in area' from Lincoln County, May 11 (Hendrick).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: First noted in Fond du Lac County, March 16 (Knuth); March , in Rock County (Mrs. John Brakefield); March 29 in Pierce County (Robbins); and April 13 in Price County (Hardy). Migration peak April 17.

Hairy Woodpecker: Reported as numerous in Waushara County (Chipman), but reported none seen all spring in Winnebago (Natzke) and Lincoln (Hendrick) counties.

Downy Woodpecker: From Lincoln County, May 4, only one seen (Hendrick) and from Waushara County (Chipman)—'fewer in numbers'.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: Douglas County March 2 (Granlund) and May 11 (Bernard), and Milwaukee, April 19 (Oscar Lemke).

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: Noteworthy was a sighting March 10 in Douglas County (Granlund).

Eastern Kingbird: April 29, one seen at LaCrosse (Leshner), May 1 at Fond du Lac (Knuth). Well spread over the state by the second week in May.

Western Kingbird: For the 8th consecutive year, Sam Robbins sighted one in St. Croix County May 15. No other reports.

Crested Flycatcher: Reported May 4 in Dane (Hilsenhoff) and Outagamie (Tessen) counties. Well distributed by mid-month.

Eastern Phoebe: Reported from many counties March 27-30. Generally well-spread by the end of the first week in April.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First noted in Brown County, May 21 (Fr. Wierzbicki). Most-northern county reporting was St. Croix (Robbins) on May 27. Still present in Chippewa County on May 31 (Kemper).

Acadian Flycatcher: On May 25, two heard singing in the Kettle Moraine area in Fond du Lac County (Knuth) and in Rock County (Mahlum), Sauk County May 26 (Tessen) and May 30 (2) at Honey Creek (Gustafson).

Traill's Flycatcher: First noted in Sauk County May 5 (Bratley), Chippewa County May 11 (Kemper), Brown County May 12 (Cleary & Paulson) and Douglas May 31 (Bernard).

Least Flycatcher: Earliest report in LaCrosse County May 2 (Leshner) and in St. Croix County May 3 (Robbins).

Wood Pewee: A remarkably early bird (state record-breaker) noted in Milwaukee April 12, identified by both sight and sound (Gustafson). From Lincoln County (Hendrick) "none seen or heard all spring".

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First noted in Brown County May 12 (Cleary & Paulson), Milwaukee County May 19 (Donald), and in Douglas County May 30 (Bernard).

Horned Lark: "Observed a few throughout period"—Winnebago County (Natzke). In Fond du Lac County, April 19 a nest found with 2 young (Knuth).

Tree Swallow: Appeared in most southern counties the last week in May but also in Burnett County. Three in Winnebago County on March 23 (Tessen) were unusually early.

Bank Swallow: First noted in Winnebago County April 13 (Tessen) and in Vernon County April 15 (Weber). Appeared in most counties the third week in April.

Rough-winged Swallow: First observation April 12 in Ozaukee County (Gustafson). April 13 in Winnebago County (Tessen) and April 15 in Waukesha County (Bratley). Well spread over the state by the last week in April.

Barn Swallow: First noted in Winnebago County April 13 (Tessen) and in Outagamie County April 1 (Tessen). Present in Burnett County April 18 (Stone).

Cliff Swallow: Three April dates: April 24, Waupaca County (Rill), April 28 Jefferson County (Sharp) and April 29, Lincoln County (Hendrick). Migration peak May 20.

Purple Martin: March 29, two sightings: Rock County (Melva Maxson) and Waushara County (Chipman). Well distributed over the state by April 19.

Gray Jay: Six observations in Forest and Florence County during April and May (Richter), Ashland County May 5 (Nicholls) and in Price County (Vincent & Hardy) find them all year.

Bluejay: Major flights April 28-30, May 1-2, May 15, May 20-22. Very few stayed in Waushara County last winter.

Raven: In Forest County Richter had several nests under observation from March 3-May 5. Two observed in Menominee County May 18 (Gene Roark).

Crow: Major flights March 6, March 13-17 and March 25.

Black-capped Chickadee: Major flights March 6, April 26.

Boreal Chickadee: Only one observation. Forest County April 21 five were sighted by (Richter).

Tufted Titmouse: It is interesting how this bird has worked his way north. Present during the period in St. Croix County (Robbins). No far north reports.

White-breasted Nuthatch: Concern felt for this species. Lincoln County—(Hendrick) 'seen only through latter part of March'; Winnebago County (Natzke)—'none seen at all'. They are plentiful, however, in Waushara County.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Remarkably scarce. Only four reports south of their usual breeding range.

Brown Creeper: Also scarce. Elmer Strehlow of Milwaukee cites a peak on April 7 when 18 were observed. "Missed entirely"—(Robbins) in St. Croix County. Richter found four nests with eggs in Oconto County which is heartening.

House Wren: One very early bird at Appleton on April 11 (Tessen)—singing in yard.

