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The PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME VII April, 1945 NUMBER 2

GREAT HORNED OWL AT NIGHT FLASH-PHOTO BY KINZEL

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NEWS . . .

Since the Annual Convention was cancelled this year due to the request of the O. D. T., the officers of our society for the new year were elected by mail. The list appears elsewhere in this issue. The featured speaker, Bert Harwell, who had been engaged for the convention banquet was permitted to keep his appointment of April 28, but the hour was changed to 8 p. m. and the affair became purely an evening's entertainment for local members and friends. However, the profits were good after all obligations were met and boosted the treasury of the society. Earl Loyster was in charge. One loyal member deserves special mention in making advance sales of tickets for this engagement. Mrs. Arthur Koehler sold $101.75 worth of tickets single-handed. The newly elected officers held a meeting at the home of Clarence Jung in Milwaukee May 5, to plan the work of the new year. A report of this meeting by the secretary will appear in the next issue.

Since our last issue, news has reached us that a painting by Owen Gromme was accepted to be used on the waterfowl revenue stamp of the year. Howard Orians has supplied the details of this work of distinction, together with illustration, elsewhere in this issue.

All participants in the "May Day Bird Count" this year are invited to mail their list to the editor in the same form as is used for the Christmas Bird Count. The results will be published in the next issue.

Mr. Frank W. Lane, of Ruislip, Middlesex, England, is writing a book, one chapter of which will be on the passenger pigeon and its remarkable story.

We now have an active reporter of bird records from Loganville. Harold Kruse is submitting detailed records of all the species he observes. He lists the species in the A. O. U. order, together with the number observed (or relative abundance), date, and adds pertinent remarks in the last column—a model method of presenting the information.

Miss Ethel Horton, a member formerly residing in Madison, now has a bird study group in St. Olaf's College, where she teaches. Feeding stations, bird houses, and exhibits of birds have been placed on the campus. She states that the pileated woodpecker and great horned owl both visit the campus.

Herbert L. Stoddard, honorary member of the society and former resident of Wisconsin, has participated in the editing of a check-list and bibliography of Georgia ornithology. Mr. Stoddard has spent many years in Georgia while engaged in a systematic and exhaustive study of the bobwhite. The book, containing 111 pages, one plate and one map, may be secured from the University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, for $2. It is sponsored by the Georgia Ornithological Society, the associate editors being: E. R. Greene, William Griffin, E. P. Odum, and Ivan Tomkins. An historical narrative is included by E. E. Murphey.

E. A. Hepler featured our society and its publication at the annual hobby show in Beloit again this year.

S. Paul Jones presented his data on the Holboell's grebe and its nesting in Dane County, Wisconsin, to the Kumlien Club of Madison in April. It appears that this instance is the southernmost on record for this species.

Bird photographers are invited to submit photographs regularly to The Passenger Pigeon for publication. Needless to say they should be excellent and of good quality for best reproduction.

The Bird Group of the Milwaukee City Club held its Nineteenth Annual Meeting January 22, 1945.

William DuMez states that Menomonee Falls now has a Bird and Garden Club. He has just recently gotten it started but feels that several of the members will become subscribers to The Passenger Pigeon.

Members submitting manuscript for publication should use a typewriter if possible at all, writing double space on one side of the paper.

Whose Nest Is That? Douglas Wade has been distributing this booklet to the readers of his New Hampshire bird bulletin. It is a guide to the birds' nests found in Massachusetts by Richard Headstrom. After a brief introduction, the material is arranged in outline form according to locations and types; and species' names are keyed in at the proper places. There are several excellent photographs of typical nests included. The booklet is a reprint from the Bulletin of The Massachusetts Audubon Society.

MEMBERSHIP FEE OF $1 INCLUDES 75 CENTS FOR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON, QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC. SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS: SUSTAINING $5; LIFE $25; PATRON $50 OR MORE. SEND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND DUES TO THE TREASURER, J. HARWOOD EVANS, 517 JACKSON DRIVE, OSHKOSH, WIS. SEND MANUSCRIPTS TO THE EDITOR, N. R. BARGER, 4333 HILLCREST DRIVE, MADISON 5, WISCONSIN.

ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER SEPT. 4, 1940, AT THE POST OFFICE OF MADISON, WISCONSIN, UNDER THE ACT OF MAR. 3, 1879.

Sac Prairie Spring

By AUGUST DERLETH

20 March 1944: Western meadow larks sang in some numbers in the vicinity of the house this morning, so that I was moved to reflect upon their growing numbers in the Sac Prairie country. I took my glasses and went out through the wood-lot to the line fence, where I saw several of the birds. The larks were unmistakable; I fixed one in the glasses and held him in fairly close range for a good five minutes, during which time he kept position. As his song had previously indicated, he was not the common meadowlark **(Sturnella magna),** but the western **(Sturnella neglecta).**

At the hour of the equinox this afternoon I was walking along the embankment south of the brooks. A great many robins had gone past, flying in two sizable flocks, and were now foraging among the fallen leaves on the slopes of Ganser's hills beside the Mazomanie road, some of them singing, but not many. A pair of killdeers flew overhead—the first seen this year, and not far away, among the songs of bluebirds, rose the season's first song sparrow song. The song sparrows, however, were here in number; for at the brook a great many of them—I counted twenty-one —were scratching about, together with a solitary fox sparrow, which was silent and intent on foraging. The redwings' **conqueree** rose melodically throughout the windy afternoon, and cardinals sang. The afternoon, indeed, had the sound and feeling of spring.

5 April 1944: Just after sundown tonight, at 6:35, I stood on the mid-meadow trestle listening to the evensong of birds. The sky was clear; a kind of copper lemon glowed in the west under amethyst and the darkening heaven, with the trees black upon it, and every willow and alder catkin limned there; high overhead shone Venus and Sirius, and low over the northeast hill gleamed the amber eye bright of Arcturus. At this hour grackles, redwings, a pheasant cock, cardinals, song sparrows, tree sparrows, a solitary swamp owl **(Asio wilsonianus),** vesper sparrows, mourning doves, meadowlarks, robins, and a flicker sang and/or called. Neither frog nor killdeer cried. Quite nearby, within ten feet of where I stood, a song sparrow sang his heart out toward the afterglow, his song coming steadily at intervals of a few seconds, and sounding most commandingly in the evening, now growing silent save for robins and mourning doves and the long-eared owl's low cooing hoot. The song sparrow's threnody was soothing and peaceful, and it had not yet died away when the woodcocks began to call, and soon to make their mating flights, dark on the darkening heaven, to be followed by the jacksnipes, three of which set up an eerie **whoo-oo-oo** of wings invisibly overhead. As darkness fell, the barred owls burst into an eruption of calls in the woods at the Spring Slough, and I turned to walk back. At seven the voices of robins, song sparrows (scant), woodcocks, jacksnipes (Wilson's snipes), barred owls, and a solitary swamp owl alone were heard.

8 April 1944: This evening in the marshes I observed from the embankment near the east channel bridge a cock cardinal foraging in the leaf-

mold, and, watching him, I was somewhat surprised to see that he rose to a nearby limb and fed a mature female. This was evidently part of either a courting or a mating ritual, for the female was not on nest, and nowhere near it, as I tried to ascertain. The birds were not disturbed by my scrutiny; she sat unmoving on her chosen limb, and he foraged persistently and continued to feed her until, after a period of approximately ten minutes, the female flew off, giving the typical alarm **tchek,** and he flew after.

At the brook trestle, my attention was drawn to a pair of song sparrows in jerky, ecstatic flight after each other, the male bird always trying to sing on wing, and giving out just a few notes, quickly broken off, and not succeeding in giving the entire song until finally the pair landed in a nearby alder, from which, shortly, they were off again, and the entire performance was repeated, the male trying to sing, by fits and starts, as it were. They were separated by about two feet, no more, and sometimes less. Their play was undoubtedly part of a mating pattern.

9 April 1944: I observed tonight again that the woodcock, disturbed, sometimes flies low along the ground or underbrush making an annoyed rattle or burring sound apparently with its bill. It was very marked on two occasions this evening, though I have heard it previously, not so definitely identified with disturbance or irritation.

16 April 1944: Along the slope of the Big Hill today, my attention was caught by the antics of a ruby-crowned kinglet, flying and hovering about the pasque flowers. I thought at first that the bird had found some nectar to sip, but the explanation of his interest in the blossoms was considerably more prosaic, as I ascertained when I stopped to watch, for the bird, unafraid, whisked back from the sidehill whither he had flown at my approach, and passed from one cluster of pasque flowers to another, in search of tiny insects, invisible to my eye, many of which he darted up to catch on the wing, so that his flight pattern identified the objects of his interest. He kept at this assiduously and did not interrupt his occupation other than to fly a little apart and out of my way when I finally went on.

27 April 1944: A solitary loon flew steadily up the Wisconsin today, coming out of the south, mounting to cross the bridge. It came down to approximately a foot above the river's surface and made its heavy way in a straight line following the Wisconsin's curve well past the wing dam, thus flying past the hill on which I sat reading, and enabling me to find and follow it in my binoculars.

29 April 1944: While I stood in the Lower Meadow this evening, with its young green bright and vivid on all sides, watching the gyrations and heady flight of a woodcock and listening to its wings' sound and its twittering, the year's first whippoorwill cried out with startling suddenness from the grove of trees which make up the Triangle at the south end of the Lower Meadow. Fifteen calls, and then it paused; and then it cried out forty-eight more times; and then a longer pause. Then it called sixteen times, then ten, and then a longer pause still. Then it cried out twenty times, and then thirty-two, and then twenty-one, and then, save for a few tentative cries, it was still again, and so remained, though I moved on to sit atop one of the haystacks listening for it. But it did not

cry again; in the wood beyond the brook the barred owls woke to a flurry of hooting and calling, and the frogs continued to sing on all sides. But the whippoorwill no more.

1 May 1944: Having been greeted each day recently on arriving at the hills by the running and crying of a killdeer in the wash of the first ravine, I determined today to discover her nest; so I came in from the north and watched the line of the wash, which was a rise before me, until I saw the killdeer start up, and then walked steadily forward, and with the utmost care, which was wise, for I was but half a foot from the nest when I discovered it—a most perfect thing, artfully created among the stones and only on the closest inspection proving to bear any resemblance to a nest, with four eggs which just filled it compactly, all so perfectly camouflaged among the stones by protective coloring that it was indeed a marvel of nature. I veered away, so that the birds—for there were now two of them—would not be alarmed, though both now flew along the river's shore with a great, disturbed crying, which ceased immediately when I moved away.

22 May 1944: Just at midnight a peewee called from the cedar beyond the window—there was no other sound; the rain had ceased, and all was still; so that the cry was doubly strong and all the more pleasant at this solitary hour out of that cloudy darkness. The bird sang but twice and then was still.

