The passenger pigeon. Vol. 66, No. 3 Fall 2004

Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Fall 2004

The Passenger PIGEON

Vol 66, No.3 • Fall 2004

Journal of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

THE *PASSENGER PIGEON* Vol. 66 No. 3 Fall 2004

EDITORS
Bettie R. and Neil A. Harriman
5188 Bittersweet Lane
Oshkosh, WI 54901
920. 233. 1973
bettie@vbe.com
harriman@uwosh.edu

BIRD REPORTS COORDINATOR
Wayne Rohde
W6488 Beloit Rd.
Walworth, WI 53184
wsrohde@genevaonline.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR (Art)
David Kuecherer
726 Harvard Drive
Neenah, WI 54956
920. 725. 7915
dkuecherer@new.rr.com

FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Spring)
Karl H. David
6880 Beechnut Drive
Racine, WI 53402
david@msoe.edu

FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Summer)
Thomas K. Soulen
1725 West Eldridge Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55113
651. 631. 2069

FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Autumn)
Mark S. Peterson
Box 53
Caroline, WI 54928
715. 754. 2130

FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Winter)
Kenneth I. Lange
1530 East Street
Baraboo, WI 53913
608. 356. 3658

The Passenger Pigeon (ISSN 0031-2703) is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, 2022 Sherryl Lane, Waukesha, WI 53188. Periodicals Postage Paid at Hartland, WI and at additional mailing offices, including Lawrence, KS 66044. Subscription rates are $25 domestic; $30 foreign. Back issues may be obtained for $8 each. "POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Passenger Pigeon*, Jesse Peterson, 810 Ganser Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597."

Membership rates per year are: Individual, $30; Family, $35; Sustaining, $75; Library, (*Passenger Pigeon* only) $25. Life membership (Single), $600; Life (Couple), $700; Patron, $1,000 are one time payments. Contact Jesse Peterson, Membership Chair, 810 Ganser Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597 with membership and mailing related questions.

Send all manuscripts and related correspondence to the Editors. Information for "Seasonal Field Notes" should be sent to the Bird Reports Coordinator (see inside back cover). Art work and questions about the art should be sent to the Associate Editor for art (see left column). Manuscripts that deal with Wisconsin birds, ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and WSO activities are considered for publication. For detailed submission guidelines, see pages 3–5 of the Spring 2000 issue (Vol. 62, No. 1) or contact the Editors. As a general guide to style, use issues after Vol. 60, No. 1, 1998.

Front Cover: Sibella, the matriarch of the Wisconsin Peregrine Falcon reintroduction program, with chicks. Photo by Greg Septon.

Don't be afraid . . .

to make mistakes! Finding birds and identifying them is a challenging process that requires persistence, preparation, and maybe a little luck. After a while we discover that this hobby of watching birds requires multiple senses both individually and collectively. Just seeing a bird sitting in a bush in some wetland or prairie might not be enough to put a name to it. The bird may have to vocalize before our identification can be solidified. Or it might be one of those times when the only good look was a fleeting glance, an obscured view, or it was a little brown job (LBJ), or a myriad of other frustrating observations. Did you try to identify the bird in all these circumstances? Of course you did, that's how we challenge ourselves and learn. Did you make mistakes? Probably, but the important thing was that you also learned from the situation and were better prepared next time.

Each one of us has our own best reason(s) for birding, and if we follow the "birding code," that no one ought to tell us how it must be done. We each have our own level of interest, which requires our own pace, and we get out of it what we want. However, if it is your intention to make your observations public and to have them published for historic reference, in *The Passenger Pigeon* or other birding journals, then you should know that your observations must meet a set of standards. Depending on several factors, your sightings may be questioned by those responsible for permitting your observation to be published.

This huge responsibility has a chain of command. The first link in this chain, is you, the observer. As an observer you must be aware whether the species, because of it's unusual or rare nature, requires additional written documentation. These species are indicated on the state checklist, the seasonal report forms, and the WSO website. The second link is Wayne Rhode; WSO's Bird Reports Coordinator. Wayne will glean all the report forms, checking for clarity, and that each unusual or rare species has accompanying documentation. At this point your forms get split up: Wayne will send the report forms to the appropriate Field Note Compiler (seasonal editor) for their analyses; and all the documentations of those unusual or rare species are sent to Jim Frank, WSO Records Committee chair. Jim will make copies of these documentations and circulate them among the committee's five members, each of whom scrutinizes the reports for thoroughness and accuracy. Each member then submits a vote based upon personal experience and/or researched information about the species. The votes are collected for each observation and it is either accepted or rejected.

If the committee member believes the documentation does not meet the appropriate criteria he/she will reject it and submit a written rationale to Jim. Jim will compile these notes and will formulate a letter back to the observer outlining the reasons for the rejection. Jim will also present this information, anony-

mously, in the "Records Committee Report" under the **Records Not Accepted** section in *The Passenger Pigeon.* By doing this, Jim has provided all of us an excellent opportunity to learn from the mistakes or oversights of others.

A good percentage of the time, these documentations are "rejected" not because of observer error but, because the observer has omitted important details. I've had my fair share of rejected observations, some for that very reason, but I've tried to learn from those mistakes to be careful to note important details relative to that species.

If the observation is accepted, the narrative of the observation is often made public in the "By the Wayside" section of *The Passenger Pigeon.* This allows us to read and digest what an accepted documentation should contain. In the "Records Committee Report" **Accepted** section, Jim has taken it a step farther by pointing out the details of the observation that solidified a correct identification. Again, Jim has provided the field observer a great service and reference to learn from.

This process is fairly efficient and is required if we, the non-scientific community, want our observations represented as scientific information, not only regionally, but nationally. All birders and ornithologists, in the future, are relying on this chain of command to make sure these records from the past are legitimate and represent meaningful data. As a former member of this committee I know first-hand the challenges, difficulties, and frustrations in determining whether the observer, no matter how experienced, has adequately documented the observation to rule out **all** other possibilities. It's not the responsibility of this committee to determine whether you are a "good" birder or not, but to determine if your documentation is "good."

Remember that all those accepted records you read here in *The Passenger Pigeon,* were written by those that have made errors in the past and will probably do so in the future. So, don't be afraid to make mistakes, challenge yourself, and learn as much as you can from them.

President

Editor's note: See pages 61–74 in Volume 66, Number 1 of The Passenger Pigeon for Jim Frank's article about providing documentation.

A Hearty "Thank You"

As usual within WSO, just ask and you will receive. In May the editors put the word out that we had no articles waiting for publication, now we have eleven in our hands and three more are promised. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who responded to our plea. Now, just keep the words about birds coming.

Six of those articles appear in this issue. We think members will be delighted to read about Sibella, the grande dame of Wisconsin's Peregrine Falcon program, and to learn the role that electric power companies played to return this species to our skies. You'll discover that failure can be a teaching experience when you follow the story of an attempt to restore Prairie-Chickens to Crew Meadows, and that both landowners and wildlife benefit from wetland restoration in southeastern Wisconsin. If getting bird conservation into the minds of the next generation interests you, be sure to read Gilchrist's article on what's being done in Wisconsin to accomplish just that. And finally, for all you Christmas Bird Count fanatics, there's a tale of one man's attempt to run 23 CBCs in one count season.

There is a short article on the first Wisconsin nesting record for Eurasian Collared-Dove. The editors would be delighted to publish more documentations of "first" breeding records. If you don't know which species have never been documented as nesting in Wisconsin check in *Wisconsin Birdlife* by Sam Robbins and on the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBA) website to find out which species are still to be recorded as nesters in our state.

Please remember to send any observations of interesting, odd, or uncommon bird behavior to the editors for the "From Field and Feeders" column. When we have enough material, we'll run that column again.

Thanks again for making this "your" journal by contributing to the contents.

Bettie and Neil Harriman, Editors

Sibella

A Tribute to Sibella: Wisconsin's Peregrine Falcon Matriarch

Greg Septon

sharptailpoint@earthlink.net

It was a cold November afternoon in 1988 when Sibella first appeared in Milwaukee. I had just finished installing a prototype elevated safety deck in front of the nest box on the 41st floor ledge of the city's First Wisconsin building (now US Bank). With my work completed, I sat back inside the box for a while, viewing Milwaukee from a falcon's perspective when seemingly from out of nowhere, an immature female peregrine suddenly appeared in front of the nest box. Hanging motionless in the updraft at a distance of only 5–6 feet, she lowered her legs for a moment and I was easily able to read her black project band as 20V20. As quickly as she appeared, Sibella likewise disappeared, peeling off and vanishing into the cityscape beneath us.

Surprised at the brief and close-up appearance by this falcon I gathered up my tools, left the nest box, and drove home to check the Midwest banding records for 1988. Paging through the band numbers, I soon came across 20V20. The report indicated that she was a captive-produced youngster who had been released at Feldtman Ridge on Isle Royale National Park, Michigan on 20 July. Not having been named by her hack site attendants I named her "Sibella" after a famous peregrine owned and flown in the 1920s by British falconer, Captain Charles Portal.

As with many of the captive-produced peregrines released by hacking (Sherrod et al. 1981) as part of the Midwest peregrine falcon recovery effort, Sibella came from a mixed genetic background. She was produced by falcon breeder Richard Graham of Colorado Springs, Colorado and her parents were of the subspecies *F. p. anatum* and *F. p. pealei.* Sibella hatched on 10 June 1988 and a little over a month later on 12 July, she arrived by floatplane at Isle Royale and was transferred into the hack box with four other captive-produced falcons where they were cared for and fed while awaiting their release.

Once released, Sibella's beginnings in the real world appeared somewhat less than auspicious. The hack-site attendants monitoring her release that summer stated that, "she was the most inactive and least mature falcon (although not easily displaced from food)." They also stated, "During the release, she was the last to leave the hide in the hack box and that she preferred to eat quail upon which the other falcons had begun feeding

Sibella in her nest box with four young high atop Milwaukee's First Wisconsin building.

rather than plucking a fresh quail of her own" (Cress et al. 1988).

Although seemingly developing slower than the other falcons released at this site, the attendants also reported that "she was the most successful falcon in displacing other falcons from food and perches, so in this respect she was the most dominant." She was also the last falcon still returning to the hack box when observations concluded on 3 September. It was just over two months later that she appeared at the First Wisconsin building nest box. Just like the two juvenile falcons that nested at this site in 1988, she had found the only nest box in the state of Wisconsin. And, she'd traveled nearly 400 miles to do so.

In 1989 and 1990, Sibella successfully nested at the First Wisconsin site with McArthur (03Y), a captive-produced male who had been released at Fort Sheridan, Illinois in 1987 and who nested at this site in 1988. In 1989, Sibella laid three eggs and hatched one. In order to increase production and hedge against the loss of her only chick, we augmented the nest with a captive-produced male and both chicks fledged successfully. In 1990, Sibella and McArthur produced four eggs, hatched all four, and all four young successfully fledged.

In the spring of 1991, McArthur was found dead in Milwaukee and Sibella spent most of March and part of April alone. However during mid-April she attracted no less than three males to the site. As April wore on, a lone juvenile with a strange sickle shaped wing settled in and was seen together with Sibella from then on. I identified this new male as Bill (74T), a captive-pro-

duced falcon who had been released from Van Hise hall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the previous summer. We wondered whether Bill would be able to provide enough food with his bad wing, but he had seemed to work around his infirmity and actually became a great provider. And, with the onset of the molt that summer, Bill's wing began to take on a more normal appearance as the stunted primary and secondary flight feathers were replaced with normal length blue gray adult plumage. Sibella laid four eggs that year and hatched a single chick. Once again, we augmented the nest with a captive-produced chick and both young successfully fledged.

In 1992, Sibella and Bill again successfully nested, producing four eggs and fledging four young. Although we didn't realize it at the time, this was to become a regular event over the next 11 years. Between 1989–2003, Sibella laid a total of 55 eggs, hatched 41, and fledged 41 youngsters for an average of 2.7 young/year. Table 1 shows Sibella's annual and lifetime production. Of note is that in 12 of 15 years, Sibella laid full clutches of four eggs.

At least three of Sibella's offspring along with a captive-produced male augmented to the nest in 1989 are known to have survived and nested. One, a female hatched in 1999, nested in Pennsylvania in 2002. Another three of Sibella's young were trapped at the Cedar Grove banding station and six of her offspring have been found dead from various causes.

In 2003, Sibella was alone at her nestbox and laid a single smallish egg. Shortly afterwards she disappeared and has not been seen since. In 2004, there was no sign of her at her nest box and I am fairly confident she is now dead.

Sibella lived to be at least 15 years of age, a record which has only been surpassed here in the Midwest by a female falcon from Minnesota named Meg (12R) who turned 17 in 2003 and produced a total of 43 young (Tordoff

Table 1. Annual and lifetime production of Sibella (20V20).

Year	Eggs Laid	Hatched	Augments	Fledged
1989	3	1	1	2
1990	4	4		4
1991	4	1	1	2
1992	4	4		4
1993	4	4		4
1994	4	4		4
1995	4	3		3
1996	3	3		3
1997	4	4		4
1998	4	3		3
1999	4	3		3
2000	4	3		3
2001	4	4		4
2002	4	0		0
2003	1	0		0
Totals	55	41	2	43

2003), just two more than Sibella. Sibella had become a fixture at the First Wisconsin building over the years and brought enjoyment to the thousands of employees who work(ed) there and followed her nesting activities each spring via closed-circuit TV. Likewise she served as a priceless ambassador for endangered species recovery efforts in the most unlikely of places.