Winter Wren: Fourteen reports from 11 counties. One still present in Sauk County May 30 (Gustafson)—a possible nesting.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: Earliest arrivals May 4 in Dane (Hilsenhoff) and in Winnebago (Tessen) counties. Well wide-spread the third week in May.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: Five arrivals on May 11 in five wide-spread counties.

Mockingbird: Present at LaCrosse from May 1 on, with a nest discovered on May 16 (Rosso); an earlier bird March 24 at Kenosha (Dearolf); April 1, Kenosha County (Hamers); May 8, in Washburn County (Goff) and in Racine, May 30 (Barkley).

Catbird: Noted April 30 in Waukesha (Hoffmann) and Waushara (Chipman) counties. Peak migration dates May 15-19.

Brown Thrasher: Peak migration date May 1-4 and May 15. From Lincoln County, it arrived April 12—the earliest since 1963 and common there by May 11.

Robin: N. R. Barger reports Mrs. David Perry of Shiocton observed a white robin on April 10. Peak migration dates March 28-April 2. A first hatch observed May 9 in Lincoln County (Hendrick).

Varied Thrush: The wintering bird in Sawyer County was last seen April 6 (Mrs. Perkins). One was sighted at Brule, Douglas County, April 24 (Bernard Klugow), for a late state record.

Wood Thrush: Arrived in several counties May 4. Peak migration dates May 15 and May 25.

Hermit Thrush: Early arrivals on March 5 in Kenosha County (James Hamers) and on March 16 in Dane County (Wood). Common the second week in April. Peak migration April 13-18.

Swainson's Thrush: Observed in Brown County May 2 (Cleary and Paulson) and in most other counties by May 15. Peak migration dates May 15-18 and May 31.

Gray-checked Thrush: Noted in Dane County May 3 (Hilsenhoff); in most central and northern counties by mid-May. Still present on May 31 in several southern counties.

Veery: One heard in Dane County March 30 (Werner); arrived in most counties May 7-11. Still present in Milwaukee May 25 (Gustafson).

Eastern Bluebird: Present in Milwaukee County March 11 (Gustafson) and in most central counties by March 15. Arrived in Lincoln County March 25 (Hendrick) who says there is an increase over last year.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: This is one bird to watch with interest as it is definitely moving northward. Margarita Cuff of Portage observed the nest building there on April 29 and says they are more abundant. At least five pairs in St. Croix County (Olson).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Quite common the last week of March. Several reports on the May counts.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First noted in Milwaukee County, April 1 (Strehlow). He also observed about 200 April 21-23. Still present in Milwaukee May 31 (Donald). Unusually late.

Water Pipit: Many more reports than usual during May, including a flock of 58 near Fond du Lac on May 7 (Knuth).

Northern Shrike: Present in Winnebago (Tessen) and Marinette (Lindberg) counties at the beginning of the season, and departure date as March 23. Present in Douglas County April 7 (Granlund).

Loggerhead Shrike: Reported as very scarce in Outagamie County (Tessen). Noted in St. Croix County April 25 (Robbins), in Dodge County April 27 (Gustafson), Columbia County May 21 (Hilsenhoff) and in Sauk County May 26 (Sharp).

White-eyed Vireo: One observed by Chauncey Wood in Dane County at Picnic Point in Madison May 5.

Bell's Vireo: Late May observations in Dane (Gustafson), Rock (Tom Ellis), LaCrosse (Leshner) and Trempealeau (Peter Tweet) counties, apparently repeaters from previous years.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Observed in St. Croix County May 2 (Robbins), Dane County May 4 (Hilsenhoff), May 5 in Rock (Mahlum) and LaCrosse (Rosso) counties.

Solitary Vireo: Noted in Dane County May 3 (Hilsenhoff), May 5 in Brown County (Fr. Wierzbicki) and May 29 in Burnett County (Bernard). Still present in Milwaukee County May 25 (Gustafson).

Red-eyed Vireo: Quite common in south and central counties by May 11. Present in Vilas County May 27 (Bradford).

Philadelphia Vireo: Observed in five widely separated counties on May 15.

Warbling Vireo: Appeared in several counties May 2-5.

Black-and-white Warbler: Appeared in St. Croix (Robbins) and Brown (Fr. Wierzbicki) counties May 2. A good flight noted in Milwaukee May 12 (Strehlow).

Prothonotary Warbler: First noted in Milwaukee County May 9 (Donald) and in Brown County May 10 (Cleary & Paulson).

Worm-eating Warbler: Three observations. Waukesha County, May 11 (Bielefeldt), Dane County May 18 (Hilsenhoff) and in Milwaukee County May 30 (Lisa Decker).

Golden-winged Warbler: Noted in Milwaukee (Donald) and St. Croix (Robbins) counties May 2. Well distributed over the state by May 15.

Blue-winged Warbler: Three reports from Dane County May 5. Noted in Brown County May 10 (Cleary & Paulson).

Brewster's Warbler: Observed in Dane County May 19 (Chauncey Wood).