14 June 1944: In the village today, as I walked down along the river toward the railroad bridge, I saw a robin mutation, not a true albino, but a robin with far more white feathers than black on his back and wings, a most unusual specimen. I thought at first that it was a chewink, but not so, it was a robin, I ascertained as I came close.

Sauk City, Wisconsin, February, 1945.

Photographing the Great Horned Owl

By CARL KINZEL, Milwaukee

It had always been my desire to photograph a great horned owl (bubo virginianus virginianus). Owls have ever fascinated me; the great horned especially, as it is the largest and fiercest of them all.

Murl Deusing and I began to look for a great horned owl's nest early in February, 1942. We found good owl country in a tamarack swamp area in Ozaukee County. Exploring the area we found owl roosts and on several occasions we heard the owls hooting. We were confident that we were in the home territory of our owl. We searched for several weeks and finally on March 21 we found the nest. It was 35 feet from the ground in a sturdy tamarack. We looked over our photographic possibilities and left the scene without disturbing the owl on the nest.

Returning, we built our blind the next day and checked the nest's contents. It contained two young, one appearing to have just hatched. We also found a red-winged blackbird in the nest which was probably one of the first meals the young owls were to have. During blind construction the younger owl died of exposure. We left immediately so that the old bird could return to brood the remaining nestling.

We finished the blind on March 23 and on the next day we were ready to photograph. Our hopes were high and we looked forward to weeks of adventure. But photographing the owl had its problems and difficulties although every picture we got made any effort spent worth it. We had our share of bad weather during our several weeks of photography—heavy snow, rain storms, high winds and freezing weather.

My first stay in the blind was on March 28. It was a cold and cloudy day. I entered the blind about 3 p. m., frightening the owl off the nest. I began to set my camera in place and before three minutes were up the owl was back. In an hour it began to snow. The owl tucked its young under her, fluffed her feathers, and settled down to wait for the end of the storm. Soon the owl was covered with snow and could hardly be distinguished from the bulk of the nest. I could hear the owlet chirp contentedly under its warm parent.

BROODING. NOTE PATELUS OF SNOW. PHOTO TAKEN MARCH 30, 1942

It was hard to get pictures because the large snowflakes in front of the camera lens blotted out the owl. I left the blind at midnight determined to return for another night session. I needed better weather to get good pictures.

Several days later I entered the blind again and the owl returned to the nest in several minutes. She immediately began to brood the young, for the air was cool and the young needed warmth. There were blotches of snow here and there from the recent storm which stood out contrastingly against the bleak tamaracks. The owl was content in brooding over an hour and in the quiet of the woods I could hear calls of kinglets, chickadees and flickers. Often the owl would be plagued by crows that probably spotted her more easily because of our blind. Blue jays also objected but were not as annoying as the crows.

About dusk the male began calling from his roost 150 feet from the

blind. The owl at the nest left and I knew she was going out on a hunt. It was dark before she returned but I was ready with my flashgun. There was no light, it was impossible to see, but I could hear the impact when she landed on the nest. I flashed my bulbs. In the brief moment of light I saw the owl standing at the nest and I secured my first night shot of a great horned owl. I was happy.

Most of the hunting was done at night but while the owlet was still small much of it was done during the day. At first small birds were brought, such as flickers and blackbirds. As the owl grew stronger and older, rabbits, ruffed grouse and Hungarian partridge began to make up the diet. The owls were good hunters, bringing in much game. On two occasions she brought remains of marsh hawks to the nest. The usual quarry, however, was rabbit which was plentiful in the area.

Several weeks later, after a violent wind and rain storm, we found the nest knocked out of the tree. Though the nest was down, somehow the young owl remained in the tree. It stood on its weak legs where the nest once lodged, resting as best it could.

OWLET AFTER LEAVING NEST

Bubo became much more wary now. The young could no longer be brooded and we saw the old birds only during feeding time. The owlet began to explore the tree, often it climbed to the highest branches, but when the food was brought in it came down in all haste to where the nest once stood. We could still get good pictures. However, the young bird was feathering rapidly, photography would soon end and I wanted to spend one more night in the blind.

It was late in April when I entered the blind for an all night stay. This time I had perfect weather. It was warm, the sky was clear and before long I was lucky to have light from a bright moon. The pale, eerie light cast long shadows in the woods, but I could see the surrounding trees. The old bird came in and I could see a rabbit being fed to the young. The old male stood guard only ten feet away, uttering gutteral sounds continuously. Both birds flew off suddenly and could be heard in the distance hooting to each other. In an hour the female returned and fed more rabbit, for which I used my remaining flash bulbs and film.

On May 3 the young had left the tree but we found it about 150 feet from the blind. Since it was still weak in flight, we gave chase and quickly captured it for banding and additional pictures. Setting the owl free, we watched it scamper out of sight and realized with regret that our adventure with the great horned owl was ended.

I found the great horned owl to be the king of the woods and master of its territory. This savage and powerful bird of prey shall always attract me and I hope that some day I can photograph this interesting bird again.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, January, 1945.

CAN YOU TOP THIS?

By DON BIERMAN, Milwaukee

The members of the Milwaukee Bird Club decided that for their November meeting they would have a round table discussion of unusual bird observations. The following were among those given:

James Barr, while golfing at Grant Park, saw a robin seize a gopher by the tail and drag it half way out of its burrow before someone frightened the robin away.

Forrest Poe recalled the following incident from the museum expedition to Pyramid Lake, Nevada: While trailing his way up the steep, rocky slope of Anahoe Island on June 1, 1927, together with I. J. Perkins and Dr. Barrett, they heard a terrific sound and rush of air. Looking up they saw a white pelican plummetting down with terrific speed, and in its attempt to put on the brakes executed two complete corkscrew turns in its descent. It regained control and poise, however, and glided gracefully back to the rookery.

On May 12, 1915, Owen Gromme observed a yellowlegs alight in a tree and remain there for about ten seconds.

On June 10, 1922, he found the nest of a song sparrow in a tin can among the grasses of a flooded meadow. The eggs were in water, but the bird was still incubating.

On May 25, 1924, he found the nest of a mourning dove in the heart of a marsh, completely surrounded by water, and not over two inches above the surface. It consisted of a few bent-over dead cattails and contained one egg.

On June 10, 1930, along the Lake Michigan shore in Kenosha county, he saw a purple martin plunge onto the surface of the water on three different occasions.

While hunting ducks at Fond du Lac on October 19, 1930, a ruby-crowned kinglet lit on the end of his gun barrel and peered in.

On another occasion, Owen saw a cuckoo seize one of its fledglings by the neck and shake it as a cat would shake a mouse because the fledgling refused to accept the food its parent brought.

Murl Deusing saw a kingfisher dive into two inches of water from the height of fifteen feet. The kingfisher was stunned for about fifteen seconds.

One day Murl's boy, Donny, came into the house and told him there was a flicker outside. Murl was busy at the time, so to get rid of Donny he told him to go and catch the flicker. A little later, much to his surprise, Donny came into the house holding the flicker. As his reward, Donny had his picture taken holding the flicker.

Lee Stevens was up at the mouth of Bar creek one spring day watching a shore-bird flight. Suddenly he saw a spotted sandpiper make a vertical dive into the water and remain under for about thirty seconds. When the bird reappeared, it made its way to shore and hid under an overhanging bank. The bird's sudden dive was caused, he discovered, by the appearance of a pigeon hawk on the scene. The hawk landed in a nearby tree and was lured to a banding trap.

Lee found the nest of a woodcock at Cedar Grove, and decided to study it. He found that at times the incubating bird would allow itself to be stroked, while at other times one of the birds, presumably the male, put on a courtship performance, while the other put on the broken wing act when he approached the nest.

Clarence Jung reported seeing a spotted sandpiper swimming under water. The bird used only its wings for movement, and progress was slow.

On the barren lands of northern Canada he saw a short-eared owl pursue a marsh hawk. The owl got above the hawk and stopped at it in the manner of a falcon.

The pursuit went on for about two miles, the owl stooped six times and the hawk tumbled each time to avoid the owl. The chase ended when the hawk dropped into the grass and disappeared.

Reverend Mr. Orians decided to use angleworms to bait spotted sandpipers for the purpose of photographing them. The sandpipers accepted this odd offering, but washed each worm thoroughly before eating it.

Carl Kinzel caught a duck hawk in his traps four times in one day. After the same hawk had mauled four pigeons valued at twenty-five cents apiece, Carl's patience gave out and he had to frighten the bird away to prevent it from coming back again. After being driven away several times, the hawk went down to Owen Gromme's trap and got caught again. After being released by Owen, it flew to a third person's trap and was caught still another time.

Sam Thorn decided to move his bird bath one day. There was one robin in particular that made a habit of bathing daily in Sam's bird bath. The morning after the bath had been moved, the robin flew in as usual directly to the spot where the bath had been. It hit solid ground instead. It was dazed and no doubt quite a bit puzzled, but finally learned to bathe in the new location.

Sam also had a bluejay come in to his classroom recently. The jay soon had itself busily engaged in taking pencils from one child's desk and placing them on another. The bird was quite tame and has become an amusing pet since.

William du Mez reported that while Dr. Kinsey was banding a brown thrasher, the bird sang its complete song in his hand.

He gave an instance of a white-throated sparrow being trapped thirty-three times in ten days.

Don Bierman reported that on June 1, 1943, he observed a starling throwing out nesting material from an old sparrow's nest on his garage. The discarded material fell into the branches of a lilac bush below. Here it caught the eye of a female robin that was building her nest in a neighbor's tree. As fast as the starling threw it out, she gathered it up and wove it into her nest. This continued for half an hour and probably constitutes the only record of a starling helping a robin build her nest.

While at a lake this summer, he shot a starling and hung it below a kingbird's nest containing young, expecting that with the return of the parent birds the fireworks really would begin. Instead, to his surprise the kingbirds accepted the starling as part of the scenery and never touched it at all. Then he shot two grackles and put each next to a robin's nest containing eggs. Both robins returned to their nests and continued to incubate as though nothing had happened. Contrast this to the actions of the birds had the grackles and starling been alive.

Henry Nehrling

The Man Who Planned the Present Milwaukee Museum

By A. W. SCHORGER

The German immigrants who appeared in Wisconsin in large numbers during the middle of the past century contributed substantially, in various ways, to the culture of the state. The Milwaukee Public Museum, for example, was established largely through the efforts of the members of the **Naturhistorische Verein von Wisconsin.** This group of nationals produced but one ornithologist of note, Henry Nehrling. Perhaps this is not so surprising when there is taken into consideration such handicaps as language, the absence of adequate books of reference, and the presence of an entirely new fauna.