In spite of the fact Sibella is likely gone, she truly left her mark. In fact, we know for sure that she has "great, great grandkids" and this is a story worth telling.

In 1993, one of Sibella's four chicks was a male I banded as C/U. In 1994, Sibella produced another four young, one of which was a female named Carmen (D/N). In 1996 C/U and Carmen (brother and sister) nested successfully at the long vacant Commodore Perry Inn in Toledo, Ohio, producing at least two young. Unfortunately, because access to the site was prohibited, neither was banded. But the story gets even more interesting. After fledging, one of the young was found injured and subsequently sent to the Raptor Center in Minnesota for medical care. After treatment and with a clean bill of health this falcon was banded (5/*R) and flown back to Toledo where she was released on 29 July. If this falcon had not been found injured, sent to the Raptor Center for treatment, and banded before being returned to Toledo for release, our story would have ended here.

However, in the spring of 1997 while inspecting the nest box at the Busch Agricultural Resources site in Manitowoc (the nest box was installed in 1990 but had yet to host a pair of nesting peregrines), I found a juvenile female peregrine inside wearing a black over red project band marked 5/*R. Not having been given a name as a nestling, I named her Nerissa. Although Nerissa did not nest at this site in 1997, she did successfully nest there between 1998–2000, producing a total of nine young, one of which was a female hatched in 1999 named Lil' Debbie (7/*G).

In 2003, Lil' Debbie nested successfully at the Ghent Utilities site in Ghent, Kentucky, producing four offspring which officially became Sibella's great, great grandkids. Without the long-term and continued banding and observation efforts of peregrine managers and observers across the Midwest, this story might never have been told. To them a debt of gratitude is owed.

Sibella had a long and productive life in Milwaukee and her genes live on. In the coming years I'll be checking the Midwest nesting reports to see if any of Lil' Debbie's offspring survive to nest. If they do, they'll add yet another generation to Sibella's lineage.

Acknowledgments

Over the past 18 years I have worked with many individuals at what originated as the First Wisconsin Center (now US Bank and formerly Firstar Bank). From the early beginning in 1987, when we hacked 14 captive-produced young falcons at this site to the present, the staff and management have been steadfast and supportive. All efforts of this magnitude require funding and returning peregrines to Wisconsin was no excep-

tion. Fred Ott opened the door for funding possibilities and Jack Hendee of the former First Wisconsin Bank was instrumental in securing corporate funding for the first five years of the recovery project and deserves very special recognition for his belief in what we were doing. Among the individuals who have also been especially helpful, Craig Siefeldt should be given a special thanks. He's been there since the beginning and keeps the best interests of the nesting falcons at heart. Special thanks also go to Randy Genaw, Bob Shinners, and all the engineers and security personnel who have helped out over the years. And finally, a very special warm thank-you goes to Joe Branch of Foley & Lardner who has always been there to help in many ways and seldom missed a banding day.

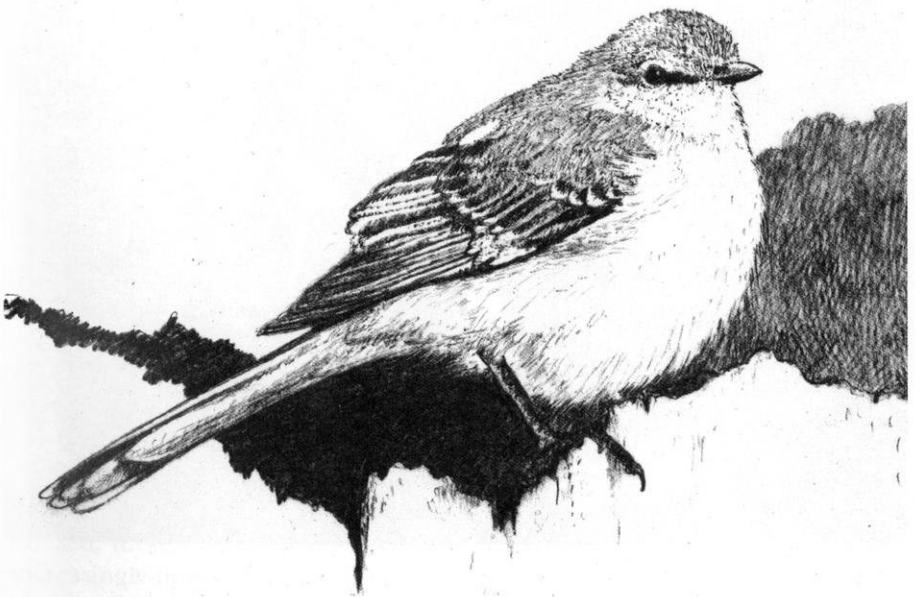
Literature Cited

Cress, G., S. Fettig and C. J. Martin. 1988. Minnesota Peregrine Falcon Reintroduction Report, 1988 Summary Report, Feldtman Ridge Hack Site, Isle Royale National Park, Michigan. Pp. 51–62 *in* P. T. Redig, and H. B. Tordoff, [EDS], Midwestern Peregrine Falcon Restoration Project 1988 Report. Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program.

Sherrod, Steve K., W. R. Heinrich, W. A. Burnham, J. H. Barclay, and T. Cade. 1981. Hacking: a method for releasing peregrine falcons and other birds of prey. The Peregrine Fund, Inc.

Tordoff, H. B. 2003. St. Paul's Champion Peregrine Falcon. The Loon, 75: 179–181.

With over 30 years of museum experience, Greg Septon has lectured in 17 counties and published over 70 articles on museum techniques, birds, and natural history. For the past 18 years he has directed and managed urban Peregrine Falcon recovery in Wisconsin.



Northern Mockingbird *by Judith Huf*

Downy Woodpecker photographed in Dodge County *by Jack Bartholmai*

Peregrine Falcons and Electric Power Plants in Wisconsin

Greg Septon

sharptailpoint@earthlink.net

Although Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) recovery efforts began here in Wisconsin in 1987, it wasn't until 1990 that an intensive nest box program got under way. In that year, the Wisconsin Peregrine Society initiated the "Lakefront Plan," which called for the placement of nest boxes on every suitable tall man-made structure along a 200-mile stretch of the western shore of Lake Michigan. These sites included several electric power plants.

Because of an absence of suitable cliffs along this stretch of the Lake Michigan shoreline, there is only one record of peregrines nesting in the region and this was a tree nest in Racine (Kumlien and Hollister 1903). In spite of this absence of suitable nest sites, we believed that peregrines would readily adapt to the human-built environment and occupy nest boxes that had been provided for them (Septon et al. 1996) while using the shoreline as an "avenue" as described by Fran Hamerstrom. This avenue, she stated, "would allow peregrines to find each other."

As peregrine recovery efforts progressed, these Lakefront sites became increasingly important and the power plants among them played a pivotal role. One power plant site at Pleasant Prairie (Figure 1.) was used as a release site in 1992, where 15 captive-produced young peregrines were successfully released through the process of hacking (Sherrod et al. 1981). And the same year, the first successful nesting at a power plant in Wisconsin occurred at the Edgewater Generating Station in Sheboygan where a nest box had been installed the previous year.

During the 1990s nest boxes were installed at 12 power plants in Wisconsin as indicated in Table 1. This table also provides information on the length of time between installation of nest boxes and first successful nests at these sites. With the success of power plant nest sites along the Lakefront, nest boxes were also installed at power plants along the Upper Mississippi River in proximity to cliffs where peregrines nested historically. Both the western Lake Michigan shoreline (Mueller et al. 1988) and the Mississippi River corridor (Cade 1982) are traditional autumnal migration routes for peregrines and this factor we believe also played an important role in the recovery. By installing nest boxes on power plants (and other tall man-made structures, such as buildings, grain elevators) along these migration

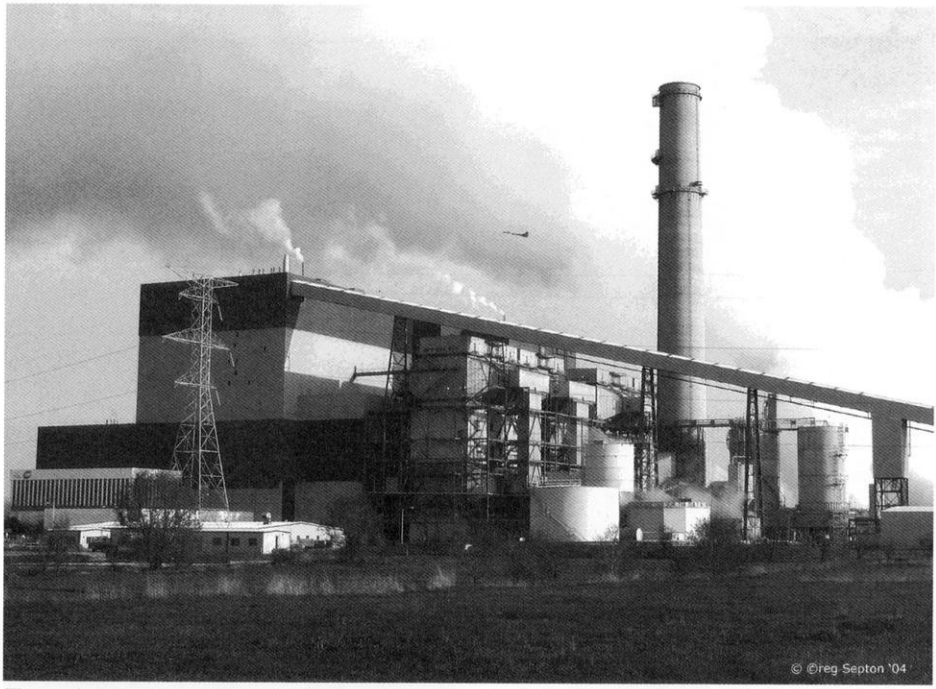


Figure 1: We-Energies' Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Kenosha County, Wisconsin, where 15 captive-produced peregrines were hacked in 1992. This site has hosted nesting peregrines since 1997, producing a total of 21 young.

Table 1. Power plant nest box installations and years of first successful nests.

Site	Nest box installed	First successful nest
Pleasant Prairie, WE	1991	1997
Oak Creek, WE	1991	1998
Port Washington, WE	1991	2000
Sheboygan, Edgewater, WP&L	1991	1992
Beloit, Rock River, WP&L	1992	NA
Portage, Columbia, WPS	1992	FO
Cassville, Nelson Dewey, WP&L	1993	2001
Alma, DPC	1994	1997
Green Bay, Pulliam, WPS	1995	1996
Rothschild, Weston, WPS	1995	FO
Genoa, DPC	1997	1998
Kewaunee Nuclear, WPS	1999	2001
Milwaukee, Valley, WE	2001	2001

WP&L = Wisconsin Power & Light
WE = We Energies
WPS = Wisconsin Public Service
DPC = Dairyland Power Coop
FO = Falcons observed
NA = No activity

routes where peregrines were most likely to find them, we felt it was only a matter of time before these sites became occupied.

The role power plants have played in the recovery of peregrines here in Wisconsin and the Midwest has consequently been quite significant. By their very nature, power plants offer security, limited disturbance, corporate support, employee interest, and plenty of "structure"; i.e., numerous levels, ledges, smoke stacks, parapets, and catwalks as well as various architectural nooks and crannies where peregrines can seek shelter. And, power plants are often located along shorelines of rivers and lakes (which provide cooling water for the turbines) which peregrines are attracted to. These factors have collectively contributed to high site occupation, high production, and consequent high fledge rates (Septon 2003). Table 2 provides a record of peregrine production at power plants in Wisconsin between 1992 (when the first nesting occurred) and 2004.

As nest sites of choice, power plants also produce the majority of young each year in Wisconsin. Of 128 successful nests (young produced) at 24 sites in Wisconsin between 1988–2004, 66 (52%) occurred at 10 (41%) power plants. Table 3 shows peregrine production by site type in Wisconsin 1988–2004 and includes a breakdown of power plant nest sites by electric power corporations. Table 4 provides an account of successful peregrine nests in Wisconsin for 2004. The table clearly shows the important role that power plants continue to play.

Early in the recovery effort, questions were asked about the whether or not peregrines nesting along the Lakeshore were being adversely affected by environmental contaminants. To answer these questions we analyzed infertile/addled eggs (N=6) salvaged from nests along the Lakeshore between 1989–1993 for organochlorine and heavy metal residues (Septon and Marks 1996). Three of these eggs were from a power plant nest site with the remainder from building nests. The following is excerpted from that paper.

> "The findings of our environmental contaminant analyses were compared with similar studies undertaken in North America between 1980–1989. For the Wisconsin eggs which were analyzed, geometric mean residue levels of DDE and DDT were found to be the lowest of all compared North American samples. Geometric mean PCB residue levels were lower than levels detected in Canadian *F. p. pealei* and *F. p. tundrius* subspecies and East Coast peregrines but higher than *F. p. anatum* populations in Canada, California and Colorado. The geometric mean level of mercury in Wisconsin eggs was higher than Canadian *F. p. tundrius* levels but lower than that found in Canadian *F. p. anatum.*
>
> "The emptied and dried eggshells were also measured and weighed to determine the "Ratcliffe thickness index." A comparison of eggshell thickness indices was made between pre-DDT (1947) eggshells from Wisconsin (N=6) (average thickness 2.008) and our salvaged eggshells (N=9) (average thickness 1.806). This comparison indicated 10% thinning in the salvaged eggshells which although thinner than pre-DDT eggshells, did not change significantly ($P > 0.005$) from the historic indices."