Tennessee Warbler: First noted in Vernon County May 6 (Weber), Waushara County May 17 (Chipman), Douglas County May 30. Still present in Dane County June 1.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Noted April 28 in Dane County (Ashman), observed May 5 in several areas, May 20, Chippewa County (Charles Kemper).

Nashville Warbler: Observed in Dane (Bielefeldt) and Ozaukee (Gustafson) counties April 27 is slightly early. Migration dates May 3 and May 8.

Parula Warbler: Noted in Dane County May 3 (Hilsenhoff) and is earlier than last year. Well distributed by the second week in May.

Yellow Warbler: Observed April 28 in Dane County (Ashman). Found nesting in Brown County May 12 (Fr. Wierzbicki). Migration dates May 15 and 24.

Magnolia Warbler: A bird in Waukesha County (Emma Hoffmann) April 27 is early.

Cape May Warbler: Observed May 4 in Dane County (Bielefeldt); well dispersed by May 15. Peak migration dates, May 14, 18 and 24. Still present in Rock County on May 30.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Eight reports. May 8 in Brown County (Fr. Wierzbicki).

Myrtle Warbler: Well distributed in the period May 15-20.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Appeared in Dane County April 25 (Hilsenhoff) and Milwaukee, April 30 (Gustafson).

Cerulean Warbler: Reports from ten counties as far north as Brown, May 19 (Cleary & Paulson) and Pierce, May 23 (Robbins).

Blackburnian Warbler: Appeared in Brown, Dane and Milwaukee counties May 7. Well distributed by May 15.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Appeared in Jefferson County May 4 (Sharp) and in seven counties during the period May 7-9. Peak migration dates May 15, 25 and 28.

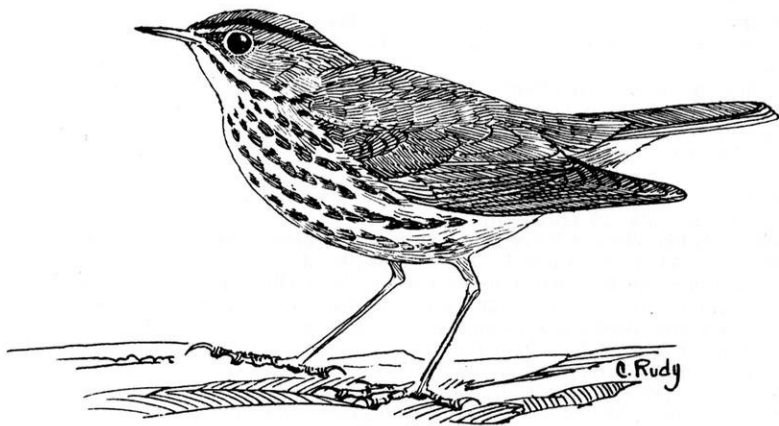
Bay-breasted Warbler: Noted in Milwaukee County May 8 (Strehlow); most other counties by the 15th. Still present in Dane County June 3.

Blackpoll Warbler: Appeared in Rock County May 9 (Mahlum). Peak migration dates, May 15 and 30.

Pine Warbler: Five observations from five counties: Brown, May 12 (Cleary & Paulson), Douglas May 11 (Bernard), Manitowoc May 15 (Mrs. Paul Albrecht), Sauk May 18 (Gustafson) and Rock County May 23 (Mrs. John Brakefield).

Palm Warbler: A shockingly early bird at Lake Geneva, Mar. 24-27 (Brother Jude) broke the state arrival record by two weeks; carefully observed and described.

Ovenbird: Appeared May 2 in Brown County (Cleary & Paulson); well distributed by mid-month.



OVENBIRD

Northern Waterthrush: Noted in Dane County April 25 (Hilsenhoff) and in St. Croix County, April 28—heard and seen well.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Observed in Sauk County April 17 (Hilsenhoff). A bird in Menominee County May 26 at Peavy Falls and identified by Dr. J. Zimmerman (Mrs. L. M. Fenton).

Kentucky Warbler: May 11 in Sauk County (Ashman) and Grant County (Gustafson).

Connecticut Warbler: First observation in Manitowoc County May 8 (Mrs. Lylene Scholz)—in most other counties by the last week in May.

Mourning Warbler: Noted May 4 in Winnebago County (Tessen), May 9 in Rock County (Brakefield), May 17, 31, Chippewa County and in Douglas County May 31.

Yellowthroat: Noted April 30 in Dane County (Ashman). Well scattered by May 11.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Observed in Dane County May 18 (Hilsenhoff), Sauk County May 18 (Gustafson) and separate birds in the Milwaukee area on May 25 and 26 (Donald).

Wilson's Warbler: Noted in Milwaukee May 8 (Strehlow), and in most northern counties by May 21.

Canada Warbler: First observation in Brown County (Fr. Wierzbicki). Peak migration date May 30.