Henry Nehrling was the son of Carl Nehrling and Elizabeth Ruge.[34] The parents and grandparents on his father's side came to America in 1852. They belonged to a Lutheran church at Erfurt, Germany, under the ministration of Pastor J. A. A. A. Graubau. A state decree that united the Lutheran and Reformed churches resulted in so much dissatisfaction that the pastor and nearly the entire congregation emigrated to Wisconsin in 1839. Eleven years later the Nehrlings arrived in Quebec and proceeded on to Buffalo. Here they were met by Pastor Graubau who guided them to Wisconsin.

The family settled near Howard's Grove, town of Herman, Sheboygan County, in what was virtually the "forest primeval." In this entrancing place, Henry Nehrling was born on May 9, 1853. A rudimentary education having been received from his mother and grandfather, he was sent to the Lutheran parochial school near Howard's Grove. The three mile walk to school was through a virgin wood. However trying was the walk in winter, the glorious aspects of the forest at other seasons more than compensated. Here was acquired a passion for plants and birds that endured throughout life. The songs of birds and the structure of their nests were of unending interest. "He soon found where the finest berries, plums and mandrakes grew, where the patches of wintergreen and moss were to be seen, where the passenger pigeons were roosting and nesting, where was the favorite drumming ground of the ruffed grouse, and where the many beautiful song birds could best be heard." Without the guidance of men and books, most of the plants and birds were known only by sight and not by name.

There was a lake on the farm surrounded with hills on which grew white pine and all the hardwoods typical of the northern forest. The springs that burst from the wooded hills emptied their waters into the lake. The region was ideal for wildlife and attracted birds in abundance. The hours that he spent here observing the habits of birds were the happiest of his life. When in after years he went to live in the South, the memory of his native woods produced a nostalgia that the semi-tropical flora could not efface.

The homestead was sold in 1866 and another farm purchased in the town of Plymouth. After spending three years in the parochial school in the village of Plymouth, he in 1869 enrolled in the teachers seminary at Addison, Du Page County, Illinois, where he remained four years. A position as teacher in a Lutheran school at Harlem, a suburb of Chicago, was retained until the fall of 1876. He then changed to a similar school in Chicago. Whenever there was freedom from the duties of teaching, he devoted the time to an intensive study of the birds of the region.[1] Here he acquired material for his earliest ornithological publications. Through inheritance and training he remained so thoroughly German that few of his writings appeared in English.

Several articles on birds written by Nehrling while in Illinois were sent to George Koeppen, editor of the **Germania,** Milwaukee.* Most fortunately for the author, Koeppen not only accepted the articles for publication but wrote a letter encouraging him to continue his study and writing in this field. Material aid was provided by George Brumder, owner of the **Germania,** who sent him expensive works on American birds and pertinent books of travel in the southern states. The reading of these books fired him with enthusiasm to study the birds of the South. Henceforth, by his own admission, teaching was primarily a means for pursuing the study of birds, the locality receiving first consideration.

He left Chicago for Texas in February, 1879, to teach in a private school. The mild climate and the novelty of the flora and fauna induced him to remain for three years. His field work resulted in the publication of a valuable paper [2] [10] on the birds

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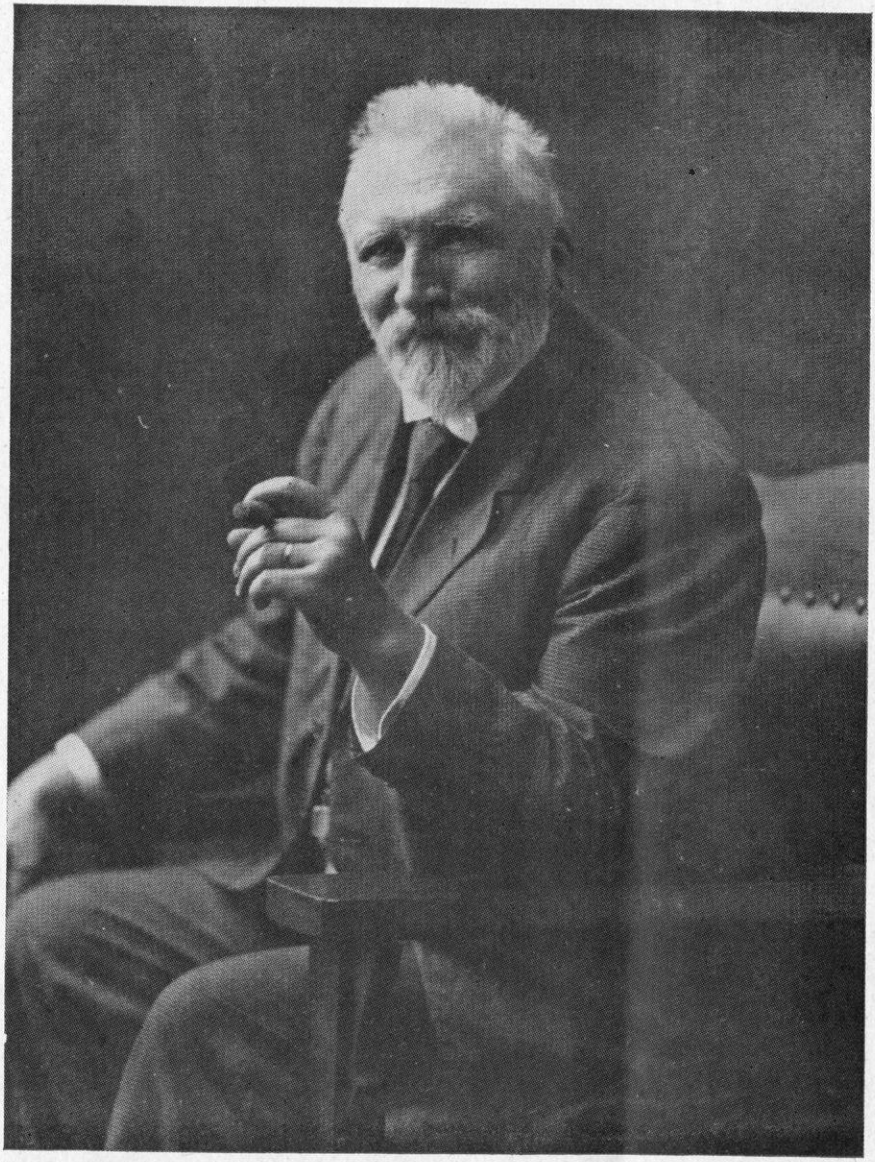
*The writer has not had an opportunity to document these articles since the file of **Germania** in the library of the Wisconsin Historical Society starts with the year 1879.



HENRY NEHRLING

of the Houston region. There was, however, open disappointment with the South for he wrote: "The woods of Texas and many other parts of the South cannot be compared with their counterparts in the North and East. The charm and irresistable attraction of the latter is almost wanting, though the floral world does possess interest in some places. I found and admired the beautiful **Magnolia grandiflora,** the spanish moss, dangling at length from the boughs of the trees, the odd forms of the yucca and numerous cacti, and many a strange bird did I find, . . . but all this possesses but little attraction for the northerner who has grown up in romantic surroundings. The truly poetical, the truly idyllic is to be found only in the woods of the North and East and

in the mountain ranges of the Alleghanies, where our Wood Thrush has chosen its home, where it builds its nest and sings its wonderful song."*

In 1882 Nehrling went to the Ozark region of southwestern Missouri where he resided nearly five years. During this period his ornithological activities were not limited to the Ozarks** for he found time to make exploration in all of the Gulf states. He returned to Milwaukee in 1887 to become deputy collector of this port. It was not to be expected that a man of Nehrling's tastes would long remain satisfied with employment so far removed from natural history.

The position of custodian of the Public Museum of Milwaukee became vacant in 1890 by the resignation of W. H. Wheeler. Armed with recommendations from such eminent naturalists as Elliott Coues, Robert Ridgway, C. Hart Merriam and David Starr Jordan, Nehrling secured an appointment as acting secretary and custodian until May 31, 1891. He was then appointed to the full position of custodian since he had proved himself fully capable of performing the duties of that office. "Mr. Nehrling is an efficient worker in natural history, and especially in the department of ornithology, in which he has gained a wide reputation not only in this country, but also among scientists of other parts of the globe.[37]

The custodian of a museum of limited means is plagued constantly by well-meaning friends with the gift of an odd assortment of objects collected from the far corners of the earth. Nehrling was fully aware of the magnitude of this problem for he wrote: "Our interest should center more in collecting Wisconsin forms, or if this is not practicable, in attaining North American forms at large. An extensive collection of local forms seems to me of much more value and interest than incomplete collections from all parts of the world. Most visitors to the museum are residents of this state and they are naturally desirous of seeing Wisconsin mammals, birds, plants, than those from Africa or Asia."[38]

In 1893 Nehrling undertook the enormous task of relabelling the thousands of specimens in the ornithological collection in accordance with the nomenclature in the Check-List of the American Ornithologists' Union. All the labels were printed in the museum under his supervision and he checked each label before it was attached to the specimen.

A new and adequate building was needed to house the various collections, and Nehrling made a thorough study of requirements by correspondence and visits to the best known museums in this country. He published, in 1893, a comprehensive report on the eastern museums, with sketches of a proposed new building. The present structure was erected in accordance with this report. His connection with the Museum was severed through "politics"[35] at the close of 1901. The Museum was without a custodian during the first half of 1902, then Henry L. Ward was appointed.

As early as 1884, Nehrling purchased a tract of land at Gotha, Orange County, Florida, where he subsequently grew oranges as a sustaining crop. His first visit to the land was in 1886, at which time he seems to have formed a decision to settle eventually in Florida. After a brief connection with the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, he moved to Gotha in 1904. Birds were not forgotten during the years spent in Florida, but plants became his main interest. He was appointed collaborator in the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in 1906. Aside from becoming a specialist in palms and tropical shade trees, he published an important treatise, **Die Amaryllis** (1908). He was a friend of David Fairchild, the eminent plant explorer, now living at Coconut Grove, Florida. In March, 1929, at the meeting of the Garden Club convention at Miami, he was presented with the Meyer Medal for "distinguished service in his chosen field, a tribute that brought tears of gratitude to his eyes as in faltering tones he expressed his appreciation."

Nehrling's early ornithological studies culminated with the publication of a sumptuous work on a number of families of North American birds. The prospectus that appeared in 1886 indicates that the author intended to limit his work to the German text, **Die Nordamerikanische Vogelwelt.** Shortly after publication of the first part in 1889, it was decided to print an English edition under the title, **North American Birds.** The collation of the various editions is not a simple task. The bound, single volume of **Die Nordamerikanische Vogelwelt** published in Milwaukee bears the date

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*The writer appreciates fully Nehrling's feeling for he had precisely the same impression after spending several months in Texas and northern Mexico at the age of twenty-one.

An article by Nehrling, **Aus dem suedwestlichen Missouri, Germania July 25, 1883, is non-ornithological.

1891. The British Museum Catalogue lists another edition as follows: **"Die Nord-Amerikanische Vogelwelt.** Leipzig [1891, etc.] 4°. In progress."