A more recent study to specifically determine how environmental con-

TABLE 2. Peregrine falcon production at power plants in Wisconsin 1992–2004

Site	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total young/site
Sheboygan, WP&L	1	1	4	3	4	0	4	4	4	3	2	4	3	37
Pleasant Prairie, WE						2	3	2	3	4	1	4	2	21
Green Bay, WPS					4	3	4	2	4	4	4	3	2	30
Alma, DPC						3	4	5	4	5	4	4	4	33
Oak Creek, WE							4	4	4	4	4	3	4	27
Genoa, DPC							2	4	4	1	3	4	4	22
Port Washington, WE									3	3	3	4	4	17
Kewaunee, WPS										3	4	3	3	13
Cassville, Nelson Dewey, WP&L										3	4	4	0	11
Milwaukee, VAAP, WE											4	4	3	11
Yearly and grand totals:	1	1	4	3	8	8	21	21	26	30	33	37	29	222

WP&L = Wisconsin Power & Light
WE = We-Energies
WPS = Wisconsin Public Service
DPC = Dairyland Power Cooperative

Table 3. Wild-produced young by site type: 1988–2004

Site type	Young produced	% Total
All sites	409	100%
Man-made	370	90%
Power plants	222	55%
We-energies	*76*	*19%*
Dairyland Power Cooperative	*55*	*13%*
Alliant/WI Power & Light	*48*	*12%*
Wisconsin Public Service	*43*	*11%*
Buildings	82	20%
Grain Elevators	61	15%
Cliffs	39	9%
Bridges	5	1%

Table 4. Site type and number of young produced: 2004

Site	Power Plant	Grain Elevator	Cliff	Building	Bridge	Totals
Superior, Bong Bridge					0	0
Milwaukee, Miller Brewery				2		2
Milwaukee, Froedtert		4				4
Oak Creek, WE	4					4
Milwaukee, Valley, WE	3					3
Port Washington, WE	4					4
Sheboygan WP&L	3					3
Manitowoc, Busch		5				5
Green Bay, Pulliam, WPS	2					2
Pleasant Prairie, WE	2					2
Kewaunee, Nuclear, WPS	3					3
Racine, Courthouse				2		2
Jefferson, Cargill		3				3
Alma, DPC	4					4
Genoa, DPC	4					4
Cassville, Nelson Dewey, WP&L	0					0
Maiden Rock			2			2
Maassen Bluff			1			1
Castle Rock			4			4
Lynxville, Lee's Cliff			3			3
Totals	29	12	10	4	0	55

WP&L = Wisconsin Power & Light
WE = We-Energies
WPS = Wisconsin Public Service
DPC = Dairyland Power Cooperative

taminants might be affecting peregrines nesting at power plants was conducted by the Electric Power Research Institute (Anderson, 2001). The focus of this study was to determine whether or not falcons nesting at these Midwestern sites were being adversely affected by contaminants produced by the burning of fossil fuels.

Based on the results, Peregrine Falcons nesting at fossil fuel burning utility plants do not appear to be at risk for significantly increased exposure to heavy metals when compared with peregrines nesting in the arctic, in cities, or at nuclear power plants. We hope the results of this study will help alleviate some of the concerns about the health of peregrines nesting at power plants.

In recent years peregrines have also returned to their historical cliff sites along the Mississippi River and have nested successfully. These cliff sites are all close to existing power plant nest sites which have "primed the pump," so to speak, in this corridor. Peregrines are attracted to other peregrines and it is a safe bet that the presence of nesting peregrines at power plants along the river attracted other peregrines and helped usher in a new generation of cliff nesting peregrines in the state. This is yet another positive aspect that power plants have lent to the recovery of peregrines in Wisconsin.

The role of power plants in peregrine recovery in Wisconsin is similar to that in other Midwestern states. The following is excerpted from a recently published essay (Septon 2003): "Looking at the big picture in the Midwest for the year 2000, 82 pairs of Peregrines successfully nested producing a total of 199 young. Twenty (24%) of these pairs nested at power plants where 67 (34%) young were produced. The majority (90%) of these power plants were located in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Indiana. In each of these three states where concerted efforts were undertaken to install nest boxes at power plants, two things have resulted. First, pairs established at power plants became a significant portion of the breeding population. And second, the young produced at these sites each year became a significant portion of the total annual production."

In our ever-changing and increasingly urbanized world, it has been refreshing to work with Wisconsin's electric power corporations and to see the real progress peregrines have made. I'm not naïve enough to believe problems won't ever occur at these sites, just as they occur at other sites. However with continued interest and corporate stewardship, I believe Peregrine Falcons will be a part of our urban world for many, many years to come. They along with numerous other species of wildlife have adapted to our cities and it is now up to us to ensure their future well being.

Acknowledgments

Over the past 14 years I have worked with many individuals at numerous power plants in Wisconsin. A special and heartfelt thank-you goes to the following: At We Energies, Noel Cutright has been a powerful force in steering things in the right direction since the beginning. Engineers and others at We Energies nest sites who have been key to success include Rose Dehli, Mike Crivello, Dave Groshek, Bill Holton, Bob Jones, Dawn Lemke, Bob Meidl, Dan Mooney, Ed Neckar, John Noegle, Bob Reske, Chuck Vincent, and Cheryl Woychik. At Wisconsin Power & Light, Shane Dodd, Mary Walters-Rhymer, and JoAnn Thiel are to be thanked for their dedication over the years. At Wisconsin Public Service a special thank-you goes to

Alan Trick. Also to be thanked are Steve Alberts, Doug Day, Kim Deda, Jim Kruse, Karmen Lemke, Craig Long, Dave Polster, Charlie Schrock, and Roger Zimmerman. At Dairyland Power Cooperative, special thanks goes to John Thiel. Additional gratitude goes to Bob Anderson who led the effort to get nest boxes on power plants along the Mississippi River. To all of these individuals and to all those others who have helped in so many ways, I thank you once again.

Literature Cited

Anderson, R. 2001. 1006615. Heavy metals in utility nesting peregrine falcons. EPRI, Palo Alto, CA.

Cade, T. J. 1982. The falcons of the world. Comstock/Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Kumlien, L. and N. Hollister. 1903. The birds of Wisconsin. Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History Society, Vol. 2, Nos. 1, 2 and 3. Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mueller, H. C., D. D. Berger, and G. Allez. 1988. Population trends in migrating peregrines at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, 1936–1985 *in* T. J. Cade, J. H. Enderson, C. G. Thelander, and C. M. White, eds., Peregrine Falcon populations: their management and recovery. The Peregrine Fund Inc., Boise, Idaho.

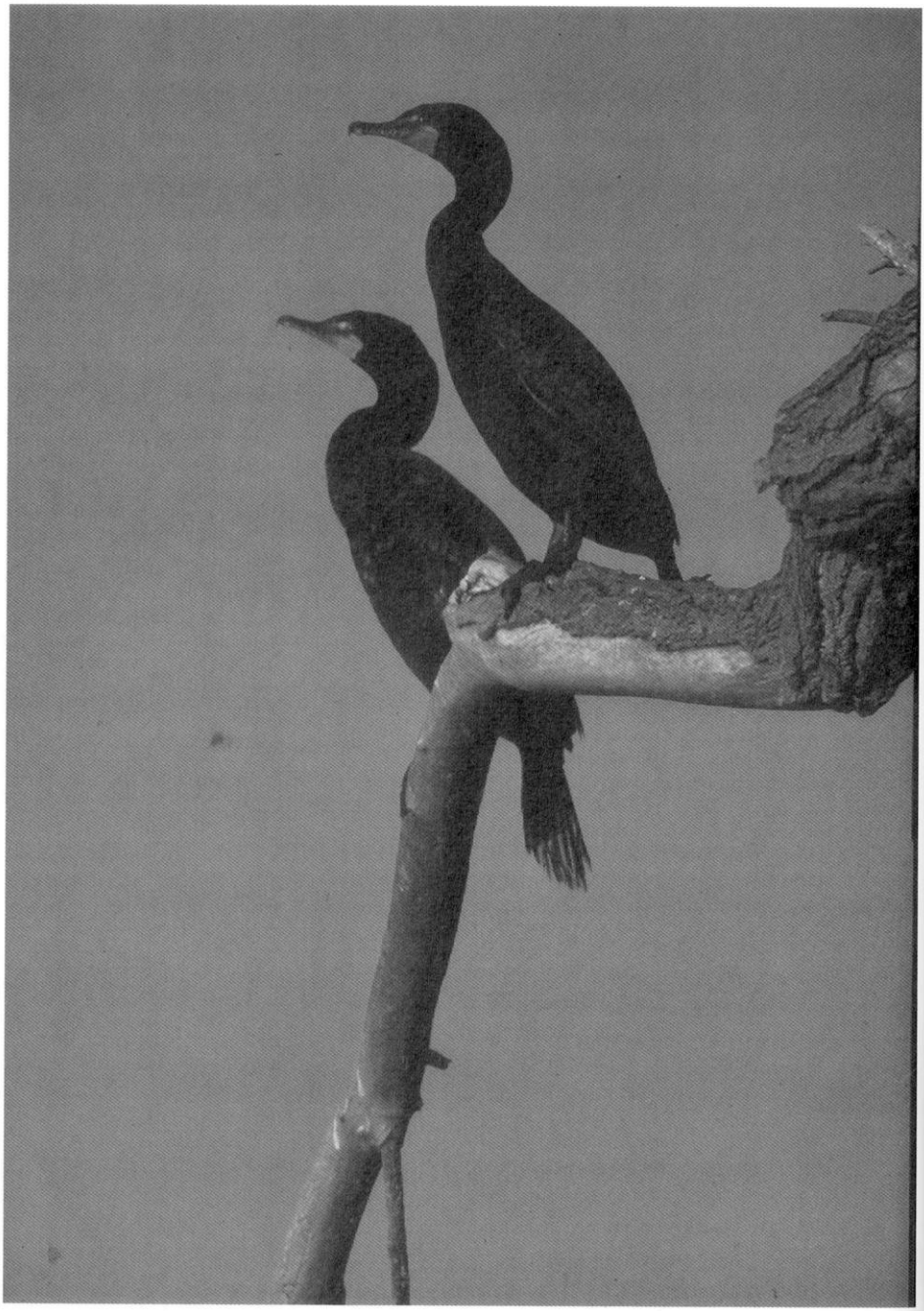
Septon, G. A. and J. Marks. 1996. Eggshell thickness and contaminant analysis of reintroduced, urban nesting Peregrine falcons in Wisconsin *in* D. M. Bird, D. Varland, and J. J. Negro, eds., Raptors in human landscapes. Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., Academic Press, London.

Septon, G. A., J. Bielefeldt, T. Ellestad, J. B. Marks, and R. N. Rosenfield. 1996. Peregrine falcons: power plant nest structures and shoreline movements. Pp. 145–153 *in* D. M. Bird, D. Varland and J. J. Negro, eds., Raptors in human landscapes. Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., Academic Press, London.

Septon, G. A. 2003. Peregrine recovery and the role of power plants in the Midwest: A brief history and current status. Pp. 178–179 *in* T. Cade and W. Burnham, eds. Return of the peregrine: a North American saga of tenacity and teamwork. The Peregrine Fund, Boise, Idaho.

Sherrod, Steve K., W. R. Heinrich, W. A. Burnham, J. H. Barclay, and T. Cade. 1981. Hacking: a method for releasing peregrine falcons and other birds of prey. The Peregrine Fund, Boise, Idaho.

With over 30 years of museum experience, Greg Septon has lectured in 17 counties and published over 70 articles on museum techniques, birds, and natural history. For the past 18 years he has directed and managed urban Peregrine Falcon recovery in Wisconsin.



Double-crested Cormorants photographed at Horicon Marsh *by Jack Bartholmai*

First Reported Nest for Eurasian Collared-Dove In Wisconsin

Bettie R. Harriman

5188 Bittersweet Lane
Oshkosh, WI 54901
920. 233. 1973
bettie@vbe.com

Noel J. Cutright

3352 Knollwood Road
West Bend, WI 53095
262. 675. 2443
noel.cutright@we-energies.com

Carl Schwartz

4685 N. Woodburn Street
Milwaukee, WI 53211-1125
414. 964. 2052
cschwartz@journalsentinel.com

Abstract

An occupied nest of the Eurasian Collared-Dove was observed in Arlington, Wisconsin, on 15 May 2004 by Noel Cutright, Bettie Harriman, and Carl Schwartz. Although nesting in Wisconsin by this species is suspected to have occurred in 2003, this is the first documentation submitted for an actual nest.

On 14 May 2004, Noel Cutright, WSO President at the time, Carl Schwartz, Coordinator for the WSO Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon, and Bettie Harriman, *The Passenger Pigeon* Editor, were headed across the state on Highway 60 from a Saturday of birding at Riveredge Nature Center for the Riveredge Birdathon/Bandathon to Sauk County for the WSO Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon on Sunday. After a short stop at Goose Pond, they decided to check for Eurasian Collared-Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto)* in Arlington (Columbia County) since Bettie had not yet seen them in 2004. Carl slowly drove several streets in the community before turning onto the street between the railroad tracks and the grain/feed mill complex. Carl quickly noted one of the doves sitting on a railing around the ladder platform on one of

the grain silos. The bird was holding a dried stem in its beak. After about a minute the bird hopped down onto the grid of the platform by the ladder and disappeared from view around the edge of the silo. In a few seconds it flew down to the ground empty-beaked.