Redstart: Present in several counties May 8-9. Peak migration dates May 12-14 and May 30. In Marinette County, a nest found about finished on May 30 (Richter).

Bobolink: First noted in St. Croix County May 2 (Robbins). Well distributed by mid-May.

Western Meadowlark: Present in Waushara County March 8 (Chipman), Brown County March 18 (Cleary & Paulson) and Douglas County April 17 (Bernard).

Yellowheaded Blackbird: The St. Croix County population appears to be much enlarged, with an estimated 100 pairs on one marsh alone (Robbins); other western Wisconsin sightings include one in Washburn County May 11 (Roark), one in Pierce County May 23 (Robbins), six in Trempealeau County May 25 (Roark) and in Douglas County May 31 (Bernard). In Burnett County, May 29, there were many—nearly outnumbering the Redwings (Bernard).

Redwinged Blackbird: The northward move was March 16-19. In Marinette and Oconto Counties Richter found several nests with eggs during the period May 19-22.

Orchard Oriole: Seven reports received. May 5 in Waukesha (Bielefeldt), May 11 in Milwaukee (Donald) and in St. Croix County May 30 (Robbins).

Baltimore Oriole: An early arrival in Brown County April 21 (Cleary & Paulson), April 27 in Milwaukee (Strehlow & Lemke) also Kenosha County (Hamers). On May 8 in Outagamie County Alfred Bradford reports there was a big influx mostly, if not entirely, males. May 24 cited as another big wave in several areas.

Rusty Blackbird: Migration dates March 26 and April 7. Still present in Waushara County (Chipman) May 11.

Brewer's Blackbird: Present in Marathon County March 28 (Hilsenhoff), Lincoln County April 9 (Hendrick) and Douglas County April 17 (Bernard). Migration dates April 16, April 27 and May 2.

Common Grackle: Observed March 27 in Burnett County (Stone), Price County March 28 (Vincent) and April 13 in Bayfield County (Bratley). Migration dates March 16-21 and March 25-30.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Noted in Brown County March 8 (Cleary & Paulson), March 30 in Lincoln County (Hendrick)—a week earlier than usual. Migration dates April 11-13 and April 21.

Scarlet Tanager: Appeared in the southern tier of counties May 4-9. May 11 in Outagamie County (Tessen) and reported as unusually common this spring. May 18 in Vilas County, Alfred Bradford and his partner saw a migration of them—at least 6 males and 6 females.

Cardinal: In Waushara County a nest with 4 young on April 26 (Chipman). All fledged and banded except one which bounced out of the net. The Cardinal nest was relined and used by a Catbird.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Large flights of these birds observed. First noted in Kenosha County April 27 (Hamers); May 2 in Dane, St. Croix and Vernon Counties. Noted in the northern tier of counties by May 9. Major flights May 7-8, May 15-20.

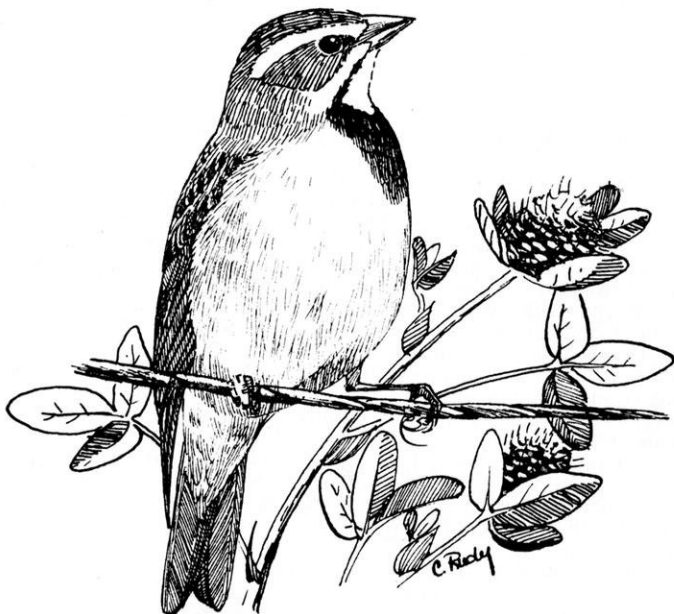
Blue Grosbeak: A real find! Three observed in Winnebago County May 13 (fide Mrs. Ralph Ruckstaff) and were observed by four others.

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Mary and Charlie Nelson



Indigo Bunting: An early bird observed in Manitowoc April 30 (Lylene Scholz). Observed May 2 in Waushara County (Chipman), Dane County May 6 (Ashman) and in Douglas County May 11.

Dickcissel: One in Rock County on the early date of May 6 (Mrs. John Brakefeld). Most arrivals were third week in May.

Evening Grosbeak: Present in only the northern counties during the winter season. Remained in Price County until May 16 (Maybelle Hardy) and in Douglas County until May 19 (Bernard). A few probably remained to nest in Langlade County (Carol Rudy).