After the appearance of the twelve parts forming the first volume of **North American Birds** (1889-1893), the title was changed to **Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty.** The two bound volumes carry the dates 1893 and 1896.* When I came into possession of the German and English texts,** I could not understand by what legerdemain the cowbird and house sparrow were included among the birds of song and beauty, and the Wilson's phalarope and wood duck debarred. I believe that the solution lies in an abandonment by Nehrling of an original, ambitious plan to include all species in **North American Birds.** The idea of preparing this book came to him in Texas in 1882. It was not until 1896, a period of fourteen years, that the English text was completed, yet it covered only approximately one-half of the number of known species. The arrangement of families, **Turdidae** through the **Psittacidae,** though in reverse to that of the first A. O. U. Check-List (1886), was that preferred by his close friends, Robert Ridgway and Elliott Coues. Nehrling evidently tired of his task, or decided that too much time would be required to complete it, so the original title was changed to the more, but not entirely, accurate one, **Birds of Song and Beauty.** In consonance with the change, the introductory discussion of song and beauty was expanded four-fold in the English text.

The lack of a satisfactory, inexpensive reference book on birds during Nehrling's boyhood, inspired him to fill the void. "Our most excellent ornithological works are either too costly or too technical for the general reader. In the present work, which is intended to fill the gap between the very expensive and the merely technical ornithological books, I aim to 'combine accuracy and reliability of biography with a minimum of technical description,' and to have the work 'illustrated in such a way that all figures are recognizable.' Although this work is written for all lovers of natural history, I especially endeavor to inspire our young people with a tender regard for the feathered minstrels of our woodlands, fields and meadows, groves and gardens." The 36 colored plates were done by Robert Ridgway of the Smithsonian Institution, A. Goering, Leipzig, and Gustav Muetzel, Berlin. Ridgway's plates are decidedly superior to those of the German artists.

Nehrling was well fitted by temperament and experience to write a book of this type. "The life histories of many birds are chiefly based on my own observations, made from Wisconsin to Texas and Florida. For the purpose of studying the life of our birds, I spent several years in Texas, five years in the Ozark region of southwestern Missouri, and a number of years in different parts of Illinois. I also visited the southern Alleghanies and different localities in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, etc." He did not hesitate to supplement the life histories by quoting freely from other American ornithologists.

Coues,[39] in reviewing Nehrling's book, gave it fulsome praise. "His forte is the life of birds, not their dead bodies, still less their checkered synonyms. A very little such pig-iron will be ballast enough to keep things snug and trim. A terse identifiable description and one select scientific name are all the formality this history needs to stand upon, for the rest let it use wings."

In the strictest and best sense, Nehrling was a bird lover. His approach to nature was almost romantic and sentimental. His style may be judged by the following: "June is really the spring month in the northern part of our Union. Only during this month do Flora's children come forth in full beauty, and it is not till then that bird-life is at its best. Every songster, even the most delicate, has returned from the tropical winter quarters; all sing in jubilation, almost all of them breed.—During the silent evening twilight we are sitting in the woods on one of the prostrate forest monarchs that on all sides press the ground with their moss-grown flanks. A mysterious silence, a serene peace hangs over this northern forest. The sweet fragrance of many blossoming trees and shrubs fills the air. Delicate anemones, wintergreen, various ericaceous plants, ferns, the blood-root and terrestial orchids arrest our attention. Through

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*The Library of Congress card states: "Issued in parts 1889-1896?" The work was completed in 1896 as shown by the following information very evidently furnished by the author: "Mr. Nehrling's book was issued in parts, the first of which appeared in May, 1889, and was printed in both German and English, and the whole was completed at Christmas, 1896."[34]

**It is invariably stated that the contents of the two texts are identical except in language. This is not the case as can be determined readily by comparing, e.g., the two accounts of the Carolina paroquet.

the clearings the evening chimes of the returning herds fall on the ear. From the distance comes the mournful and yet enchanting song of our beautiful Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Suddenly, unexpected, from our immediate neighborhood, sounds a beautiful melting song—at first soft, continuous—then ever louder, happier, more glowing, triumphant. Every note is bursting with entrancing euphony! No weariness falls on us as we listen to the wondrous chorister, but the quickly deepening darkness and the loud call of the Whippoorwill warn us to depart. We hear the glorious song from all sides now for the one songster has made rivals of many. The musician, often mistaken for the Wood Thrush by lovers of nature, is the Veery, or Wilson's Thrush." At times it is difficult to decide if he is writing as an ornithologist or a botanist. In his history of the golden-winged warbler, approximately two of the three pages are devoted to a botanical description of the bird's habitat.

Nehrling married Miss Sophia Schoff of Oak Park, Illinois, on July 20, 1874. Walter, eldest of the seven children born to the union, inherited his father's interest and became professor of botany at Illinois State Normal School. His wife died in 1911, and on June 7, 1916, he married Mrs. Betty B. Mitchell.

The esthetic appreciation of plants and birds added far more pleasure to Nehrling's life than is allotted to the average man; however, he had so little understanding of the caution necessary in business transactions that he was frequently in financial difficulties. Completely without guile, he expected in others that uprightness that was so fundamentally a part of his nature. The most oppressive incident occurred three years prior to his death. He was persuaded to join in the establishment of a nursery at Siebring, Florida, to which place he sent his entire collection of living plants. Though serving as president, he did not become aware that the company was based on fraud until his salary was suspended. It is characteristic of the man that most of his agreements proved to be verbal rather than written, hence of small value in court. Broken in health by financial worries, he died at Gotha on November 22, 1929.

He was a charter member and fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, honorary member of the Wilson Club, life member of the Florida Horticultural Society, corresponding member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and member of **Ornithologische Gesellschaft,** Berlin, American Forestry Association, American Genetic Association, Audubon Society, and the A. A. A. S.

Henry Nehrling was a genial, courtly man, an esthete and not a scientist. The dry technicalities of ornithology were not for him. Coupled with an extraordinary appreciation of the romantic and the beautiful, he possessed the ability to describe birds and their habits in a pleasing, highly literary style. It is unfortunate that few students of birds have read his book and that still fewer possess it. The pages reveal a love of nature that compels deep respect, if not high admiration.

Ornithological Publications by Henry Nehrling

(Many of his papers appeared in obscure foreign and domestic newspapers, journals, and periodicals so that no claim is made for completeness of the list.)

1. Beitraege zur Ornis des nordlichen Illinois. **Jour. fuer Orn. 28** (1880) 408-41; 29 (1881) 196-203, 405-16; 31 (1883) 84-97, 225-57; 33 (1885) 142-51.
2. Ornithologische Beobachtungen aus Texas. **Ornith. Monatsschrift** 5 (1880) 122-39; 6 (1881) 111-21; 7 (1882) 72-8, 96-104, 127-34.
3. Der Blauvogel oder Huettensaenger [bluebird]. **Ibid.** 5 (1880) 214-23.
4. Die Einfuehrung des Sperlings [house sparrow] in den Vereinigten Staaten. **Im familien Kreise** (Milwaukee) 3 (1880) 271, 300.
5. Nordamerikanische Voegel im Freileben geschildert. **Die gefiederte Welt** 10 (1881) 14-6, 24-6, 44-6, 57, 58, 100-2, 173, 174, 228-30, 240, 241, 251-3, 265, 266, 325, 326, 333-5, 368-70, 380, 381, 393, 435, 436, 528-30.
6. Der Schwalbenweih [swallow-tailed kite]. **Orn. Centralblatt** 6 (1881) 9-10.
7. Der Gelbkopfstaerling oder Gelbkopftrupial [yellow-headed blackbird]. **Ibid.** 81-4, 97-8.
8. Zwei amerikanische Prairiefinken [lark sparrow and savannah sparrow]. **Ornith. Monatsschrift** 6 (1881) 58-64.
9. Fork-tailed flycatcher. **Orn. and Ooologist** 6 (1882) 83, 93.
10. List of birds observed at Houston, Harris Co., Texas and vicinity and in the counties Montgomery, Galveston and Fort Bend. **Nuttall Bull.** 7 (1882) 6-13, 166-75, 222-5.
11. Der Wald—oder Rothaugenvireo [red-eyed vireo]. **Ornith. Monatsschrift** 7 (1882) 233-43.
12. Der Baltimoreoriol. **Ibid.** 9 (1884) 41-9.

13. Die Alpen-, Horn- oder Indianerlerche [horned lark]. **Ibid.** 188-91.
14. Die deutsche Feldlerche [skylark] in Amerika. **Ibid.** 10 (1885) 18-21.
15. Die Buschmeise [bush tit]. **Ibid.** 21-5.
16. Der Waldfink [field sparrow]. **Ibid.** 63-7.
17. Der Indigofink [indigo bunting]. **Ibid.** 87-91.
18. Der Haubentyrann [crested flycatcher]. **Ibid.** 12 (1887) 95-9.
19. Der Koenigsvogel [kingbird]. **Ibid.** 211-7.
20. Die Nordamerikanische Vogelwelt. Milwaukee (1891) 637 pp.
21. Our native birds of song and beauty. Milwaukee, vol. 1 (1893) 371 pp; vol. 2 (1896) 452 pp.
22. In memoriam of Benj. F. Goss. **11th Ann. Report Milwaukee Public Mus.** (1893).
23. Birds of Wisconsin. Carnival edition, **Milwaukee Sentinel** April 21, 1898.
24. [Bird protection in] Wisconsin. **Auk 15** (1898) 97-9.
25. Evening grosbeak (**Coccothraustes verpertinus**). **Ibid.** 17 (1900) 294-5.
26. Bird notes from Sao Paulo, Brazil. **Ibid.** 298-9.
27. Notes from Milwaukee. In F. M. Chapman, Bird Life. N. Y. (1901) pp. 71-6 of appendix.
28. Bird life in my Florida garden. **Warbler** 2 (April, 1904) 20-3.
29. The beginning of spring in Florida. **Plant World** 7 (1904) 93-6, 118-22, 137-40.
30. In the haunts of the white-throated sparrow. **Warbler** 2d ser., 1 (1905) 82.
31. Die Vogelwelt meines Gartens. **Monatsschrift Deutsch. Verein Schutze Vogelwelt** 30 (1905) 43-60.
32. Die Gesangskoenigin der nordamerikanischen Vogelwelt. **Ibid. 32** (1907) 56-9.
33. Bird-life in my Florida garden during the months of September and October. **Warbler** 2d ser., 2 (1906) 11-9.

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34. Men of progress. Evening Wisconsin Company, Milwaukee, vol. 1 (1897) p. 476.
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36. Witmer Stone. H. Nehrling. Dictionary of American biography. N. Y. (1934).
37. **9th Ann. Report Milwaukee Public Mus.** (Oct. 1, 1891) p. 6.
38. **10th Ann. Report Milwaukee Public Mus.** (Oct. 1, 1892) p. 24.
39. E. Coues, **Auk 7** (1890) 78-9; 11 (1894) 166-7; 14 (1897) 335-6.