We watched this bird for several minutes as it walked between the rails of the nearby railroad tracks. It was picking up various bits and pieces of dried vegetation, sometimes maneuvering them in its beak, but always dropping them. It also appeared to eat occasionally. When the bird wandered behind a structure, Bettie checked the platform on the silo where the bird had first been spotted. As soon as she moved around the edge of the silo, she could see a fairly good-sized nest of dried stems and twigs on the elevated platform with another Eurasian Collared-Dove sitting on the nest.

We estimated the nest to be about 20 meters from the ground, and it was tucked back against the silo in the corner of the grated platform. We assumed this was the female and she was incubating eggs, but we did not attempt to climb the ladder since the silo is on private property.

On 13 June 2004, Bettie Harriman and Carl Schwartz again checked the nest and found one of the adults sitting on the nest with the other adult nearby on a utility wire. If there were eggs in the nest on 14 May, they certainly should have hatched, but with all the rain of the previous month (including that morning), the adult may have been brooding the young. We did not see any young.

According to Romagosa (2002), the male dove shows the female potential nest sites and performs a nest call at each site. This nest showing is interspersed with intense allopreening between the birds. The pair will sit close together and direct preening at each other's heads, around the base of the bill, and on the neck, crop, back, and feet. The female indicates acceptance of a nest site by giving a nest call.

Eurasian Collared-Doves nest primarily around human habitation, usually in trees but occasionally on buildings (Romagosa 2002). Height of the nest from the ground varies from 2 to 22 meters. Nest building is done by the female with the male gathering materials, similar to what the first bird that we observed was doing, and he may even push nesting materials directly under the female on the nest (Bozsko 1978). Nest materials include twigs, stems, roots, and grasses, but the use of feathers, wool, string, and wire has been reported (Rana 1975). Pairs often renest in the same nest or renovate old nests from year to year. Nesting occurs from March to October in Europe (Goodwin 1983), but they can breed year-round in warmer climates and when food conditions are suitable.

There are usually two eggs, with the first egg being laid significantly larger than the second egg in the clutch (Roberston 1990). Incubation begins with the second egg and lasts an average of 15 days. Both parents incubate, with the female sitting on the nest through the nights and the male relieving her in the early morning for about eight hours (Cramp 1985). Brooding is continuous for the first week after hatching, continues at night for another 3–5 days, or if weather is severe, until they fledge.

The young are fed by regurgitation

by the parents. The young inserts its bill inside the parent's bill to receive the crop milk, a substance resembling cottage cheese that is produced in the crop of the parent bird (Baptista et al. 1997). Most of the crop milk feeding is done by the female for up to 10 days; the young then are fed seeds (Cramp 1985). Fledglings are attended by both parents at first but later only by the male, as the female often begins another nest. The young depart the nest at about 18 days (Robertson 1990). No brood parasitism of this species has been reported (Cramp 1985)

It is suspected that collared-doves actually nested in Arlington in 2003. At least two birds were reported there by numerous birders in June, with a 25 June record by Chuck Heikkinen and Delia Unson of two birds in Fireman's Park. On 1 July Lennie Lichter observed three collared-doves near a large spruce tree close to the Curling Club building, and he saw three again on 25 August. Sean Fitzgerald and Tom Prestby found four Eurasian Collared-Doves on 1 August and Aaron Stutz saw three on 18 August. However, no nest was located during the summer of 2003. On 2 April 2004, Steve Thiessen observed copulation by this Arlington pair.

The first record of this species in Wisconsin came from Noel Cutright, when one bird stayed around his property in westcentral Ozaukee County from 19 May to 2 August 1998. That same year, another Eurasian Collared-Dove was photographed by Joe Schaufenbuel during its appearance in Portage County from 26 July to 22 September. Ray Potter reported two birds in Rock County from mid-January to 29 April in 2000, and in May 2000 Dennis Kaehney observed two birds near White Potato Lake in Oconto County; these birds continued to be seen into the summer of 2002. On 19 July 2001, Joan Sommer found one collared-dove in Ozaukee County, which was seen by many birders until the spring of 2003. In January 2002, Harold Peterson found four Eurasian Collared-Doves in two Grant County locations—three in one location and the fourth in another location. Other collared-dove reports include Oak Creek in Milwaukee County on 22 June 2002, Green County on 26 April 2003, and Milwaukee County on 9 May 2003. The 2003 Christmas Bird Counts recorded collared-doves on the Durand and Poynette Counts (Domagalski 2004), and the winter season of 2003–2004 found them in Arlington, Oconto County, and Pepin County (see Winter Season and *"By the Wayside"* in this issue). Spring 2004 seasonal reports came from Arlington and Pepin County (Pers. Com. Wayne Rhode).

It would appear that the Eurasian Collared-Dove is in Wisconsin to stay.

Literature Cited

Baptista, L. F., P. W. Trail, and H. M. Horblit. 1997. Family Columbidae (pigeons and doves). Pp. 60–243 in Handbook of the birds of the world (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliot, and J. Sargatal, eds.). Lynx Edicions. Barcelona.

Bozsko, S. I. 1978. Ecology and ethology of the Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) in the city of Debrecen. Aquila 85: 85–91.

Cramp, S., ed. 1985. The birds of the Western Palearctic. Vol. 4: terns to woodpeckers. Oxford University Press. Oxford, U. K.

Domagalski, R. C. 2004. The 2003 Wisconsin Christmas Bird Counts. The Passenger Pigeon. 66(1): 3–35.

Goodwin, D. 1983. Pigeons and doves of the world. (3rd ed.). Cornell University Press. Ithaca, NY.

Robertson, H. A. 1990. Breeding of Collared Doves *Streptopelia decaocto* in rural Oxfordshire, England. Bird Study 37: 73–83.

Rana, B. D. 1975. Breeding biology of the Indian Ring Dove in the Rajasthan Desert. Auk 92: 322–332.

Romagosa, C. M. 2002. Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). *In* The Birds of North America, No. 630 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.

Bettie Harriman is a Past President of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, and is the current co-editor of The Passenger Pigeon.

Noel J. Cutright has served twice as President for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, as well as serving WSO as Publicity and Conservation Chairs. He is currently the first Historian for the Society.

Carl Schwartz is serving WSO as the Coor-

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *by Dennis Malueg*

The Greater Prairie-Chicken in Crex Meadows: An Unsuccessful Restoration Attempt

James O. Evrard

630 North Pine Street
Grantsburg, WI 54840
715. 463. 2446
evrardsc@grantsburgtelcom.net

ABSTRACT

Wildlife management in North America has a long history of successful reintroductions of native wildlife species that were extirpated after European settlement. The white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and the Wild Turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) are examples of spectacularly successful restorations (Kallman et al. 1987). Species successfully reintroduced in the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area (CMWA) in northwest Wisconsin include the giant Canada Goose (Branta canadensis maxima) (Zicus 1974), the Gadwall (Anas strepera) (Evrard 1983), and the Trumpeter Swan (Cygnus buccinator) (Matteson et al. 1998). Some wildlife species, including the Greater Prairie-Chicken (Tympanuchus cupido), however, have been more difficult to restore (Toepfer et al. 1990). This study reports on the unsuccessful attempts to reintroduce the prairie chicken in the CMWA.

INTRODUCTION

The CMWA is located north of the Village of Grantsburg in western Burnett County, Wisconsin. The 10,800-ha wildlife management area is owned and managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The CMWA is a restored brush prairie-wetland complex described by Vogl (1964), Zicus (1974), Miller et al. (1983), and Toepfer (1988). A clear understanding of the history of the CMWA is important for determining reasons for the failed prairie chicken reintroduction attempt.

The CMWA occupies a significant portion of the southwestern marsh section of the Northwest Wisconsin Pine Barrens (Murphy 1931) and consists of extensive sedge marshes interspersed with level to slightly rolling uplands of fire-managed "brush prairie" (Strong 1880), pine/oak savanna, and mixed jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), scrub or Hill's oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*), and aspen (*Populus* spp.) forests.

The marshes were formed in the basin of ancient Glacial Lake Grantsburg. A lobe of the last advance of the

Wisconsin glacier blocked the St. Croix River, forming the lake. When the ice dam melted, a series of shallow lakes remained, from which the sedge meadows developed. Sandy glacial outwash formed the boundaries of the shallow lakes.

The jack pine/scrub oak prairie savanna (Vogl 1964) and the sedge marshes were maintained in their open condition by frequent fires due both to lightning and activities of Native Americans (Evrard in review). European settlement began in the late 1850s when Scandinavian farmers homesteaded the barrens. They plowed the open sandy uplands to cultivate grain and used the sedge marshes as a source of hay for their livestock.

Beginning in 1890 and completed in 1902, the sedge marshes were drained for commercial cranberry production. The ditches and dams permitted water level control, important for cranberry growing. The marshes were purchased in 1912 by the Crex Carpet Company to produce wire grass (*Carex stricta*) for weaving into carpeting. Full production was achieved by 1915. The cranberry ditches and dams were used to control water levels in the marshes to encourage the growth of wire grass and to allow mowing the wire grass prior to baling and shipping via railroad to their St. Paul, Minnesota factory.

The development of an effective fire control program by the Wisconsin Conservation Department in the late 1920s and early 1930s ended most of the widespread wild fires that frequently swept the area. With the cessation of frequent wild fires, woody brush and trees began to invade the brush prairie and pine/oak savanna uplands and sedge marshes.

Drought and the Great Depression caused the collapse of the Crex Carpet Company and the abandonment of the pioneer farms in the early 1930s. In 1940, over two thirds of the land in the CMWA was tax-delinquent with ownership reverting to Burnett County. The State of Wisconsin began buying the tax-delinquent land in 1945, creating the CMWA the following year. Other private lands within the boundaries of the CMWA were also gradually acquired. Project Manager Norm Stone under the supervision of Burt Dahlberg began management of the property in 1947, restoring fire to the newly-forested uplands and water to the drained wetlands.

The CMWA presently contains approximately 1,600 ha of open water (Evrard 1995); 3,900 ha of wet marsh; 2,400 ha of oak/pine/aspen forest; 2,400 ha of grass and brush prairie uplands; 110 ha of agricultural fields, and 300 ha of dikes, roads, parking lots, picnic area, and buildings (Miller et al. 1983).

The prairie chicken restoration attempt took place within the centrally-located, 970-ha refuge which was closed to all public use (Fig. 1). The refuge contained 320 ha of open water, 240 ha of marsh, 280 ha of upland brush prairie, three agricultural areas totaling 110 ha, and 16 ha of aspen forest (Evrard 1983). The three cropland areas consisted of alternating, rotational 30-m wide strips of corn (*Zea mays*), buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*), and rye (*Lolium temulentum*). The refuge and immediate area contained 445 ha of open brush

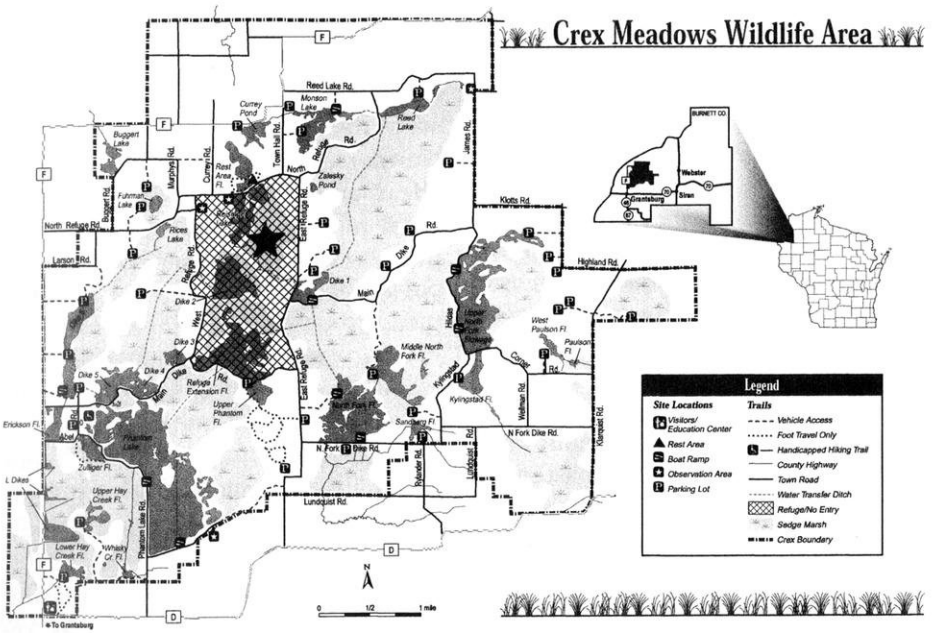


Figure 1: Location (star) of Greater Prairie-Chicken release pen in the Crex Meadows Wildlife Areas.

prairie when water levels in the wetlands were normal (Toepfer 1988).

Marshes were dominated by bluejoint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) and sedges (*Carex* spp. and *Scirpus* spp.). Dominant grass and forb species in upland brush prairie and old fields included big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Andropogon [Schizachyrium] scoparius*), puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*), phlox (*Phlox pilosa*), blazing star (*Liatris* spp.), sunflower (*Helianthus rigidus*), and lupine (*Lupinus perennis*). Woody species included Hill's oak brush, hazelbrush (*Corylus americana*), and sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*). Leading species of the surrounding forests included the Hill's or scrub oak, jack pine, and aspen.