Purple Finch: Arrived in Lincoln County March 5 and was still present at the end of the season (Hendrick). Definitely not a finch season. No agreement on migration dates. Unusual numbers remained in northern counties during the previous winter, thus curtailing what would normally have been a spring flight (Rudy).

Pine Siskin: Reported as numerous in Forest County March 3 (Richter) and through March in Langlade County (Rudy). Departure date for Price County May 22 (Vincent).

American Goldfinch: Peak migration dates May 10-15. In Lincoln County Hendrick reports them yellow by April 20.

Red Crossbill: Only two reports from the southern half of the state: Waushara County (Chipman) March 8 and a pair still there May 25. In Adams County, one adult male seen April 19 (Gustafson). Following a heavy winter influx, birds were seen paired off and apparently nest building by March 18; numbers decreased rapidly in May in Langlade County (Rudy).

White-winged Crossbill: Carl Richter made 7 observations from March 17-May 5 in Forest County. In Oneida County April 10 (Nicholls). A few seen in Langlade County in March (Rudy).

Rufous-sided Towhee: Earliest observation March 28 in Waushara County (Chipman), Pierce County April 19 (Robbins), Price County April 30 (Maybelle Hardy), and Douglas County May 11 (Bernard).

Savannah Sparrow: Noted March 31 in Racine County (Gustafson), April 10 Milwaukee (Strehlow), Winnebago County April 13 (Tessen) and Douglas County April 27 (Granlund).

Henslow's Sparrow: April 19 one heard singing in Portage County (Gustafson), April 21 in Waukesha County (Bielefeldt), May 1 in St. Croix County (Robbins); three observed May 11 in Fond du Lac County (Knuth). One dead at TV tower, Eau Claire, May 17 (Kemper).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Observed by Mrs. Mildred Seeliger and Mrs. Floret Guenther May 4 in Calumet County (fide Tessen). Carefully studied.

Vesper Sparrow: First noted March 28 in Vernon County (Weber), March 29 in Pierce County (Robbins) and March 30 in Sauk County (Gustafson). Well distributed by the second week in April.

Lark Sparrow: Three reports: Grant County May 11 (Gustafson), St. Croix County May 15 (Robbins) and Sauk County May 30 (Gustafson).

Slate-colored Junco: Major flights March 31-April 1, and April 12-13. Still present in Milwaukee May 12 (Strehlow).

Oregon Junco: Present at the beginning of the period in Brown, Milwaukee and Waushara Counties. Last observed in Brown County April 13 (Cleary & Paulson) and in Outagamie County April 18 (Tessen).

Tree Sparrow: Major movements March 31-April 1 and April 19. Observed on several May counts so they lingered longer than usual.

Chipping Sparrow: First noted in Vernon County (Weber) March 29, Brown County April 10 (Cleary & Paulson) and April 2 in Rock County (Mahlum). Major flights April 30-May 2 and April 27-28.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Noted May 2 in St. Croix County (Robbins), Price County May 3 (Hardy) and Douglas County May 9 (Bernard).

Field Sparrow: Observed in Marinette County April 22 (Lindberg), Barron County April 25 (Goff) and Douglas County May 5 (Granlund).

Harris Sparrow: Noted in Price County between May 16 and June 2 (Maybelle Hardy), the latter being 8 days later than the previous state departure record. Ten birds counted in St. Croix County May 15 (Robbins). Other sightings of one or two individuals in Vernon, Winnebago, Brown, Douglas, Barron, Dane and Burnett counties.

White-crowned Sparrow: Thirteen observed in Winnebago County April 13 (Tessen), noted April 15 in Vernon County (Weber), in many areas by the end of the first week in May. Reported as fewer in numbers in Marinette County (Lindberg). Several reports of birds still present in south and central areas late in May.

White-throated Sparrow: One bird wintered in Daryl Tessen's yard in Appleton and was still present when migration came. Well spread over the state by the third week in April. Overall, flight seemed smaller than usual (Robbins).

Fox Sparrow: Present in Milwaukee (Donald) and Jefferson (Stock) counties March 13. March 18 in Waushara County (Chipman) and Brown County March 27 (Cleary & Paulson). Peak migration dates March 27-29, April 7-10 and April 24. Latest departure May 16 in Lincoln County (Hendrick)—"late compared to other years".

Lincoln's Sparrow: Noted April 27 in Brown County (Cleary & Paulson), May 3 in Dane County (Hilsenhoff), May 7 in Barron, La Crosse and Milwaukee Counties. Departure date for Outagamie and Brown Counties May 28.

Swamp Sparrow: Two March dates: March 17, Jefferson County (Stock) and March 23, Racine County (Leshner). Observed in Burnett County April 1 (Stone), which was about three weeks ahead of other northern counties. A good wave of migrants was noted from several areas on April 27.

Song Sparrow: Arrived in many areas by March 9. Noted in Lincoln County (Hendrick) March 26 a week earlier than usual. In Marinette and Forest Counties Richter found nests with eggs May 18-23.