Madison, Wisconsin, April, 1945.

Gromme Designs Federal Duck Stamp

By H. L. ORIANS, Milwaukee

On Tuesday, February 20, a signal honor was conferred on one of the members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Mr. Owen Gromme, curator of birds and mammals at the Milwaukee Public Museum, was notified that his water color of three shoveller ducks had been accepted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the 1945-46 federal duck stamp. Every year many of the most capable wild life artists in the county submit paintings for the consideration of the judges.

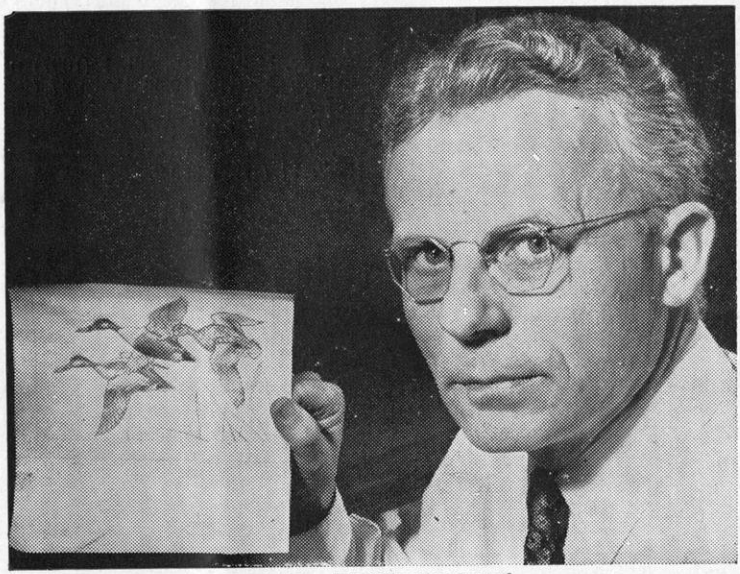
All migratory bird hunters over sixteen years of age must have one of these stamps as a license fee. During the 1944-45 season 1,169,352 stamps were sold. These stamps are highly prized by stamp collectors, stamps two or three years old still being sold in large numbers by the Philatelic Agency of the Post Office Department. The 1945-46 stamp will be issued July 1, and will be placed on sale at that date.

The painting which won the vote of the judges is a black and white water color. It shows two males and one female shovellers in full spring plumage. The work on it is so finely done that a few weeks ago, when Mr. Gromme was called to Chicago for a conference with the judges, he was asked by one of them whether the painting was a steel engraving. Work on the picture was done in the home studio of Mr. Gromme on North 92nd Street, Milwaukee.

Mr. Gromme's interest in wild life, and in taxidermy, goes back to the years of his boyhood. When he was in his early teens he spent a number of summers in Marshfield at the home of John F. Stierle. His interest in ornithology was quickened there on innumerable field trips with Mr. Stierle, who collected the eggs of many species of birds. Here young Owen learned the first lessons in mounting birds.

He gives credit to two other men for giving him valuable information and inspiration in his profession. They are the late Ed Ochsner, taxidermist, of Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, and H. L. Stoddard, formerly of the Milwaukee Museum and now a resident of Thomasville, Georgia. Ochsner, then a fur buyer, often visited the Gromme home in Fond du Lac, and gave added impetus to the ambitions of the boy who was experimenting with taxidermy there.

Through the help of Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Gromme was hired by the Chicago Field Museum, where he assisted in much of their field work. After serving overseas with the United States Army in the first World War, he came to the Milwaukee Museum in 1922, and four years later he was promoted to the head of the department, which position he still



Reprint From The Milwaukee Journal

OWEN J. GROMME DISPLAYS HIS PAINTING

holds. In 1927 he was the Museum representative on the John Cudahy expedition to Alaska, and in 1928-29 he went with the Cudahy-Massee Milwaukee Public Museum expedition to Africa.

Ever since its organization six years ago Mr. Gromme has been an enthusiastic member and booster of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. He served one year as a Director-at-Large, and has been on numerous committees. His outstanding contributions to the Society have been the beautiful water color bird portraits donated to the Society for the picture auctions held at the 1943 and 1944 annual conventions.

At the present time Mr. Gromme is spending most of his working hours painting the ninety color plates which will illustrate his book, "The Birds of Wisconsin," which will be published by the Museum when it is ready several years hence. About half of the paintings have already been completed. When that part of the work is done, there will still remain the task of preparing the explanatory text. Recently the Milwaukee Journal published four of his superb water colors in the Roto Gravure Section. Mr. Gromme's place as one of the great bird artists of the country is already assured. The members of the Society may well say of his work what William C. McKern, Director of the Museum, said recently, "We are very proud, all of us."

The Ring-necked Duck

By FRANCIS ZIRRER*

Our neighborhood is not a region of large or numerous lakes but, scattered throughout the woods and bogs, we have many small ponds and sloughs. A few contain fish, mostly minnows, but the majority of them are fishless though well populated with frogs and tadpoles, insects and their larvae.

Some of these small, mostly shallow, but often attractive bodies of water are only temporary. Fed with water from melting snow and spring rains, they usually dry out in the heat of the summer, although in recent years many have remained filled with water throughout the year. Others, however, are permanent. A few, situated along small streams, owe their existence to the past or present activity of beavers, having usually both an inlet and an outlet. Others, though fed with hidden springs and surface water, have neither; water seeps invisibly through the marshy soil to the lower regions, but these also fluctuate greatly with the amount of precipitation. During the summer months some are so overgrown with weeds that water is visible in a few spots only. The shores of most of these ponds are firm and often quite steep. Being lined with a broken belt of cattails, reeds, sedges and rushes, or entirely overgrown, they offer food and shelter in abundance.

Different from these are the ponds and sloughs set in the sphagnum bogs. Their shores, being composed of a thick layer of roots and matted vegetation, are shaky and tremble under every step. By shaking one's body, one is able to bring acres of the bog into a swinging motion until the water in the adjoining pond moves, causing waves to roll over the surface and splash on the opposite shore. Some of these ponds are surrounded with a dense growth of evergreens and shrubbery, while others have a belt of open sphagnum around, with trees reaching only here and there to the water. The latter gives a welcome protection from the cold violent winds in spring and fall, and cool shade during the hot days of summer.

To this category belongs the pond nearby. It is also one of the largest, covering an area of about thirty acres. The shore and the open

*Mr. Zirrer has lived close to the birds in northern Wisconsin now for five years. His mode of life in the wilderness has placed him in the enviable position where little of natural historical interest escapes his notice.

sphagnum are overgrown in places with bog shrubbery, especially with the small cranberry. In a few places the shore is lined with cattails, reeds, sedges and rushes. The pond itself, however, is remarkably free from vegetation, but there are a few patches of water lilies scattered over the surface. In the center, where the bottom appears to be more firm, several beds of pondweeds grow. The cause of this scarcity lies in the extremely soft bottom of the pond. To the casual observer the pond appears very shallow, but underneath there is an enormous layer of soft, black mud, which also reaches for a considerable distance under the adjoining bog. A sixteen foot pole forced through the top layer of matted vegetation or pushed into the water next to the shore does not reach the bottom. In the opinion of the neighbors the pond is bottomless; which belief was strengthened a few years previously by the fact that a cow, venturing too far, broke through the floating sphagnum and disappeared into the mud beneath.

On account of the conditions above described water birds and especially ducks are not abundant here even in migrations. The ducks seen on the ponds and marshes nearby are mostly the local breeding birds. Still there is hardly a pond or slough, not altogether too small, that does not harbor its pair or more of breeding ducks. The population fluctuates greatly from year to year, more than is the case with land birds.

Perhaps the most common of all here is the ring-necked duck. According to my notes it arrives after April 14 and always in the evening —at twilight. While listening in the evening, one hears first the familiar sound of the ducks in flight and a few seconds later a splash on the pond. This is usually repeated several times in succession and next morning the pond is found populated with a flock of these lovely little ducks. Though giving preference to larger waters, they take advantage of the smallest puddle if, upon their arrival, they find the large pond still frozen. This was the case last spring when, associating with other ducks, they frequented the smallest open water holes at night. They are easily identified even if the ring around the neck or the peculiarly marked bill cannot be seen. The dazzling white in the front of each wing, under a favorable light, can be seen a long distance when the rest of the body still blends with the glittering sun-lighted waters.

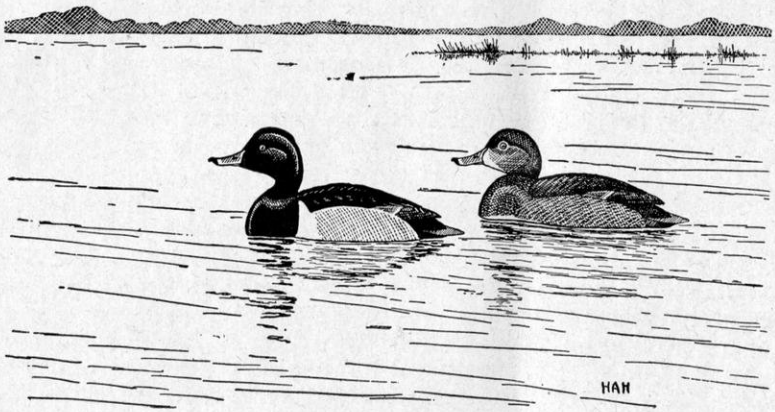
If the weather is nice and warm courtship begins at once. According to my observations here it appears that these birds have certain pairing stations where they congregate, court and pair, and from whence they populate the neighboring waters. There are always one or more pairs, however, arriving already paired. If these remained paired from the previous year or paired on the way back I am unable to say, as their behavior is in no way spectacular. Keeping apart from others the pair swims together, but the drake appears very undemonstrative.

With the unpaired it is different. Here, the males always predominate, their number sometimes almost doubling that of the females. In courting, the drakes glide one after another with considerable speed past the female, or one or more may glide past her on one side, while on the other side some do the same thing in the other direction. Occasionally they stop, bow, dip the bill, and throw a spray of water over their sides and shoulders while they raise their bodies, flap with the wings and call incessantly. The call is a very pleasant, mellow whistle, resembling the

syllables "dew, dew, dew, tya, tya, tya or kew, kew, kew." When the excitement is at its height and all call at once, the effect is a real musical trill. Occasionally a somewhat coarse subdued quack is heard, but I cannot say if it is uttered by the males or by the females. This, or a similar sound, is apparently the only call heard when the courtship is over. If the birds are alarmed or excited about something, it goes fast and loud, while otherwise it is a rather soft monologue heard at any time of the day. It apparently expresses peace and contentment.