The primary management goals of the CMWA are the production of wildlife with emphasis on migratory game birds, prairie grouse, and endangered and threatened wildlife and to provide public hunting, trapping, wildlife education and observation, and other compatible outdoor recreational opportunities (Miller et al. 1983).

History of Greater Prairie-Chickens at Crex Meadows

Greater Prairie-Chicken were not found in the Crex Meadows area before the arrival of the European settlers (Schorger 1943, Hamerstrom et al. 1957). The prairie chicken followed pioneering farmers north from the bird's prehistoric range in the prairies of southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. The first European farmers arrived in the Grantsburg

area in the mid 1850s. The prairie chicken probably had reached Burnett County by 1870 when it was reported in adjacent Polk County (Schorger 1943).

According to Schorger (1943), the first specific report of prairie chickens in the Crex Meadows area was in 1884 when the bird was reported in the local newspaper as being scarce near Grantsburg. Prairie chickens were reported to be more numerous the following year and abundant by 1889 when two men reportedly shot 31 birds. In 1890, two men boasted of shooting 16 prairie chickens in two hours. The birds were still abundant in 1895 when four men during "the fore part of the week" shot 151 prairie chickens "on the marshes at Crooked Lake" near Siren, 15 miles east of Grantsburg. Good shooting was still reported near Grantsburg in 1896, but "birds were few" the following year.

Novotny (1995), in an interview with an elderly woman raised in the Grantsburg area, wrote that prairie chickens were "profuse" in the last quarter of the 1800s. "Accounts were written of men from Stillwater [Minnesota] who shot 40 birds while hunting, while someone was known to have gone out to the barrens and come back with a buggy full. Another got half a wagon load."

In another interview, Kaatz (1993) quoted a Crex Meadows pioneer: "When I was hauling hay from there the winter of 1915, there were so many prairie chickens all over. They would come up on the farms where the farmers had shocked their corn. They would be in the cornfields, hundreds of them. Four or five hundred in a bunch. It was black with them." Novotny (1993) interviewed a man who was born in 1906 in the northwest corner of Crex Meadows and lived there until 1922. She wrote "Farmers raised wheat, rye, buckwheat, and corn and always left remnants for the huge flocks of prairie chickens." Another man raised on a homestead in the same area during 1916–25, stated that "Prairie chickens were so numerous at that time that they flew right into the yard" (Novotny 1994).

Gross (1930) estimated that there were at least 1,000 prairie chickens and 4,000 sharptails in Burnett County in 1929. By the early 1940s, Grange (1948) reported decreasing prairie chicken populations as reflected in the annual hunting harvest. The last prairie chickens observed in the CMWA were a single male displaying to single female on a sand road on the south boundary of the refuge on April 25, 1949 (Stone 1949). A minimum of 20 displaying male sharptailed grouse remained in the CMWA at that time.

Restoration Attempts

The first attempt to restore the prairie chicken to the CMWA was made using pen-reared birds made available by Arnold Kruse, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, North Dakota. A 0.2-ha holding and release pen was constructed near the center of the CMWA refuge just northwest of the southeast agricultural fields (Toepfer 1988). The vegetation in the pen and the upland surrounding the pen was brush prairie, a mix-

ture of grasses, forbs, and woody shrubs.

In September, 1974, 207 pen-reared birds, 8–15 weeks old, were transported from Jamestown, North Dakota by truck overnight to the CMWA (Toepher 1988). The birds were examined, banded, and released into the holding pen the following morning. The birds were offspring from matings between wild South Dakota males and pen-reared females from mixed Nebraska, North Dakota, and Minnesota parentage. In September of 1975, an additional 249 young pen-reared birds were again transported from North Dakota to Wisconsin (Toepfer 1988). Forty-seven of the birds were offspring from penned wild South Dakota hens and cocks. In addition, 14 adult pen-reared adults, spent breeders from North Dakota, were released into the pen in August, 1975.

A second restoration opportunity came, probably as a result of the restoration effort using pen-reared birds, when permission was obtained to capture a total of 60 wild prairie chicken in central Wisconsin in 1976 and western Minnesota in 1977 and transplant them to the CMWA. The birds were captured on booming grounds, transported to the CMWA and released within 12–24 hours of capture. Fifty-five pen-reared and 29 transplanted wild prairie chickens were fitted with backpack radio transmitters, modified from a design by Dumke and Pils (1973) prior to release (for details see Toepfer 1988). It was hoped that radio telemetry would provide information such as mortality, movements, home range, breeding activity, nesting, and habitat use. All prairie chicken were marked with colored and numbered leg bands prior to release.

Intensive habitat management in the release area included rotational prescribed burning of the brush prairie, and planting of corn, buckwheat, and rye in the agricultural fields. To provide supplemental food specifically for prairie chickens, two elevated wood platforms were constructed upon which cob corn was placed in the event the corn food patches failed, were consumed by white-tailed deer, or covered by deep snow.

A limited effort was made to suppress predator populations within 1.6 km of the holding pen during 1974–76 (Evrard 1976). Leg-hold traps were used to capture one mink (*Mustela vison*), three striped skunk (*Mephitis* mephitis.), four raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), five Franklin's ground squirrels (*Spermophilus franklini*), and 11 thirteen-lined ground squirrels (*Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*). Smoke bombs were placed in 21 mink dens and one mink was shot at the pen. Swedish goshawk and bal-chatris traps were used to live-trap 19 Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*), seven Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*), two Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*), one Long-eared Owl (*A. otus*), two Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), two Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperi*), and one Northern Goshawk (*A. gentilis*). The raptors were transported away from the CMWA and released.

In an effort to minimize mortality due to misidentification of the protected prairie chicken by hunters pursuing the legally-hunted sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*), the entire CMWA was closed to sharptail hunting from 1976 through 1979. In

1980, the northeast corner of the CMWA was reopened to sharptail hunting after it was determined through telemetry that prairie chickens seldom used that area.

Intensive display or booming and dancing ground surveys (Grange 1948, Partch 1949, Hamerstrom and Hamerstrom 1973) were conducted each spring during April and May 1975–78 (Toepfer 1988). Surveys from 1979 to 1998 were conducted during the latter half of April and early May (Hoefler and Kooiker 1979–98). Numbers of prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse cocks were counted on each display ground at least twice. Efforts were made to check all displaying birds for bands. All brood observations were recorded and winter counts were made at feeding areas.

From September 1974 to September 1977, 233 pen-reared prairie chickens (132 males and 101 females) and 60 transplanted wild prairie chickens (29 males and 31 females) were released on nine separate occasions in the CMWA refuge area (Toepfer 1988). Survival of the radioed, pen-reared prairie chickens was very poor. No birds survived longer than 120 days and 90% were dead within one month following release. The major cause of death was predation.

No prairie chickens were observed following the gentle release of 16 pen-reared males in October, 1974 and no displaying males were seen or heard before the April, 1975 release. The autumn 1974 release of pen-reared prairie chickens was apparently a failure. Following the gentle release of 36 male prairie chickens from the pen in mid-April, 1975, and 15 hens about a week later, 13 displaying males were observed on one booming ground. The displaying males began disappearing four days after release and none were seen or heard after May, 1975. Another 29 male and nine female pen-reared prairie prairie chickens were released in August and September, 1975. Again there was no evidence of displaying male prairie chickens outside of the pen prior to the 1976 release. The 1975 release of pen-reared birds was also considered a failure.

In mid-April, 1976, 31 wild prairie chickens (19 male and 12 female) from central Wisconsin were released near the CMWA pen that held 127 pen-reared birds (50 males and 77 females). A week later, the pen-reared prairie chickens were gently released by rolling up the wire sides of the pen. Fifteen of the 19 transplanted wild males were eventually observed displaying at five locations within 0.8 km of the release pen by the end of May. Initially 14 pen-reared males displayed at the pen following release but only one male remained after several weeks. Three other pen-reared cocks were seen displaying on booming grounds within 1.2 km of the pen. An estimated 45–50 prairie chickens were found in the CMWA refuge during the 1976–77 winter.

A total of 16 prairie chicken males were regularly counted on four booming grounds in the spring of 1977. Six of the males were banded transplanted wild birds, one was a banded pen-reared bird, and the remaining nine were unbanded birds, assumed to have been produced in the CMWA during the previous nesting year. Only one of 132 (<1%) pen-reared males survived a winter to display the following spring. By contrast, six of 19

(32%) of the transplanted wild prairie chickens survived and displayed the following spring. A chi-square analysis (Gustafson 1984) showed the difference (31%) between the survival of pen-reared and transplanted wild males was significant (X^2= 29.059, df = 1, P = 0.000001).

Nineteen wild female prairie chickens from northwest Minnesota were released in late April, 1977 in the CMWA refuge. An additional ten male wild Minnesota birds were released in June and August, 1977. In 1978, the year following the prairie chicken releases in the CMWA, a maximum of 25 displaying males were found on three booming grounds (Table 1). Only one of the males was banded. Survival of the wild males transplanted in late 1977 apparently was poor. Most mortality on wild birds was caused by predation, primarily raptors. Numbers of displaying males declined to 17–21 during 1979–81, 8–11 during 1982–85, 3-4 during 1986–91, and none in 1992.

Prairie chicken x sharp-tailed grouse hybrids were first noted in 1978 and last heard in 1993 (Table 1).

Table 1. Maximum number of displaying male Prairie-Chicken, prairie-chicken × sharp-tailed grouse hybrids, and Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, 1972–98.

Year	Prairie-Chicken	Hybrid	Sharp-tailed Grouse
1972			25
1973			19
1974			16
1975	13[a]		20
1976	32[b]		34
1977	16[c]		38
1978	26[d]	1	43
1979	21	1	53
1980	17	1	44
1981	20	1	55
1982	11		31
1983	11		41
1984	11		32
1985	8	2	37
1986	4	3	33
1987	3	1	42
1988	3	1	67
1989	2		81
1990	2		103
1991	3	1	126
1992			47
1993		1	53
1994			67
1995			86
1996			110
1997			117
1998			132

[a] banded, released pen-reared birds.
[b] 17 banded, released pen-reared and 15 banded, transplanted wild birds.
[c] 1 banded, released pen-reared, 6 banded, transplanted wild birds, and 9 unbanded, wild-produced birds.
[d] only 1 banded bird.

The peak number of hybrids observed was three in 1986.

The largest booming ground, located in a wet sedge meadow within the refuge, was used for 10 years. The last evidence of the reintroduced prairie chicken in the CMWA was a hybrid heard in another wet sedge meadow located just south of Reeds Lake. Thus prairie chickens once more had been part of the CMWA fauna for 17 years before they were again extirpated.

Reasons for Failure of Reintroduction Attempts

The response of the reintroduced prairie chickens to the CMWA environment followed 1 and possibly 2 types of transplantation failures first classified by Phillips in 1928 (in Leopold 1948). The first type is "straggling failure" in which the transplanted birds breed for several years then persist as non-breeding adults which gradually disappear. The second type of failure is "colony survival" in which the transplants persist as a small breeding colony, but the colony does not spread. Usually it eventually disappears entirely. Phillips thought colony survival intergrades with straggling failure, as apparently it did in the CMWA.

Why did the reintroduced prairie chicken disappear from the CMWA? Toepfer (1988) thought hybridization with Sharp-tailed Grouse was not a major factor in the prairie chicken's disappearance. He reached this conclusion despite observing mixed prairie chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse flocks in the winter and display grounds in the spring. He concluded there was excellent habitat available for adult prairie chicken, but there was insufficient upland grass for nesting and brood rearing. His conclusion was based upon perceived brush encroachment in the grasslands of the CMWA refuge with his estimates of grassland loss varying from 23% (Toepfer 1988) to 33% (Toepfer et al. 1990).

Telemetry results showed that prairie chickens in the CMWA in the spring, summer, and fall used mainly grassland (70% of locations) including upland grass, wetland grass/sedge, and edges between grasslands, agricultural areas, and brush prairie, and agricultural areas (24% of locations). Prairie Chickens avoided shrubby areas, preferring wet grass and sedge cover. In the winter, the birds used sedge marshes, edges between marshes and agricultural areas, and agricultural areas, avoiding the shrubby brush prairie.

Toepfer (1988) further stated that burning the brush prairie every three to five years "almost precludes maintaining enough grass for prairie chickens" and "Under the present management practices, the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area is better suited for Sharp-tailed Grouse." Curiously in the same document, he recommends prescribed burning on a three to five year rotation to manage prairie chicken habitat. He stated that two thirds of the grassland habitat needs to be undisturbed for at least one year. Among his other prairie chicken restoration recommendations were a management area with a minimum size of 2,500 ha of which 75% (1,875 ha) had to be grassland having a spring residual height of 25–50 cm for nesting and brood rearing. He

thought an area such as he described should support an average of 100 displaying males on eight to ten booming grounds. Besides managing the grassland with some type of disturbance on a three-five year rotation, he also recommended agricultural food plots for a source of corn grain and greens.

How did the CMWA compare to his recommendations? The 10,800-ha wildlife area is certainly large enough to satisfy Toepfer's requirements. Overall, the CMWA has more grassland and brush prairie (2,400 ha) than is required, but only 445 ha in the immediate area of the prairie chicken release. However, the type, rather than quantity, of grassland is probably what made the CMWA unsuitable for prairie chicken.