Lapland Longspur: A good wave of migrants (350) noted by Tessen in Outagamie County on April 15. About 50 still present May 4. Last observation in Brown County March 17 (Cleary & Paulson).



MADISON, WIS.—Transcripts of testimony taken by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) during the DDT hearings in December and January will not be available for at least several more weeks, the department has announced.

The text is expected to run very close to 1,500 pages. When copies are available, they may be purchased for 15 cents per page.

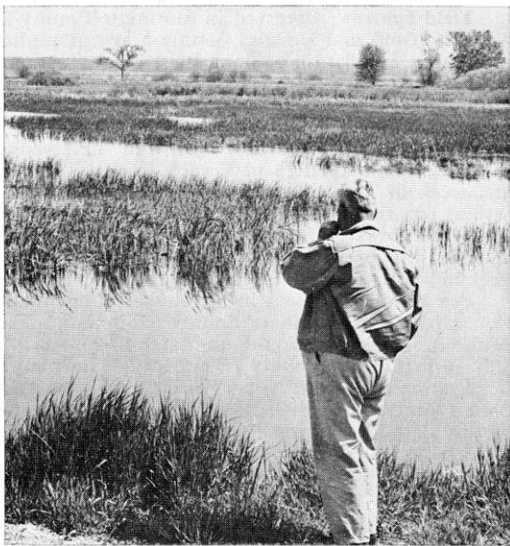
The hearings will be resumed, in Madison, some time after transcripts have been made available to the parties involved in the legal action.

By the Wayside...

Apartment or Communal Living????? I couldn't find any robin nests so far this spring until one day a big discovery was made: Our neighbors have been building a 70-foot long storage building and before the doors were on six Robins built nests at the junctures of the cross beams. One nest to each crossbeam! One door has been left open so they may come and go. To date, there is no evidence of young, but the birds are brooding. The crossbeams are about fifteen feet from the floor and equidistant from each other in the 70-foot building.—Edith M. Leppla, New Berlin

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: On a trial run of the May count, one individual of this species was observed in Calumet county in a wood and brush pile along a railroad track on May 4. Following is the identification:

A sparrow noted moving around in a brush pile during the morning hours. Upon closer examination the bird was noted to have an ochre (yellow) face pattern. Recognizing that this was something highly unusual, we moved closer, 5-10 feet, and noted that the breast was buffy with a few streaks and the back was sharply striped. The bird was observed for approximately 10 minutes before it flew off.—Mrs. Floret Buenther and Mrs. Mildred Seeliger, Calumet county (fide Daryl Tessen)



Summer Tanager in Ozaukee County: While mist-netting birds in upland hardwood forest at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station, Saukville, Ozaukee county, on May 22, 1968, we caught and banded a female Summer Tanager. Since the bird was in the hand and I am thoroughly familiar with the species, there was no question of the identification. This capture occurred on a day when the woods were teeming with mid-May migrants and we were having a heavy catch of warblers, thrushes, and Scarlet Tanagers.—Charles M. Weise, Milwaukee

* * * * *

Probable Sighting of a Burrowing Owl: On May 28, 1968, I flushed an owl from short grass near a landing strip of the La Crosse airport. When flushed, it uttered two low "chucks", and flew a more or less direct

flight, but with some tips and turns. Then it hovered in flight, then descended nearly vertically to the ground in helicopter fashion.

My initial thought was that this was a Short-eared Owl very late in migration, but I did not see the black at the elbow of the wing from beneath (which both Long-eared and Short-eared have). Also, the bird was gray, not brown, and as best I could see, lacked the yellow facial disc of the Short-eared. Furthermore, the flight was not "moth-like", and erratic, but more direct. Finally, the bird was smaller than a Short-eared Owl.

I suspect the possibility of a Burrowing Owl. The habitat was fairly low cut prairie, ungrazed, is suitable to that preferred by Burrowing Owls. The soil is sandy, and several burrows of unknown origin were found. Some pellets were collected from the entrance to one burrow, but at this writing have not been identified.

Bent compares the landing of the Burrowing Owl to the manner in which a Woodcock descends after courtship flight. I noted this descent also. Bent describes the alarm note as "cack-cack-cack-cack." The only sound I have heard Short-eared Owls make resembles the bark of a small dog.

Careful search on May 29, 30 and 31 failed to flush another owl. Of course this is not a firm record, but is substantial enough to suggest that Wisconsin bird watchers should be alert for the Burrowing Owl in suitable habitat.—Frederick Leshner, La Crosse

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Wisconsin Specimen of Black-legged Kittiwake: On November 26, 1967, a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student, Roland Wienke, found a gull lying quietly on the Lake Michigan beach near Cedar Grove, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin. He attempted to revive it but it died within a few minutes after discovery. Recognizing it as unusual, Mr. Wienke brought it to me and it was identified as a Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*, in immature plumage with black tail tip and dark ring on the dorsal side of neck. Externally the bird appeared in good condition with no sign of injury.