As the courtship progresses, female after female selects a mate. A pair separates from others and, if not frightened, remains on the pond until nearly dark, when it rises and flies to one of the neighboring waters where it intends to nest. This goes on day after day until all the females have made their choice, but a number of drakes is always left.

On April 27, 1941 for example, one female and seven drakes remained. The competition now was naturally extremely keen for these lovely, graceful creatures actually acted as if frantic. They outdid one another in their attentions to the lone female. Swimming around and after her they bowed, rose above water, flapped with wings, slid with proudly erected heads, past her or past one another; with a speed reminding one of a boat under full sails, just as if anxious to display their beauty and show their prowess. Crowding near the female they tried to shove one another out of the way, threatening and even attacking the rival with a dangerous looking jab. This stretching and twisting of



RING-NECKED DUCKS ARE VERY INQUISITIVE
CUT, COURTESY OF WISCONSIN CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
DRAWING BY ALBERT HOCHBAUM

the neck, head and bill appeared very vicious, but it must have been quite harmless, as no one was hurt. To all this the female appeared indifferent for she disappeared under the water apparently feeding. The disappearance of the female was the signal for the drakes to follow, which they did with astounding speed; but one always remained above water. Did he act as a guard for others or was it because he was not hungry? Three days later the lone female also had a mate and left the pond, and the next day the remaining drakes had also gone. Although I have been watching these ducks for the past five seasons I am still unable to say anything about the actions of the females themselves in selecting a mate. Last spring, however, I noticed that when once paired,

the female acts hostile to other drakes, threatening them by stretching and twisting the neck, head and bill in the same manner as the drakes do when they spar with one another.

During these early weeks they are very inquisitive. While swimming not far from the shore and something arouses their curiosity or suspicion, they do not fly away as mallards and many other ducks would do. Instead they come nearer, swim parallel with the shore and, with the head turned toward the land, watch attentively. It does not matter how well the observer thinks himself hidden, the ducks know better. Coming opposite the bush or tree behind which he crouches, they invariably stop, peer a few seconds in his directions; and, diving a few times, swim as fast as possible toward the center of the pond or toward the other shore.

The young are usually hatched toward the end of May and the first part of June. For the first ten or twelve days they are not seen on the open water, at least not during the daytime. In our locality they remain hidden in the belt of cattails, reeds and sedges close to the shore. On the secluded woodland ponds or hidden sloughs in the bog away from the human habitations, they may been seen if carefully approached, also in the daytime. On June 8, 1942 I flushed a brood which was hidden on shore about fifty yards from the adult pair. The adults did not see me approach, but the little squadron of ducklings swam away from the shore peeping excitedly. This commotion brought the female who, disregarding my presence, dropped next to them and led them toward the center of the water, quacking excitedly. This incident would indicate that the females still join the males occasionally after the young have hatched, although I have never noticed the males with the young. Shortly after this season the males disappear from the open water in the daytime to hide in the dense vegetation along the rim of the pond. They come to the open water only at night.

From this period on the young may be seen on the open water at any time of the day, but in the absence of the mother, they still go for cover near the shore when alarmed. One day the little squadron was surprised by me in the middle of one arm of the pond, near a patch of water lilies. Like a flash they all disappeared under the water and the female only came up again some distance away. There was not a trace of the young to be seen. Puzzled, I hid behind a dense cluster of black spruce for I knew that the young could not remain under the water that long. In about ten minutes the female returned, gave a string of soft, clucking calls, hardly audible; at which the young appeared on the surface in a moment. Hustling to her the band swam to the other shore. Although I could not see clearly because of the rippling water surface, undoubtedly they were hiding between the leaves and under the partly opened blossoms of the lillies.

Once able to fly, the families desert the small ponds and sloughs and move to larger open water where they have a clear view of approaching danger. Some families must have to do this on foot before they are able to fly because, last summer on the first of July, there appeared on the pond a female with seven ducklings not over three weeks old. I am positive that they were not there before. Very probably they were hatched on one of the nearby sloughs; but one must marvel at the under-

taking in view of the fact that the vegetation is dense and other obstacles numerous. About the first of August, when the families are assembled, we have, in different summers, from thirty to sixty birds on the pond in the daytime. By this time the clutches are somewhat reduced, there being on the average not more than four or five young with a female. Unfavorable weather, minks and other predators, all have taken their toll.

The day is spent in feeding and resting, but most of the feeding is done in the late afternoon or evening. During the heat of the day the majority sits on snags and elsewhere in the shade. Some swim lazily in the vicinity or lie sideways on the water with the white underparts exposed. Occasionally they paddle with one foot which causes them to go around in a circle. On the pond is also an old raft which makes a favored place to rest and preen. On hot days this raft is covered with ducks, mostly of this species, and rows and rows of various turtles, some of them very large.

In the evening when the sun is about to set the ring-necks assemble in the middle of the pond. If all is very quiet and the birds have not been disturbed, they indulge in curious play. Scattered in groups of from three to five they turn toward one another, raise almost vertically so that for a moment they appear as if standing on their tails, drop back; and, giving themselves a jerk, begin to leap frog-like over one another (perhaps other species indulge in this play also, as I observed it first in 1940 in gadwalls). The performance never lasts long, however, for suddenly there is a commotion and one rises above the water and one by one the others follow, water foaming and boiling from the many pattering feet and beating wings. In a few moments the flock is in the air. Following the length of the pond, the flock flies low at first, but rising higher and higher it disappears in the distance. The night is spent searching for food, often at the sloughs next to the road and elsewhere, where they would not dare to venture in the daytime.

Occasionally, after the flock has gone, there appears suddenly on the pond a lone duck with all the signs of distress. It had busied itself in a secluded corner of the pond and missed the general excursion. Now it swims back and forth, calls anxiously with a coarse "quick, quack, quack," and is so busy and excited that it does not notice the observer standing on the shore in full view. Finding the pond deserted it finally rises and flies away in the same general direction. Next day, the birds are on the pond again. This goes on night after night until the birds leave toward the end of October.

In the late summer and in the fall while feeding, they are often seen swimming with the head submerged. Suddenly, but without lifting the head, they raise the front part of the body a little, give a jerk and disappear under the water. Presumably they watch in this manner for food on the bottom and having found it dive. This mode of watching for food may be due to the fact that at this time of the year, food (aquatic fauna) is abundant and moves about openly; while earlier, when the water is cold, food scarce and hidden, they must dive immediately and search for it.

In our locality the food consists mostly of various aquatic insects and their larvae, small frogs and tadpoles, and minnows. Among the

insects they devour a considerable number of the giant waterbug. These, they apparently do not swallow in water, but bring to the shore where they discard the hard parts. In summer when examining the old raft after the ducks leave it, I find the remnants of one or more of these large bugs daily. After the grain, mostly oats and barley, is harvested, various species of ducks visit the stubble at night, but I cannot say with absolute certainty whether the ring-necked ducks do this also, though I suspect it strongly.

Hayward, Wisconsin, November, 1944.

BANDING THE SPARROW HAWK

By SAM THORN

Since 1939, when I started banding birds, each year's work has been filled mostly with the common things. That is to be expected. But each year there comes the event which sets it apart from the others. This year a sparrow hawk turned the trick.

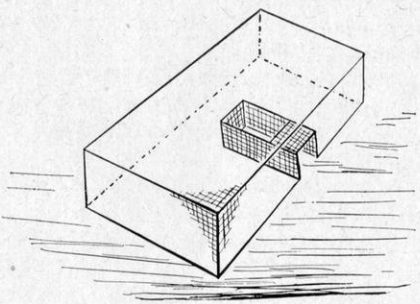
Since sparrow hawks are common throughout Wisconsin I had never expected them to set 1944's banding apart from the years that have gone before. In fact it was not the bird itself but the manner in which it was caught that makes the situation unusual.

My past work does not elevate me to "The Royal Order of Hawk Banders" but I know their's is a right royal sport as well as highly valuable banding. Some day I may be able to join their ranks. But even if I had been a member of the above clan I think this hawk would have been the bird to mark 1944.

I had a number of banding traps set through a wood lot and a few set at the edge of the woods. The traps were all for small, ground feeding birds. Those at the edge of the woods were each ten to fifty paces away from the trees and bushes. All the traps were of the puzzle type that will catch more than one bird at a time. The bait was small grain.

When the traps were visited in the morning a few juncos and sparrows were gathered. At noon I went to the traps again expecting and finding the usual run of birds. The last trap was well out in the open, where it could be seen from a distance as one "ran the traps." Under such a condition one forms the habit of trying to figure out what is in the trap long before he gets to it. In the morning it had held two juncos. But this time the first glance set me guessing and quickening my pace.

Reaching the trap the whole story was evident at once. This male sparrow hawk crouching in the far corner of the trap with junco feathers all about him told that a junco had entered the trap. Later the hawk had hunted over this part of the field and sighting the junco had come down to the trap and searched until he found the entrance. Though the opening was small he had worked his way into the trap in order to get the junco.



I opened the trap door and ran him into an extra carrying cage that I had along. He was taken home (about a half mile) and banded with band 41-328558. After looking him over for a few minutes to enjoy his colors I let him go. He lit on the telephone wire almost directly above me, preened his feathers for about five minutes, and then flew directly back to his hunting grounds. I saw him several times later but never caught him again. The banding date was April 23, 1944.

It was the surprise of the year to catch a hawk in this kind of a trap. I wonder if a modification of this trap can be used for other kinds of hawk banding.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, January, 1945.

ELTON E. BUSSEWITZ

Elton E. Bussewitz, born June 9, 1914, near Reeseville, Wisconsin, killed in action July 25, 1944, is buried in St. Lo, France.

"Buzzie" was one of Madison's promising naturalists. Many Wisconsin nature lovers enjoyed field trips in the same party with him at some time or other. He began keeping complete field notes at the age of fourteen, but I didn't meet him until six years later when our common interests brought our paths together. From that time on we remained close friends until the war drew us apart. Buzzie, with his inexhaustible energy, guided our field trips into every nook of interest in our part of the country.

He earned his Bachelor of Philosophy degree at the University of Wisconsin in 1938 and began work for the Wisconsin Conservation Department in 1941. While working for the Conservation Department, Buzzie worked on the Pittman-Robertson project studying pheasants under the direction of Irven Buss.

In May, 1943, he went to Washington, D. C., to work for the Army Map Service, where his work was in photo-mapping and his group made maps from aerial reconnaissance photographs—maps later used on bombing missions.

He entered the service October 1, 1943, went overseas to England in March, 1944, and to France, June, 1944, where he and his entire outfit were wiped out. He was awarded the Purple Heart for "Military Merit."

Buzzie's ornithological activities made him well known and liked in Madison. He was elected to the Kumlien Club in 1937, becoming its youngest member. He was a charter member of the Wisconsin Ornithological Society and many of his field notes are to be found in the "Passenger Pigeon."