In my opinion, the drained sedge marshes and numerous small pioneer farms that existed in the CMWA in the late 1800s and early 1900s created habitat favorable for the large numbers of prairie chicken reported in the area. The large dry sedge marshes were pseudo-prairie maintained in an open condition by frequent fires and hay mowing which prevented the encroachment of woody brush and trees. In addition, the numerous small and scattered pioneer grain fields provided winter food for the prairie chicken. Corn was shocked and left standing in the fields overwinter until needed, making it accessible to the prairie chicken. Grain fields were weedy by today's standards since herbicides were unavailable. The many farm families also practiced a form of predator control through shooting and trapping to protect their livestock and earn scarce cash from the sale of pelts and hides.

After WDNR acquisition of the CMWA, the drained sedge marshes were reflooded, and in some cases, probably to levels higher than what was found in the late 1800s. What few pioneer farms remained after the drought and economic depression of the 1930s were acquired as part of the CMWA and private farming operations ceased. With State ownership, controlled fire was returned to the uplands, pushing plant community succession back from relatively young jack pine/oak/aspen forests to brush prairie. Predator populations probably increased due to new protection given to avian predators, more conservative season and bag limits for most mammalian predators, and fewer trappers and hunters.

The upland brush prairie habitat was probably always too brushy for good prairie chicken nesting habitat (Hamerstrom et al. 1957, Hamerstrom and Hamerstrom 1973). There is no reason to believe that brush prairie today is different. The CMWA never contained tall grass prairie, but only brush prairie, an ecotonal transitional community found between the tall grass prairie to the south and west and the eastern forest to the east and north.

Some early research in Wisconsin supports my hypothesis. Schmidt (1936) who worked on grouse in Wisconsin in the early 1930s, stated that "sand prairies are not used [for prairie chicken nesting]." He found hay marshes important as nest sites and for winter and summer roosting. He concluded that "Prairie chickens. . . . seek out grain even during the budding season [winter]." Schorger (1943) also offers evidence that grain was an important winter food for

prairie chickens and the species became abundant in areas following the arrival of pioneer farmers. Grange (1948), another early worker, found that weed seeds and buds were satisfactory winter foods.

The effort to provide overwinter corn for the prairie chickens in the CMWA refuge was inadequate. Although nearly 28 ha of corn were grown each year and left unharvested in the refuge agricultural fields, wildlife (deer, geese, ducks, cranes, etc.) using the food plots in the fall were so numerous that little corn remained overwinter. Prairie chickens using the two elevated corn feeders were crowded and exposed to raptors, their chief predators.

It is obvious that the use of pen-reared birds in the CMWA prairie chicken reintroduction project was a failure although politically, it led to the use of wild birds for transplantation.

The unsuccessful reintroduction project in the CMWA was due to the mistaken belief that restored brush prairie habitat was suitable for prairie chickens. Prairie chickens followed the pioneer farmers into the area, depending upon the homesteader's grain fields for winter food and pseudo-prairie sedge meadows for nesting and brood habitat. This habitat was destroyed during the 1930s by effective fire control which allowed tree and brush invasion and by the economic depression which caused abandonment of pioneer farms. The purchase of the CMWA and the restoration of wetland and brush prairie habitat by the WDNR did not recreate the lost prairie chicken habitat. This habitat loss was exacerbated by the loss of the remaining small farms to state acquisition. The croplands in the CMWA might have provided a substitute for the lost grain fields except the overwhelming wildlife numbers in the fall consistently consumed all of the grain grown in the weed-free fields before the first snows of winter. A closer analysis of the environmental conditions that existed at the time of prairie chicken abundance might have saved the resources that were expended in the failed Greater Prairie-Chicken reintroduction attempt.

Acknowledgments

Many persons were involved in the prairie chicken restoration effort. Among them were the late N. R. Stone and the late B. L. Dahlberg, of the WDNR; the late L. M. Kirsch and A. D. Kruse of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; T. Wolfe of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; the late A. H. Grewe, Jr. of the University of Minnesota- St. Cloud; the late R. A. Anderson of the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point; and most importantly, J. E. Toepfer, who was the principal force in the restoration project. I thank J. E. Hoefler and P. A. Kooiker for prairie grouse census data and for critical review of the manuscript. Partial funding for this study was provided by the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration under Pittman-Robertson W-141-R.

Literature Cited

Dumke, R. T. and C. M. Pils. 1973. Mortality of radio-tagged pheasants on the Waterloo Wildlife Area. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Technical Bulletin 72. 52 pp.

Evrard, J. O. 1976. Unpublished data filed at

Department of Natural Resources, Grantsburg, Wisconsin.

Evrard, J. O. 1983. Gadwall duck introduction in northwestern Wisconsin. 1983. Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters 71: 57–59.

Evrard, J. O. 1995. Common loon population changes in Crex Meadows, Wisconsin, 1976–94. Passenger Pigeon 57: 171–176.

Grange, W. B. 1948. Wisconsin grouse problems. Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison. 318 pp.

Gross, A. O. 1930. Progress report of the prairie chicken investigation. Wisconsin Conservation Commission, Madison. 112 pp.

Gustafson, T. L. 1984. Epistat. Round Rock, Texas.

Hamerstrom, F. N., Jr., O. E. Mattson, and F. Hamerstrom. 1957. A guide to prairie chicken management. Wisconsin Conservation Department Wildlife Technical Bulletin 15. 128 pp.

Hamerstrom, F. N., Jr. and F. Hamerstrom. 1973. The prairie chicken in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Technical Bulletin 64. 55 pp.

Hoefler, J. E. and P. A. Kooiker. 1979–98. Unpublished tables and maps filed at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Grantsburg, Wisconsin

Kaatz, S. N. 1993. Pioneer of Crex Meadows: Art Wagenius. p. 4 *in* Friends of Crex Newsletter, January 1993.

Kallman, H., A. P. Agee, W. R. Goforth, and J. P. Linduska, eds. 1987. Restoring America's Wildlife 1937–1987. US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 394 pp.

Leopold, A. 1948. Game Management. Charles Scribners & Sons, New York. 481 pp.

Matteson, S. W., L. M. Hartman, and M. J. Mossman. 1998. Wisconsin trumpeter swan program update No. 32. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison. 14 pp.

Miller, S. W., P. Kooiker, L. LaBumbard, S. Johannes, M. Harter, Jr., P. Stromberg, and J. Hoefler. 1983. Crex Meadows wildlife area master plan concept element. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison. 32 pp.

Murphy, R. E. 1931. Geography of the northwestern pine barrens of Wisconsin. Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters 26: 69–120.

Novotny, R. M. 1993. Crex Meadows pioneer—interview with Lewis James. p. 3 *in* Friends of Crex Newsletter, Spring 1993.

Novotny, R. M. 1994. Crex Meadows pioneer—interview with Howard Fallis. p. 3 *in* Friends of Crex Newsletter, Spring 1994.

Novotny, R. M. 1995. Crex Meadows pioneer - interview with Eunice Kanne. p. 3 *in* Friends of Crex Newsletter, January, 1995.

Partch, M. 1949. How to search for booming grounds. Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin 14: 20–22.

Schorger, A. W. 1943. The prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse in early Wisconsin. Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters 35: 308–366.

Schmidt, F. J. W. 193?. Bogs, swamps and marshes in relation to Wisconsin game animals. Typewritten ms. in files of Wisconsin Conservation Department [now Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources], Madison.

Schmidt, F. J. W. 1936. Winter food of the sharp-tailed grouse and pinnated grouse in Wisconsin. Wilson Bulletin 48: 186–203.

Stone, N. R. 1949. Prairie grouse survey. Unpublished data filed at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Grantsburg, Wisconsin 2 pp.

Strong, M. 1880. The geology of the upper St. Croix district. *In* The Geology of Wisconsin 3: 363–428.

Toepfer, J. E. 1988. The ecology of the greater prairie chicken as related to reintroductions. PhD Dissertation, Montana State University, Bozeman. 536 pp.

Toepfer, J. E., R. L. Eng and R. K. Anderson. 1990. Translocating prairie grouse: what have we learned? Transactions of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference 55: 569–579.

Vogl, R. J. 1964. Vegetational history of Crex Meadows, a prairie savanna in northwestern Wisconsin. American Midland Naturalist 72: 157–175.

Zicus, M. C. 1974. A study of the giant Canada geese (*Branta canadensis maxima*) nesting at Crex Meadows, Wisconsin. M.S. Thesis, University of Minnesota St. Paul. 141 pp.

Jim Evrard is a retired WDNR wildlife research biologist who remains active as a volunteer in various conservation organizations. He has been a member of WSO for 35 years and is currently Secretary-Treasurer of the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society.

Great Horned Owl portrait *by Scott Schiller*

Waterfowl Use of Restored Wetlands in CRP in Southeastern Wisconsin

Harvey H. Halvorsen

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
890 Spruce Street
Baldwin, WI 54002
715. 684. 2914 (Ext. 113)
Harvey.Halvorsen@dnr.state.wi.us

ABSTRACT

In 1992, we surveyed 147 restored wetlands to determine waterfowl use in Southeastern Wisconsin. Of these, 106 (72%) were between 1 to 4 years old and provided brood-rearing water. Average size of all restorations was 1.6 acres. Emergent wetland vegetation averaged 39% cover on all wetlands and 49.3% cover on wetlands with broods. Wetlands were restored by either breaking sub-surface drain tiles, installing water control structures on tile lines, plugging surface drainage ditches, scraping topsoil sediment out of shallow basins, building small earthen dikes, or a combination of these techniques.

In this survey, we observed 43 duck broods; brood size averaged 6.3 ducklings. The top 3 species, in decreasing order of abundance, were Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos), Wood Duck (Aix sponsa), and Blue-winged Teal (Anas discors). Duck brood use of the restored wetlands was likely influenced by the proximity of secure nest cover, by the ratio of emergent wetland plant cover, open water, and the size, shape, and number of the restored wetlands. CRP containing 80+ acres in grass combined with four or more restored wetlands was highly attractive to breeding waterfowl.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provided the impetus for landowners to enroll their active croplands into quality wildlife habitat. The partnering of state and federal agencies with private landowners contributed to the successful development of grassland and wetland habitats for wildlife on former croplands.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) began restoring wetlands on private lands in Wisconsin in 1988 following the implementation of the CRP in 1986. Private landowners enrolled thousands of acres of highly erodible croplands in the 10-year CRP, through the US Department of Agriculture-Farm Services Agency (USDA-FSA). Former croplands were converted to conservation cover, i.e., planted to grass or trees. Wetland restoration, an option for landowners in their CRP contracts,

could also be included in CRP if these lands had been previously drained. In return, the landowners received annual rental payments via a 10-year contract from the USDA-FSA to maintain the fields in conservation or wetland cover.

Wildlife management personnel from WDNR and USFWS reviewed aerial photos of lands in new CRP contracts for evidence of drained wetlands. As restorable wetlands were identified, landowners were contacted to determine their interest in restoring wetlands for waterfowl. Projects were selected based upon the landowner willingness to sign a 10-year wildlife habitat agreement and potential for improving waterfowl habitat. In return, the WDNR and/or the USFWS completed all surveying, permitting, and restoring of the wetlands at no cost to the landowners.

The goals of the wetland restoration program were to 1) provide wetland wildlife habitat, primarily for waterfowl, 2) increase plant and animal diversity of agricultural landscapes, 3) improve rehydration of shallow aquifers, and 4) provide landowners increased wildlife observations.

Since the inception of this private lands wildlife management program by WDNR and USFWS in Wisconsin, over 4000 habitat restoration projects have been completed on over 12,000 acres of private, municipal, state or county lands through 1999 (Kitchen 2001). This paper focuses on waterfowl use of restored wetlands in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Study Area

The restorations that we surveyed were generally larger than 0.5 acres on private lands. These sites were located in Ozaukee (n= 78), Sheboygan (n= 13), Washington (n=2), Kenosha (n= 7), Racine (n= 5), and Waukesha (n= 1) Counties. Three of the wetland restorations in Kenosha County were on the Bong State Recreation Area. All restorations were completed between the years 1988–1991.

In most cases, sites were previously farmed and had been in idle grassland for 5 or more years. Typically, drainage ditching and/or sub-surface tiling had previously altered surface water drainage. Thus, when first reviewed, the targeted sites lacked wetland vegetation, water-saturated soils, and/or standing surface waters. Hydric soils were usually present in all restored basins.

Methods

Wetland restorations—Wetlands were restored or enhanced by either breaking sub-surface drain tiles (Figure 1), installing water control structures on tile lines (Anderson 1985), plugging surface drainage ditches, scraping topsoil sediment out of shallow basins, or a combination of these techniques. Small earthen dikes were also constructed to enhance the size and depth of wetlands. Wetland complexes (2 or more) were restored, often on the same property (Figure 2), to offer multiple brood water and pair ponds for waterfowl. Halvorsen (1992 unpublished data) and Reinartz and Warne (1993) provide details on the methods of wetland restorations.

Projects were permitted through WDNR water regulations and zoning, local county zoning boards, and US Army Corps of Engineers. State historical and archeological reviews were obtained prior to earth-moving activities.

While conducting brood surveys, wetland conditions were visually esti-

Figure 1: Subsurface tile lines were 4–9′ below ground. Average diameter was 4–6″. Pictured here is a portion of 12″ tile held by Kyle Drake.