This bird was given to Mr. John Diedrich of the Milwaukee Public Museum, but has not yet (January, 1969) been prepared as a museum specimen. When this is done Mr. Diedrich and I will examine the carcass for any internal clues as to the cause of death.—Charles M. Weise, Milwaukee [Ed. Note—See **Pass. Pig.**, XXX, p. 98]

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Juncos Show Liking for Sap of Wild Grapevine: Although Slate-colored Juncos have no equipment with which to start the flow of the wild grapevine, they seem to relish it when it is made available.

A giant wild grapevine on our property was damaged by a storm this spring so that it was bent elbow-shaped. Sap from the joint thus formed flowed daily and dripped slowly down the many loose fibers of bark where it hung in droplets. Juncos were observed to pick off these drops regularly, beginning on April 2, 1968. They seemed to prefer it

to water as the latter was available in a bird bath below the vine, but never was touched.—N. R. Barger, Madison

* * * * *

Common Scoter: On May 11, 1968, the O. J. Gromme Ornithological Association of Fond du Lac participated in its second annual May Day Count. We took the Kettle Moraine area in Fond du Lac county mainly because it has been little explored by our members and we hoped to gain some knowledge of the bird life in this section of the county. It is the only area of the county where there is an extension of the southern mesic forest and it appears as though the Cerulean Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Acadian Flycatcher and Blue-winged Warbler are local residents there.

While driving around Kettle Moraine Lake near Wencousta, we noticed a flock of ducks, and having only Blue-winged Teal and Mallards on our list we were pleased to find it to be a mixed flock of ducks. There was a male Canvasback, a male Lesser Scaup, a pair of Ruddy Ducks and two male Redheads. But there was one duck there that defied identification through our binoculars. All that we were certain of was that it was entirely black.

We got the 40x scope from the car and focused on the bird. It was all black, but, to our surprise, had a round, yellow, bulbous swelling at the base of the upper mandible. It was unquestionably a male Common Scoter. The bird was seen by others the following day.—Rockne Knuth and Walter Gilles, Fond du Lac

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Raven—Unusual Behavior: On March 18, 1967 at about 9:00 a.m. three Ravens were seen sitting on a limb on the north side of an aspen tree about 24 feet above the ground. The bird the greatest distance from the tree trunk appeared to let its body fall, but clung to the branch with its feet. The bird swung like a child's swing. The bill being held at the lowest point and the body of the bird went back and forth, the arch of swing being about 12 inches. The two other birds appeared to be watching the antics of the third bird but became alarmed when the unit I was driving very slowly stopped. The third bird gave a little flap with its wings uprighting itself, then flew off when the other two birds flew.—Bernard Klugow, Brule

* * * * *

A Bisexual Evening Grosbeak: On March 9, 1968, while banding Evening Grosbeaks at my feeding station, I observed an unusually plumaged bird, specifically, a bilateral gynander, that is a bird which has male plumage on one side of the body and female plumage on the other. The bird in question was just about to enter the last empty cell of a multi-cell trap, otherwise I would never have noticed it. I thought I would wait a few minutes until that last cell was filled before proceeding to empty the trap, and up to that time I had noticed nothing peculiar about the bird. I had seen what appeared to be a male about to enter the trap; a few minutes later I saw a female with her tail toward the trap.

Glancing up again I saw the male once more about to enter the trap, then a few seconds later the female facing away. As no other birds were in proximity to the trap, I began to have suspicions about this bird and did not take my eyes off it again. Presently the bird turned around and I saw that it had fully developed male plumage on the left side of the body, perhaps not as bright as normal, but otherwise typical. The other side of the body was that of a typical female. As luck would have it, I was never able to trap the bird, and could not take any detailed notes on the plumage, although it remained at the feeders for about a half an hour. Such a bird is very difficult to pick out of a flock of feeding grosbeaks, and probably go unnoticed by observers unless there is some reason to watch an individual bird for some time; Wisconsin observers ought to be on the lookout for this or similar birds. For more information on the subject of bisexual Evening Grosbeaks consult *The Auk*, April 1967. —Carol Rudy, Summit Lake

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News of General Interest . . .

MADISON, WIS.—A scenic and geologically valuable quartzite cliff formation in the "Ableman Narrows" at Rock Springs, Sauk County, is threatened by deliberate destruction, despite pleas from the community, private conservation groups, and two official advisory councils of the state Natural Resources Board.

The cliff overlooks the Baraboo river and separates its gorge from a quarry operated by the Chicago and North Western Railway Company, which owns the cliff as well. The railroad has resumed drilling dynamite holes for blasting the rock. The blasting will destroy what Rock Springs residents feel is an essential part of the beauty of the river's narrows in and near the village.

Both the Natural Beauty Council and the Scientific Areas Preservation Council, citizen and technical groups set up by law to advise the Natural Resources Board on matters relating to outdoor esthetics and lands needed for research and teaching, have asked the railroad to reconsider. Railroad officials have so far declined requests for meetings.