He helped prepare "A Preliminary Check List of Wisconsin Birds," published in 1942 under the auspices of the Wisconsin Ornithological Society, a valuable aid to the experienced as well as the inexperienced student.

He had been collecting data on the life history of the robin for a number of years before his death.

Elton E. Bussewitz's death is a loss keenly felt by us all.

—Alfred Wallner

Chicago, Illinois, March, 1945.

The Golden Eagle in Wisconsin

By A. W. SCHORGER

The early literature on the golden eagle (**Aquila chrysaetos canadensis**) indicates that it was a comparatively rare species. The present review does not establish its status satisfactorily. The recent observations by W. S. Feeney and others in the northwestern section of the state leaves the impression that it is a regular winter visitor in small numbers; however the records for the past three years suggest that the species may have been present during this period in numbers above normal.

Its status in the states contiguous to Wisconsin is of interest. Roberts[1] states that it is "usually uncommon" in Minnesota. Van Tyne[2] remarks for Michigan: "Rare transient and winter visitant. . . . . Some published records prove to refer to the Bald Eagle." According to DuMont[3] there are specimens or authentic reports of this species for thirty-three of the ninety-nine counties in Iowa. Black[4] has published a long list of specimens taken in Illinois.

The golden eagle now breeds mainly in the mountains of the western part of the continent. It is possible that the fall migration through the great plains does not become appreciably fan-wise until Iowa and Illinois are reached, so that fewer birds reach Minnesota and Wisconsin. On the other hand there are fewer chances for this eagle to escape capture in a flat, open, thickly populated state like Illinois, in contrast with Wisconsin.

Hoy[5] records one specimen shot near Racine in December, 1853. Dr. B. L. von Jarchow informs me that the Hoy collection now contains two specimens, one mature and one immature. Hoy's notes state that one was taken in Racine County and the other in Milwaukee County. There is also a specimen from Racine County, taken about 1930, in the possession of a Mr. Rasmussen. Barry[6] mentions that it is found "occassionally" and that two or three fine specimens had been shot near Racine.

The Wisconsin Historical Society has Thure Kumlien's "List of Birds furnished to the State Normal Schools. July, 1874—July, 1878." A male golden eagle collected March 6 (year not stated), presumably near Busseyville, Jefferson County, was sent to the school at Oshkosh.

According to King[7], it is a "regular winter visitor, but only in small numbers."

On March 25, 1884, Peter Johnson shot, near Waupaca, a golden eagle having a length of 3 feet and 1 inch and an expanse of 7 feet and 1 inch. Its legs and feet were filled with porcupine quills.[8] Another specimen is stated to have been taken at Lake Geneva in 1886.[9]

A note from Crawford County states that this eagle is "occasionally seen soaring about the points overlooking our small streams."[10] Clark[11] reported one seen in Dunn County on December 11, 1898.

In 1891 Kumlien[12] wrote: "They are occasionally seen at almost any season, but more frequently in winter." Twelve years later it was considered "rather a rare bird." About fifteen specimens were handled during a period of fifteen years.[13]

A specimen taken at Big Bend on the Fox River was mounted and placed in the Turner Hall at Princeton, Green Lake County. It was destroyed accidentally in 1914.[14]

According to Stoddard,[15] specimens were taken not infrequently in Sauk County. He had in his possession a large female taken in February, 1908, and a male taken February 23, 1909.

One was reported seen by Warner Taylor at Mazomanie, Dane County, October 26, 1928.[16] The only specimen known to have been taken in the county is the one shot by a farmer in the town of Westport on December 23, 1940.[17] This bird was mounted and is now in the collection of the State Experimental Game and Fur Farm at Poynette. B. A. Barger informs me that this institution has a live golden eagle trapped at the Farm in February, 1945.

Dr. H. H. T. Jackson[18] examined a mounted specimen in the Holcombe Hotel. It was taken in a wolf trap near Holcombe, Chippewa County, in January, 1918.

The W. E. Snyder collection contained a specimen taken at Lost Lake, October 15, 1922, and one without date taken by R. A. Smith at Horicon, Dodge County.[19] The Snyder collection, with the exception of

GOLDEN EAGLE

BANDED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY W. S. FEENEY

REPRINTED FROM AN EARLIER ISSUE OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON

a small part purchased by R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Illinois, is in the Chicago (Field) Museum. The latter does not have a specimen of the golden eagle from Wisconsin.

A golden eagle taken in Price County, November 26, 1940, is now in a private collection in Milwaukee.[19]

I have been informed by Mr. Karl Kahmann of Hayward that he has mounted only two specimens, as follows:

Female. March 20, 1943. Winter, Sawyer County. Taken in a beaver trap.

Male. Feb. 14, 1945. Winter, Sawyer County. Taken in a trap set for coyotes near a deer carcass.

The two specimens are now in the possession of owners of summer homes near Hayward.

Considerable recent data have been provided by W. S. Feeney and associates of the Wisconsin Conservation Department. One was seen in Oneida County on March 10, 1942,[20] and an immature male was taken alive along the shore of Lake Michigan, Sheboygan County, on October 18, 1942.[19] Several were seen in Rusk County between January 12 and March 29, 1943[21]; and one in Iron County on March 28, 1944.[22]

Additional specimens taken in the state are given below. The list is admittedly incomplete and it is highly probable that many other specimens will be found to rest in private hands.

Milwaukee Public Museum

Female. Nov. 2, 1893. Freistadt, Ozaukee County. Donated by Aug. Stirm.

Female. Oct. 23, 1904. Kneeland, Racine County.

Female. Jan. 19, 1931. Darlington, Lafayette County. Donated by Wisconsin Conservation Department.

Female. Dec. 17, 1936. Solon Springs, Douglas County. Donated by Wisconsin Conservation Department.

Male. April 10, 1912. Donated by the Milwaukee Zoo. Wisconsin origin is questionable.

Beloit College

A mounted specimen without data.

American Museum of Natural History, New York

Male. No. 352,747. March, 1900. Milton, Rock County.

Female. No. 352,748. March, 1900. Milton, Rock County.

Both of the above specimens came from the collection of Charles K. Worthen, Warsaw, Illinois. On his death in 1909, his stock of about 7000 bird skins was purchased by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr. and J. H. Fleming. On the death of Dwight, his collection was bequeathed to the Museum.

Milton College

Female, im. "In the 1860s." Near Milton, Rock County.

Female, ad. Winter of 1874-5. Yellow River, Taylor County. Collected by Mr. Van Antwerpt.

Prof. L. M. Van Horn, of Milton College, informs me that the two specimens were mounted by Thure Kumlien when he was Professor of Biology at Milton. He adds: "The other specimen, an adult female, was captured in Chippewa County in 1879 by David Cartwright. . . . An interesting fact about this bird was the fact that it attacked Mr. Cartwright as he was walking through the woods with a deer over his shoulder." The incident is alluded to by Kumlien and Hollister[13] who mention the bird as a "gigantic female." A detailed description of the encounter is given by Cartwright.[23] The bird was killed in the winter of 1874-5 by his hunting companion, Mr. Van Antwerpt, "on the Yellow river about thirty-five miles from Chippewa, Wis." This would be in the western part of Taylor County. He remarks further: "It was a golden eagle, and measured two feet and ten inches from the bill to the tip of the tail, and seven and a half feet across the wings. It is now in a college cabinet. . . ."

Nesting

A positive breeding record for the state is lacking. Hoy[5] reported finding a nest in an oak tree between Racine and Milwaukee in 1851. Kumlien[12] knew of no other nesting record for the state. The egg taken by Hoy was examined by Kumlien and Hollister[13] who thought that it "looked very similar to that of the bald eagle."

The only other information on nesting is that contributed by Stoddard[15]: "That this species nested in Sauk County prior to 1908, there can be no doubt. There was a deserted nest still in good state of preservation on a sheltered ledge about sixty feet above the ground, on the same bluff where the Duck Hawks were found breeding. . . . This nest was typical of the Golden Eagle, made principally of juniper limbs, some of which were over an inch and a half in diameter. Mr. Bert Laws, who frequently saw the birds and described them to me, informed me that the nest was used for one or two seasons prior to 1908. Before that time they used a nest on an adjoining bluff, which was destroyed. I have seen specimens of the Golden Eagle on two occasions in the Baraboo Bluffs, in early summer." It is to be regretted that Stoddard did not have an opportunity to see the nest when it was occupied.

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Madison, Wisconsin, May, 1945.

BY THE WAYSIDE . . .

Another Raven Nest. While walking along the edge of a swamp in Vilas County, March 28th, we saw a pair of ravens. They were so noisy and agitated that Mr. Miles and I looked about and saw the nest directly opposite where we were standing. It was built in a white pine only about 75 to 100 feet from the edge of the swamp. Constructed of twigs the nest was supported against the trunk by several small branches about

35 feet above the ground. Wishing to photograph it, we returned on March 30th, at which time we saw a bird leave and return to the nest. —Mrs. P. E. Miles, Madison.

Bluebirds Lay a Set of White Eggs. Upon examining one of the bird boxes erected for bluebirds, April 7, I found four perfectly white eggs. There is no doubt that they were bluebird eggs because their size and shape was checked and a pair of the species has been seen at the box for several weeks. All of the bluebird eggs I have seen before were light blue in color.—Harold Kruse, Loganville.

Injured Junco Recovers. On January 26th a junco entered one of the ground trips at my station on the Fox River in De Pere operated by Dick Palmer. The bird's right side of the head and eye was badly swollen and the eye closed. It was very weak and not able to fly more than a few feet when banded and released. In making short hops the bird used both wings to balance itself at the end of each hop—leaving wing prints in the snow.

On February 28th, one month and two days later, the junco was again in the same trap and careful examination showed no trace of its former injury. It seemed to be in perfect health and vigor. The recovery is remarkable when one considers the extreme cold wave which hit this part of the state in February. There were seven days when the temperature was below zero and ten below was recorded on the seventeenth. The old adage "The Survival of the Fittest" does not apply here.—Earl G. Wright, Green Bay.

A Bittern Fight. Just a story of two male bitterns. Back of our house is a low swamp where the bitterns nest and last summer two male bitterns were fighting here for all they were worth. They must have been at it for over half an hour, but I was attracted by queer noises when I went out to see and they were fighting for a knockout. I went right up to them and they just kept on and never even noticed me. Then I caught them, both real exhausted, and held them until they got their wind. Then I let one go and away it went but the other stayed with us quite a while before it flew away. I never saw anything like this before. —Anna Archambault, Peshtigo.

THE WINTER SEASON . . .

(Field notes should be sent to the editor at the end of the four seasons. They should be turned in promptly and the A. O. U. order may be followed. All members are invited to participate.)

The final weeks of the winter season were filled with many "all time" records for early arrivals. This of course extended into the spring season report, April being even more notable than March. During the winter proper Clarence Searles, who traveled very extensively in the northern part this year, did not observe a single owl or either of the two winter grosbeaks. Both species of crossbills and siskins were noted rather commonly, however. The golden eagle record has been selected from this column this time to become the subject of the special back page write-up.*

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*Since this special write-up became too lengthy for its usual place on the back page it has been treated as a feature article.