Figure 2: Aerial view of 80-acre block of grassland containing 4 recently restored wetlands in Racine County.

mated to record water surface area (100, 75, 50, 25% or less, water-filled basins), encroachment by cattails (*Typha* spp.) or other emergent vegetation (100, 75, 50, 25% or less, vegetative cover), and integrity of constructed dikes, as well as other wildlife usage. Suspected functioning tile lines were noted for removal by backhoes (Figure 3).

Waterfowl surveys—WDNR staff and volunteers completed duck brood surveys from 15 June to 15 July 1992. Wetlands were surveyed once during this time period, in early morning about 1/2 hour before to 1 hour after sunrise. Visual observations were made by quietly walking the edge of the wetland, or with spotting scopes from elevated vantage points. Waterfowl species, brood sizes, and total number of adults present were recorded.

Results

Wetland age and conditions—A total of 106 restorations were surveyed, with sufficient surface water capable of supporting duck broods. These were restored within the past 5 years. Data were not stratified by age of wetland. Dry basins (n = 41) were usually attributed to the lack of precipitation or to the continued functioning of undetected subsurface drain tile. The region experienced lower than average snow and rainfall in early 1992. Andryk (1992) reported that April through May precipitation in 1992 was 20% below long-term average. Water surface levels in all basins were low during this survey, averaging 34% of capacity (Halvorsen 1992).

Locating tile lines was paramount to successful restorations. Frequent

Figure 3: Search and destroy mission on a backhoe. Finding tile lines was tedious work. Trenching across entire waterways, to a depth of 6′, usually revealed buried tile lines.

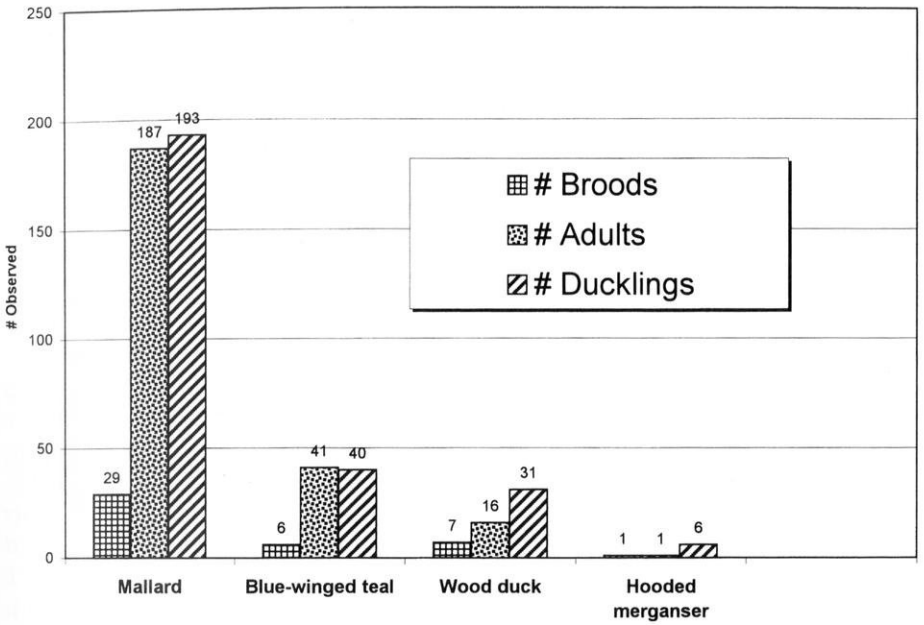


Figure 4: Waterfowl use of restored wetlands (n = 106) in Southeastern Wisconsin, 1992.

changes in ownership, where new landowners had no knowledge of tile locations, lack of tiling records, and/or multiple tile lines that drained 1 wetland, all contributed to not finding tile lines on some wetlands plagued by continued water loss. These, however, did provide temporary water (1–2 weeks) during the spring waterfowl migration as noted by landowners and WDNR field staff.

Duck observations—Two hundred fifty-one (251) adult dabbling ducks (Figure 4) were identified using the restored wetlands in 1992, comprised of Mallards (74.5%), Blue-winged Teal (16.3%), Wood Duck (6.4%), Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) (1.6%), Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) (0.4%), and Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) (0.4%). One American Coot (*Fulica americana*) brood and 1 unidentified duck were also observed. Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) use was not common, however, 2 adults and 2 broods were observed (Figure 5). Geese/goslings probably had already moved to larger permanent wetlands for molting/brood cover since they begin nesting earlier than dabbling waterfowl.

Two hundred seventy (270) ducklings in 43 broods (Figure 4) were observed with an average brood size of 6.3. Brood age-classes were not determined. Mallard broods accounted for 67.4% of all duck broods observed. Wood Duck and Blue-winged Teal brood numbers were similar, accounting for 16.3% and 14% of broods observed, respectively. The one Hooded Merganser brood (with 6 ducklings) represented 2.3% of all broods observed. Brood size averages were

Figure 5: Goose brood using restored wetland in St. Croix County.

larger for Mallard (6.7) and Blue-winged Teal (6.7), compared to Wood Ducks (4.4).

Halvorsen (1992) noted that properties (Figure 2) with 80+ acres in CRP grass, combined with restored wetland complexes (4+ per property) contained the highest brood densities of the 3 most common species of dabbling ducks. On these brood wetlands, emergent plant cover averaged 49.3%; the percent "open" water averaged 70.7%. The percent emergent cover is the total cover within the entire wetland basin, while percent open water was the relative proportion of the basin containing visible open water. These 2 numbers do not add to 100%. Since water surface levels were low, much of the emergent vegetation in the basins was at or near the periphery of the restored wetland. The influence of the rehydrated soils created favorable growing conditions for peripheral wetland vegetative growth.

Discussion

Low duck populations in the late 1980s prompted the creation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in 1986 (USFWS 1986). This multi-national plan identified habitat loss and degradation as major factors limiting improvement of waterfowl populations in North America. Under the Joint Venture in Wisconsin, (WDNR 1992), private lands were targeted to protect, develop and manage habitats to increase waterfowl populations and other wetland wildlife. Soil and watershed protection also were viable components of this program.

Wetland restorations—The wetland restoration initiative was well received

in Wisconsin and in particular, in Ozaukee County. In this survey, over half of the waterfowl surveys were completed in Ozaukee County, where the wetland restoration program had its greatest success. In 1990 for instance, 74% of the landowners contacted (n = 42) agreed to participate in the wetland restoration program. Landowner contacts by local wildlife personnel, such as Armin Schwengel, a retired WDNR wildlife biologist, greatly enhanced landowner acceptance of restoring wetlands on their properties for waterfowl habitat.

During field surveys, it became obvious that several restored basins still had functional sub-surface drain tile. These were later broken to rehydrate the soils and to provide open surface water. Other wetlands with small watersheds lacked the capacity to recharge by June. Receding water levels did however, improve observations of adult ducks and broods, as waterfowl use was restricted to the interior of these "wet" basins. Of the 147-wetland restorations selected for this study, 39.4% were dry. This "no-water" syndrome obviously reduced overall waterfowl use as did the lower than average precipitation.

Waterfowl use—Waterfowl use was undoubtedly higher than recorded during this "1-visit" survey. Observers noted that they had seen waterfowl present at survey sites before and/or after the duck brood survey. Also, some waterfowl may have been present but not observed on larger restorations with dense emergent vegetation or on those basins where a stealthy approach for viewing was not possible because of open grasslands. Paired waterfowl were noted during the survey, indicating potential late second or third nesting was to occur. Late brood production was not sampled.

Waterfowl use of the restored wetlands was enhanced by the adjacent grass nest cover provided by the CRP grassland contracts, and also by the installation of artificial nesting structures for Wood Ducks (Figure 6) and Mallards (Ball et. al 1989). Halvorsen (1992) noted that an average of 87 acres of CRP grassland was available as nesting habitat within each CRP contract (n=12) containing restored wetlands with duck brood use. Duck brood survival is potentially higher where CRP grasslands contain inclusive wetlands as compared to those wetlands surrounded by tilled fields in the Dakotas and Montana (Reynolds 1994). Reynolds (1994) believes that CRP fields provide increased brood security as broods travel between wetlands.

Duck broods were observed on 18 restorations; minimum occupancy was 17.0%. When combined with wetlands where adult ducks were also observed, occupancy was 36% of the 106 wetlands surveyed (Halvorsen 1992). Duck production, on a "per-acre" basis of wetland restored (n = 220 ac), averaged 1.1 ducks, 1.2 ducklings, and 0.2 broods. On a "per wetland" perspective, these numbers increase to 2.3 ducks, 2.5 ducklings, and 0.41 broods per wetland surveyed (n=106) that contained brood rearing water (Schumacher 1992).

Kitchen (2001) recorded waterfowl brood use of restored wetlands in Wisconsin during his statewide status reviews and surveys. He reported waterfowl broods on 21% of all restored wetlands one acre or larger during the brood-rearing period from 20 May to

Figure 6: Placing nest boxes on pipe over restored wetlands improved wood duck brood production. Note irregular shoreline, emergent vegetation, and adjacent CRP grassland. Photo taken in Pierce County.

16 August of 2001. No broods were encountered on wetlands less that 1-acre in size. Species observed (n=490 adult/juvenile ducks and geese), in decreasing order of occurrence were Mallards (39%), Wood Ducks (36%), Blue-winged Teal (10%), and Canada Geese (14%).

Wetland plant diversity—Qualitative estimates of emergent wetland plant cover on all wet and dry basins (n = 147) revealed an average of 39% emergent plant cover. Cattail was the dominant species. However, many other wetland plant species were noted. There were a few situations in which cattail cover neared 100%. No ducks were observed at these sites (Schumacher 1992).

In an earlier study of wildlife use and plant succession on restored wetlands (n=39) in Ozaukee county, Kondracki (1990) determined that wildlife usage, including waterfowl, was determined by the size of the wetland and degree of isolation from other wetlands. She surveyed 1 and 2 year old wetland restorations to determine plant species relative abundance and diversity. Two-year-old wetlands had both higher plant abundance and diversity when compared to 1-year-old wetlands. She also noted that submerged aquatic plants (coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) and sago

pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*)) had colonized 2-year-old wetlands.

Similarly, LaGrange (1987) found 43 species of wetland plants in 3 restored wetlands in Iowa. He also noted the presence of sago pondweed, coontail, and milfoil (*Myriophyllum sp.*). In both studies, no post-construction supplemental seeding was done in the wetland basins to increase floristic diversity.

Landowner satisfaction assessed by USFWS—Approximately 4000 wetland/grassland projects were completed statewide between 1987 through 1999 by WDNR and USFWS. Kitchen (2004, pers. comm) documented that nearly all grassland projects also included wetland restorations. To assess landowner satisfaction, the USFWS mailed a questionnaire to 351 cooperating private landowners. Return rate for completed surveys was 75.2% (n = 264), and of these, 68% of the respondents were fully satisfied with their participation in the prairie grass and wetland habitat restoration program. Only 11% were not satisfied; these usually involved wetland restorations that did not have standing water or dried out seasonally. Of interest, is that 89% of respondents planned to maintain their habitat projects beyond the expiration of the project agreement. Thus, it appears that these habitat accomplishments are long-term and that the participants' support increased wildlife habitat on their land (Kitchen 2001).

Habitat assessments by USFWS—Infield habitat reviews (Kitchen 2001) were conducted statewide on 335 wetland restorations (921 acres). Wetland restoration projects were highly successful. Of the 335 wetlands sampled, only 6% were failures, while 13% were classified as partially successful. Failed projects included: structural damage (dike-failure) by muskrat or beaver, poor design or construction methods, weak or absent wetland hydrology due to permeable soils, management influences from grazing, or wetland conversion to deep water pools. Conversion of existing wetlands from one type to another (i.e., sedge meadow to shallow-water marsh) was not found to be significant for the wetlands evaluated. Failure rates between years were not significant due to the overall low level of failures in any given year.

Kitchen (2001) reported that approximately 32% of the restored wetlands developed high-quality plant communities with high plant species diversity where aggressive or invasive plant species were few or absent. Another 30% exhibited monotypic or degraded plant communities (reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and/or cattails). The remaining wetlands (38%) were of moderate species richness, with "moderate" cover by invasive or aggressive plant species present.

Within the state, past land use, adjacent land use and geographic location, i.e., proximity to other permanent wetlands, all appear to contribute towards the vegetative redevelopment of the wetland plant community (Kitchen 2001). Restorations in the agricultural areas of the southern and eastern parts of the state were about 50% low quality and less than 20% high quality. Kitchen (2001) believes that in high agricultural-use areas, quality wetland seed banks may not be present, or have low species richness, or that invasive/aggressive species re-colonize these sites before

high quality native species can become established.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are a culmination of field reviews and research by Halvorsen (1992), Kitchen (2001), Kondracki (1990), and Schumacher (1992).