The Wisconsin Nature Conservancy, a private group which purchases lands needed for scientific study, has expressed concern about the fate of the cliff. Dr. Orie Loucks, a University of Wisconsin ecologist and chairman of the Scientific Areas council, recently told the Conservancy that ten midwestern university geology departments had written to urge that the cliff be saved.

Loucks called the threat to the cliff "another example of an out-of-state organization depleting our heritage of resources and beauty in a fashion most of us who live in Wisconsin have learned to avoid and oppose".

A. W. Jorgensen, acting director of the Beauty Council, said the group had passed a strong resolution asking for preservation of the cliff, and for a chance to discuss it.

"The council reports that the railroad has so far refused to sit down with us to talk about the matter, so that the best interests of the state of Wisconsin, as well as local people and the owners, may be considered", Jorgensen said.

Local people recall that the quarry behind the cliff has been in use for years, and claim that railroad officials told them the cliff would be retained.

Railroad officials point out that state safety regulations require them to either relocate operations and equipment within the quarry or remove the wall. People interested in saving the cliff prefer the first alternative.

* * * * *

ITHACA, N.Y.—Birds can be used as barometers to tell man how badly he is polluting the environment, according to a Cornell University ornithologist.

Olin S. Pettingill Jr., director of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology, said birds are adjusted closely to their natural environment and consequently are sensitive to changes in the status quo.

"Like barometers," Pettingill said, "their numbers hold steady when there are no changes, rise when the changes are favorable and drop when unfavorable. Birds give us a very quick reading on environmental changes because they are conspicuous and readily noticed."

When an excessive number of birds are killed in an area, Pettingill said, somebody had better find out why. Chances are that whatever is killing off the birds isn't doing humans any good, he added.

To get barometric readings from various areas, the laboratory has instituted a North American Nest-Record Card Program. Through the program, hundreds of readings on bird populations are gathered and analyzed to try to note a significant trend.

"When a breeding population is declining somewhere," Pettingill said, "we want to know it and share the information with those persons who can determine the cause and take remedial action."

The laboratory has already received more than 75,000 cards from some 950 persons throughout North America.

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ITHACA, N. Y.—Sales of extremely rare Gyrfalcons (Jl-er-falcons) to wealthy Middle Easterners for training in the sport of falconry are threatening the existence of that species in North America, a Cornell University ornithologist has announced.

Tom J. Cade, research director at Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology, said rich potentates pay as much as \$5,000 each for gyrfalcons, some of which are smuggled into the Middle East from Alaska and Canada.

The gyrfalcons are the largest of the 25 species of falcons and so are most favored for falconry. They are about the size of a pheasant and range in color from black to white. It is estimated that only 1,000 pairs of the gyrfalcons remain in the world, most of them in Greenland where they are protected by the Danish government.

"There is no federal law protecting them either in the United States or in Canada," Cade said. "There ought to be more stringent rules on exporting the gyrfalcons."

The plight of the Gyrfalcon is considered so serious that it was discussed at a meeting of the North American Wildlife Conference held March 4 in Washington, D. C. The meeting, at which Cade expressed his views, was sponsored by the National Audubon Society.

Also discussed at the meeting was the danger of extinction in North America of the Peregrine Falcon, another species. The Peregrine Falcon faces extinction because of pesticides which are contaminating its food supply.

From Other Journals . . .

Ecological Implications of Bird Predators on the Larch Casebearer in Wisconsin¹

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ABSTRACT

Birds are important predators of *Coleophora laricella* (Hübner) in Wisconsin. Population decline of the larch casebearer in the winter, probably attributable to birds, was 23.5%, of which 30-40% was calculated to consist of nonparasitized larvae. Spring predation by birds, between April and June, causes a significant loss in prey population, although many of the larvae eaten are parasitized. Apparently the birds involved do not discriminate between parasitized and nonparasitized larvae. Feeding activity in the spring was 3 times that recorded in the fall, under laboratory conditions, and probably reflected the "specific feeding image" developed by the birds for the larger and more active spring larvae. The Magnolia, *Dendroica magnolia* (Wilson); and Yellow Warblers, *D. petechia* (L.); the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula* (L.) and the Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus* L., exhibited the most frequent feeding response to the larch casebearer. No instances of "clipped-off" cases were observed in any of the laboratory feeding trials or in the field. All birds swallowed both case and larvae completely except for the Black-capped Chickadee which, in the spring only, removed the case from the tree, extracted the larva, and then dropped the case to the ground.

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It probably will surprise Wisconsin birders to learn that Evening Grosbeaks were reported at a number of locations in Alabama and Georgia this past November and December. *Alabama Birdlife*, Vol. 16:4, 39-40.

A Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) banded in August, 1939 on Jarvis Island (0°23'5" 160°01' W) was recaptured in the same area June 15, 1968. This bird was at least 5 years old at time of banding, indicating a longevity record of 34 years. *Bird Banding*, Vol. 40, p. 47.



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