Loon: Waupun, Dec. 31 (Beed). One individual that was driven from Libby's Creek by dogs.

Great Blue Heron: Madison, Dec. 21 (Jackson). One individual flying over the University. Fond du Lac, Mar. 15 (Bierman). Horicon, Mar. 16 (Jones). Ephraim, March 25 (Wilson).

Whistling Swan: Green Bay, Mar. 19 (Graass and Wright). Fond du Lac, Mar. 21 (Bierman).

Canada Goose: Fond du Lac, Mar. 12 (Bierman). Green Bay, Mar. 13 (Weber). Wood County, Mar. 16 (Searles).

Black Duck: Douglas County, Mar. 16 (Schmidt).

Pintail: Milwaukee, wintering (Orians).

Golden-eye: Iron County, Feb. 27 (Searles). Small flock.

Bufflehead: Appleton, Mar. 18 (Mrs. Rogers).

Ruddy Duck: Milwaukee, Mar. 5 (Orians). Female. Early.

Goshawk: Wood County, Jan. 6 (Searles). Milwaukee, Jan. 21 (Jung).

Red-tailed Hawk: Sauk County, Mar. 11 (Kruse). One on nest.

Golden Eagle: Jackson County, Mar. 6 (Feeney and Searles).

Rough-legged Hawk: Washburn County, Jan. 15 (Searles).

Marsh Hawk: Ephraim and Fond du Lac, Mar. 12 (Wilson and Bierman).

Spruce Grouse: Vilas County, March (Mrs. Miles). One male.

Ruffed Grouse: Scarcer than usual in both north and south.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Wood County, Dec. 27 (Searles). Ten observed. Also observed in small numbers over northern Wisconsin by Schmidt.

Bob-white: Jefferson County, Jan. 15 (Mrs. Main). Two noted as they fed on barberry fruit.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Horicon, Feb. 5 (Mathiak). First heard to crow.

Killdeer: Madison, Feb. 25 (Jackson). Five observed. Early. Ashland County, Mar. 18 (Dede).

Woodcock: Milwaukee, Mar. 16 (Bub); Mar. 17 (Doll). Madison, Mar. 17 (Barger). Observed in aerial dance.

Greater Yellow-legs: Horicon, Mar. 21 (Mathiak). Four observed. Earliest on record for the state.

Mourning Dove: Wood County, Dec. 27 (Searles). Oconto, Jan. 21 (Carl Richter). This specimen was picked up by fisherman and given to interested bird lover, who nursed it back to health. It had a frozen foot. Green Bay, 3, Feb. 24 (Eric Richter). A flock of nearly fifty wintered in Jefferson County on the farm of Mrs. Main.

Screech Owl: Jefferson County, wintering in the martin house of Mrs. Main's. It frequently was observed eating English sparrows, which it secured from the woodbine on the side of the residence.

Great Horned Owl: Sauk County, Mar. 4 (Kruse). Observed on nest.

Barred Owl: Madison, Feb. 10 (Mrs. Koehler). Observed in town.

Kingfisher: Richland County, Jan. 19; Sauk County, Jan. 20 (Kruse).

Flicker: Two in Wood County, Jan. 5 (Searles). Horicon, Jan. 13 (Mathiak).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: One in Waupaca, observed in yard from Dec. 6 to Jan. 6 (Mrs. Peterson).

Red-headed Woodpecker: One, Waupaca, Feb. 28 (Mrs. Peterson). No birds of this species have been observed in winter this year by Kruse in Sauk County, although many are found normally.

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker: Vilas County, March (Mrs. Miles). Iron County, Feb. 4 (Feeney, Searles and Schneiders). The latter observer obtained movies of it.

Phoebe: Ephraim, Mar. 12 (Wilson). Earliest on record. Horicon, Mar. 16 (Jones). Sauk County, Mar. 18 (Kruse). Ashland County, Mar. 26 (Dede).

Prairie Horned Lark: Sauk County, Feb. 6 (Kruse). More abundant after Feb. 20.

Magpie: Madison, Mar. 4 (Jackson). Observed last on this date. An escaped bird of 1944 from the Madison Zoo.

Raven: Nest in Vilas County, Mar. 28 (Mrs. Miles). Photographed by Mr. Miles, it was located about 35 feet above the ground in a white pine.

Crow: Two, Barron County, Jan. 3 (Searles). One, Oconto, Jan. 11 (Carl Richter). Increase in numbers in Sauk County, Feb. 12 (Kruse); reaching Ephraim also in February (Wilson).

Black-capped Chickadee: So tame at the home of Mrs. Peterson in Waupaca that they take food from the shoulder, finger or mouth.

Hudsonian Chickadee: Oneida County, Jan. 8 (Schmidt). Three in Iron County, Feb. 24 (Feeney and Searles).

Tufted Titmouse: Milwaukee, Feb. 3 to 22 (Mrs. Kelly). Feeding from cocoanut feeder. Also one in Milwaukee, Mar. 26 (Doll).

Brown Creeper: Ashland County, Mar. 11 (Dede).

Winter Wren: Vilas County in song, Mar. 23 to 30 (Mrs. Miles).

Robin: Oconto, two on Feb. 27 (Carl Richter). Abundant after Mar. 14. One, Ephraim, Mar. 3 (Wilson). Waupaca, Mar. 4 (Mrs. Peterson). Ashland County, Mar. 14 (Dede). Oneida County, Mar. 17 (Schmidt).

Bluebird: Sauk County, Mar. 4 (Kruse). Ephraim, Mar. 10 (Wilson). Oconto, Mar. 15 in numbers (Carl Richter). Ashland County, Mar. 19, reported to Dede. Burnett County, Mar. 21 (Nutt).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Milwaukee, Mar. 17 (Doll). Earliest on record.

Bohemian Waxwing: Milwaukee, Feb. 17 and 18 (Mrs. Hook). One with a flock of cedar waxwings feeding on high bush cranberries.

Cedar Waxwing: In addition to the above: Milwaukee, Feb. 4 (Steven); Grafton, Feb. 12 (Poe).

Northern Shrike: Horicon, Jan. 29 (Mathiak). Madison, Feb. 25 (Jackson). Green Bay, Feb. 25 (Eric Richter).

Starling: Iron County, one on Feb. 25 (Searles). Building nest in Oconto, Mar. 16, using material from an old cedar waxwing's nest. This is an early nesting date for the starling. With the help of an English sparrow the waxwing's nest was entirely removed by Mar. 20. In Sauk County, Kruse states that it was necessary to dispatch fourteen starlings before a pair of red-headed woodpeckers could continue in peace on his place. This year a pair of red-bellied woodpeckers is using the cavity.

English Sparrow: Constructing nest in Sauk County, Mar. 11 (Barger).

Eastern Meadowlark: Fort Atkinson, Mar. 7 (Mrs. Main). Sauk County, Mar. 13, common (Kruse). Horicon, Mar. 12 (Mathiak). Oconto, Mar. 12 (Carl Richter). Waupaca, Mar. 14 (Mrs. Peterson).

Western Meadowlark: Dane County, Mar. 11 (J. H. Zimmerman). Horicon, Mar. 13 (Mathiak). Fond du Lac, Mar. 13 (Bierman).

Red-wing: Back in numbers at Horicon, Mar. 2 (Mathiak). Oconto, Mar. 12 (Carl Richter). Waupaca, Mar. 13 (Mrs. Peterson). Sauk County, great influx, Mar. 13 (Kruse). Appleton, Mar. 18 (Mrs. Rogers). Green Bay, Mar. 18 (Eric Richter). Hayward, Mar. 18 (Zirrer).

Brewer's Blackbird: Milwaukee, Mar. 17 (Doll).

Bronzed Grackle: Horicon, Jan. 1, also thereafter (Mathiak). Fort Atkinson, before March (Mrs. Main). Appleton, Mar. 10 (Mrs. Rogers). Sauk County, Mar. 16 (Kruse). Ephraim, Mar. 16 (Wilson).

Cowbird: Green Bay, Mar. 18 (Eric Richter). Sauk County, Mar. 18 (Kruse). One with red-wings.

Cardinal: Pair in Ephraim since November (Wilson). Two pairs in Waupaca in garden of Mrs. Peterson all winter. Males began to sing full song and to engage in scraps Mar. 1. Song of Cardinal heard in Green Bay, Mar. 4 (Mrs. Weber).

Purple Finch: Mentioned more frequently than usual this winter. Three at Hayward, Dec. 24 and after (Zirrer). Oneida County, twelve, Jan. 27 (Searles). Iron County, thirty, Feb. 12 (Searles). Flock in Birnamwood, Feb. 12 (Miss Staege). Douglas County, Mar. 6 (Schmidt). Ephraim, Mar. 8 (Wilson). Stevens Point, Apr. 5 (Mrs. Freed).

Redpoll: Fort Atkinson, late in February (Mrs. Main). Not seen around Horicon this winter, whereas last winter they were common.

Siskin: Many observed in Iron and Vilas Counties during February (Searles). Also in Door County all winter (Wilson).

Goldfinch: Common around Horicon this winter although they were scarce last year (Mathiak). Iron County, two, Feb. 12 (Searles).

Red Crossbill: Iron County, one, Feb. 12 (Searles).

White-winged Crossbill: Oneida County, one, Jan. 26 (Searles).

Towhee: Dane County, Mar. 25, two (Barger).

Vesper Sparrow: Fort Atkinson, first days of March (Mrs. Main).

Junco: Great influx Mar. 18; Appleton (Mrs. Rogers) and Sauk County (Kruse).

Chipping Sparrow: Milwaukee, Mar. 17 (Doll).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Fond du Lac, Mar. 18 (Bierman).

White-throated Sparrow: Oconto, Mar. 21 (Carl Richter).

Fox Sparrow: Milwaukee, Mar. 9 (H. Mueller). Waupaca, Mar. 15 (Mrs. Peterson).

Song Sparrow: Milwaukee, Jan. 26 (Bub). Waupaca, Feb. 27 (Mrs. Peterson). Oconto, Mar. 1 (Eric Richter). Hayward, Mar. 18 (Zirrer). (Mrs. Peterson).

Snow Bunting: Horicon, Jan. 22 (Mathiak); flock of fifty. Fort Atkinson, Feb. 11 (Mrs. Main); large flock.

The Birds. By E. L. Palmer. Slingerland-Comstock Co., Ithica, N. Y. Set with binder, $1.50. One hundred and seventy-eight species are handled on as many sheets. On one side is an outline drawing by L. A. Fuertes, and on the other is the text, giving names, measurements, description, range, character, notes, nest data, food, etc. At the bottom of each sheet is a ruled space for observations.

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