1. Continue restoring wetlands of all sizes and as "wetland complexes" especially where hydric soils exist. This will improve the availability of pair ponds and brood water for waterfowl that also provide structural diversity in agricultural landscapes.
2. In agricultural areas, target sites with grassland acreage greater than 20 acres for wetland restoration potential. Keep ratio of wetland : grassland acres 1:4 or greater. Require that all restorations include adequate riparian buffers of grass.
3. In the southern region of the state, investigate the likelihood of cattail encroachment and develop revegetation guidelines. Within wetland complexes, select 1 to 2 basins to deepen > 3-4′ to preclude complete cattail invasion.
4. When and where appropriate, sow wetland-dependent plant seed on exposed hydric soils to improve aquatic plant species diversity, and also to retard cattail encroachment. Scrape and bury patches of reed canary grass to preclude its recolonization.
5. Monitor soil characteristics during restoration, and remove all sediments from restored basins, maximizing exposure of the buried "A" soil horizon. This horizon contains buried aquatic plant propagules and also will provide a better medium for native plant recolonization. Excavated spoils can be placed/smoothed on adjacent uplands and seeded to grass.
6. Monitor water surface levels on new restorations 1–2 years post construction to assure all functioning tile lines are altered via removal or installation of a water control device.
7. Work with landowners to improve their understanding that they will need to manage their restored wetlands. Structural damage to dikes can be avoided with proper construction techniques, occasional mowing for brush control, and muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)/beaver (*Castor canadensis*) trapping.
8. Fully utilize federal, state, and local cost share programs that provide funding for the restoration of wetlands on private lands.

Acknowledgments

Kyle Drake and Susan Schumacher, wildlife management LTE's for WDNR during this study, assisted with landowner contacts, permitting, construction operations, field surveys, and data collection and summary. We are indebted to NRCS—Ozaukee county employees: Dan Lynch, Armin Schwengel, Andy Holsbach, and to the private landowners who provided access to their lands for restoring wetlands and for access to conduct this waterfowl survey. Art Kitchen, USFWS wildlife biologist stationed in Madison, readily provided and encouraged the use of data from his study.

Funding for these projects originated from local conservation organi-

zations such as the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, local sports clubs, and from the state MARSH (Matching Aid to Restore State Habitat) fund. MARSH funding is generated by a combination of Ducks Unlimited funds matched to the Wisconsin duck stamp revenues. Additionally, funding through the USDA's CRP paid the landowners annual rent for placing former cropland into grassland and wetland habitats.

Literature Cited

Anderson, G. R. 1985. Design and location of water impoundment structures. Pages 126–129 *in* M. Dean Knighton, *compiler.* Water Impoundments for Wildlife: A Habitat Management Workshop. North Central Forest Experiment Station. US Forest Service. St. Paul, Minnesota. USA.

Andryk, T., C. Kilian, L. Waskow, R. Gatti, J. Berquist. 1992. Wisconsin breeding duck populations 1973–1992. 14pp. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Bureau of Wildlife Management. Administrative Report. Madison. USA.

Ball, J. 1989. Maximizing Occupancy of Mallard Nest Structures. 6pp. Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. University of Montana-Missoula. USA.

Halvorsen, H. H. 1992. Duck brood survey results. Unpublished data. 8 pp. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Baldwin. USA.

Kitchen, A. 2001. An Assessment of Landowner Participation and Habitat Accomplishments. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Monitoring Report for Wisconsin. United States Fish and Wildlife Service: Wisconsin Private Lands Office, Madison. USA.

Kondracki, J. 1990. Wildlife Usage of Restored Wetlands in Southeastern Wisconsin. Unpublished data. 11 pp. University of Wisconsin-Madison. USA.

LaGrange, T. 1987. Rebirth of an Iowa Marsh. Iowa Conservationist. 46(1): 28–29.

Reinartz, J. A., and Warne, E. L. 1993. Development of vegetation in small created wetlands in Southeastern Wisconsin. Wetlands: 13(3): 155–164.

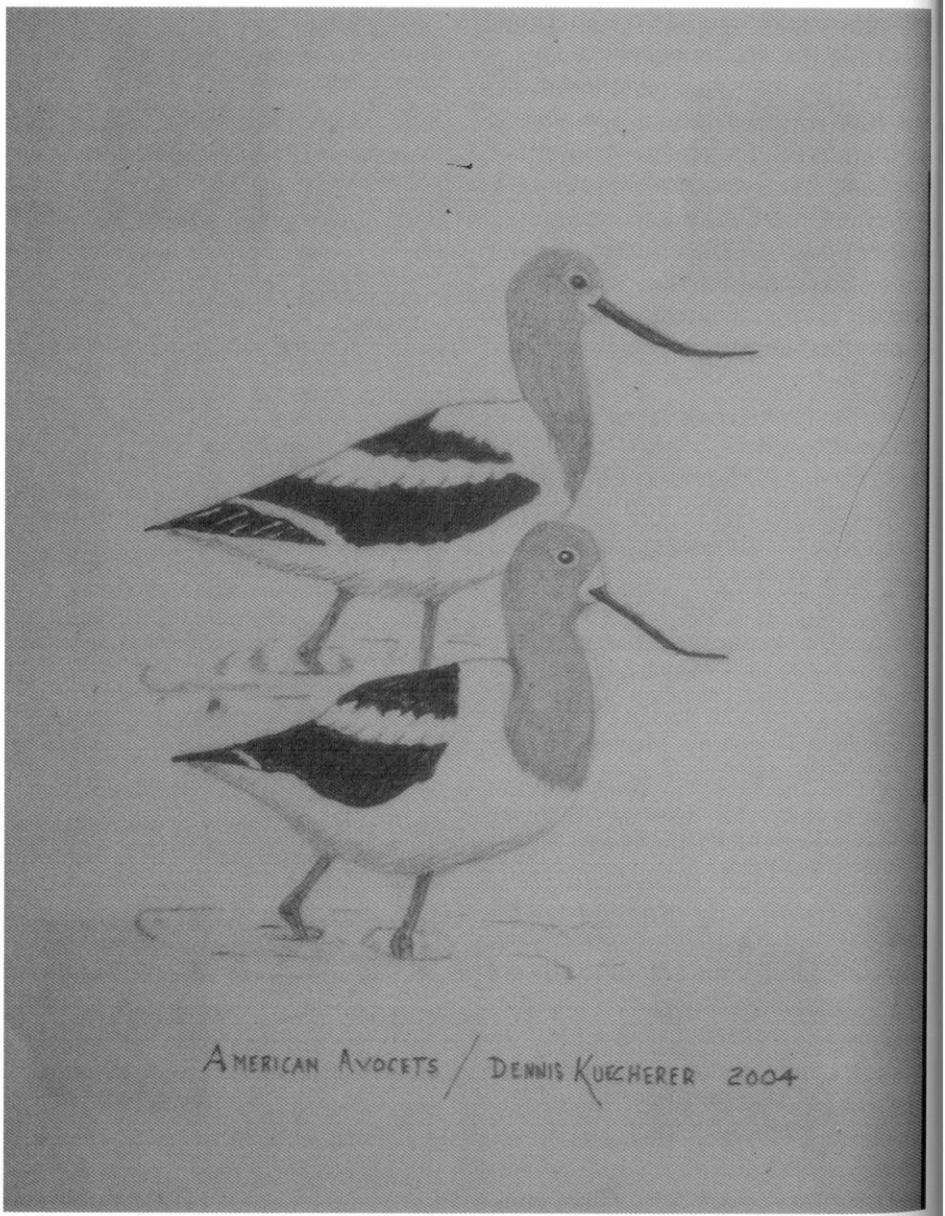
Reynolds, R. 1994. Evaluation of the Effect of CRP on Duck Recruitment in the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Area. Progress Report. 5pp. United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Bismarck, North Dakota. USA.

Schumacher, S. 1992. Brood survey results and implications. Unpublished data. 3 pp. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Milwaukee. USA.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 1986. North American Waterfowl Management Plan. 19 pp. Washington, D.C. USA.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 1992. Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture—Wisconsin Plan. 99pp. Madison. USA.

Harvey Halvorsen is a certified wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Wildlife Management at the WDNR office in Baldwin. A WSO member since 1976, he continues to restore wetlands and prairie landscapes in westcentral Wisconsin.



American Avocets *by Dennis Kuecherer*

Special Delivery: Getting Bird Conservation Education into the Classroom

Susan Cantrell Gilchrist

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
1350 Femrite Drive
Monona, WI 53716
608. 221. 6350
susan.gilchrist@dnr.state.wi.us

The Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) represents a voluntary conservation agreement among governmental and private organizations pledged to work together to effectively manage both resident and migrant birds in Wisconsin. Within the WBCI framework nestles a committee that is planning bird conservation education in Wisconsin, the Education Committee, a subcommittee of the WBCI Outreach Committee. With a goal of incorporating bird conservation at every level of education, the Education Committee looked at some of the programs available and discussed the gaps and needs. To find out how to successfully deliver these and other bird education programs to the schools, telephone interviews of teachers were conducted. The good news is that there are some really wonderful programs already developed. The bad news is that few Wisconsin teachers seem to know about them or use them. The hope is to garner funding and support to market and deliver the programs to the educators.

Existing Bird Education Programs

What are some of these bird education programs that already exist? The Education Committee's quick review of some of the better-known programs yielded the following information:

- The first comprehensive migratory bird education program to be developed originated in Wisconsin: One Bird—Two Habitats. The program consists of an activity guide for an interdisciplinary, interwoven, environmental education curriculum unit designed for 6–8th grades and teacher training on use of the curriculum guide (Figure 1). Parts of this curriculum guide have been adapted into programs in other states, yet the program is little used in Wisconsin.
- The Songbird Blues educational trunk was developed in Montana with a version adapted for the eastern states. This trunk provides books, puppets, a felt storycloth (Figure 2), and a wealth of activities for elementary level students. Because of the high quality and the

Figure 1: The effects of forest fragmentation are demonstrated in dough in this activity from the One Bird–Two Habitats curriculum. *Photo by Susan Gilchrist.*

amount of materials included, this trunk is expensive, and there are probably only four or five copies of it in the state at this time.

- The Shorebird Sister Schools Program includes an educational activity guide applicable to kindergarten through 12th grade. It is available through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The focus is on shorebirds, which is very appropriate to Wisconsin.
- Journey North is an Internet-based program for sharing information about migrations of a number of species (e.g. whales, monarch butterflies, bald eagles, loons, etc.) including some songbirds. The program originated in Minnesota, but as a distance-learning adventure, it is international in scope.
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology boasts some excellent citizen science programs, including Project PigeonWatch and Project FeederWatch. Cornell Lab of Ornithology analyzes research data collected by students from all across the country.
- Every year, in preparation for International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), a day recognized by the interagency organization, Partners in Flight, to celebrate migratory birds, an educator's packet has been assembled and distributed to teachers who request it. The packet includes some classroom activities and can be obtained through the IMBD online store (http://birds.fws.gov/IMBD/).

In discussing a statewide bird education plan, the WBCI Education Committee determined that there are

Figure 2: In a workshop, educators explore use of the storycloth from the Songbird Blues Trunk, to teach about changing habitats. Photo by Bill Volkert.

good programs available for elementary and middle schools. For the early childhood level, kindergarten, and preschool, teacher training may be more effective than a curriculum activity guide. Training could empower teachers, regardless of their own initial level of expertise, to promote interest and encourage children to observe birds, while incorporating bird-related issues into general discussion of environmental stewardship, personal responsibility, and caring about nature and wildlife. At the high school level, however, there is a gap in available education materials and programs related to bird conservation. High schools tend to be more compartmentalized, with each subject taught by a different teacher in a different course. Stricter compartmentalization makes it harder to infuse something like bird education into full curriculum agendas. Perhaps participation in a research project similar to those sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology would mesh with life science or agriculture courses. At the college and university level, bird conservation education could be introduced through environmental education teacher training programs for pre-service teachers.

WBCI Teacher Telephone Survey

The Education Committee identified some well-respected bird education programs that exist and discussed what might work best at each academic level, but the big question was how to deliver the programs. How could we reach teachers with bird conservation education? In order to find

the answers to this and other related questions, we devised a teacher telephone survey. Graduate students in an environmental education course taught by Michael Kaltenberg at UW-River Falls agreed to interview teachers over the phone. Committee members designed the study so that information would be collected from teachers in different parts of the state and at different grade levels, developed the interview questions, tested the questions, and prepared the students to conduct the survey.

Seven graduate students conducted the interviews. The design included 56 teachers. To ensure statewide coverage, we divided the state into four quadrants and the graduate students selected four public school teachers at each of the three levels (elementary, middle, and high school) in each quadrant. Four teachers from private/parochial schools and four from home school programs were also included in the total. All of the teachers contacted were experienced; none was a first- or second-year teacher. Twenty-four male and 32 female teachers participated. The bulk of the teachers interviewed identified their school community as rural, suburban, or small urban, which suggests that schools from large urban areas were underrepresented in the research.

About half of the participating teachers said they had already taught something about birds or bird conservation, and half said they had not. Many of those who did not teach about birds explained that the topic does not fit within the required curriculum, while those who did teach about birds mostly did so as part of some other curriculum unit. Interestingly, not one of the teachers interviewed had ever used any of the key bird conservation education programs the Committee had identified (the Songbird Blues trunk, the Shorebird Sisters program, One Bird—Two Habitats, Journey North, Cornell Lab of Ornithology projects, or International Migratory Bird Day materials).

This eye-opening information led us to look further at the survey results to find out what kinds of bird education materials teachers would prefer. From a tallied list of 21 potential education resources, the most teachers considered the following to be the most useful:

Guest experts/speakers
Support for field trips
Videos
A trunk/kit on birds
An activity guide
Posters
Background information
Field guides
Workshops/training.

According to the interviews, teachers do want an activity guide full of recipes for the classroom: a traveling trunk with all materials included, an interdisciplinary unit, or a unit specifically geared to their subject area. This indicates that bird education program developers have been investing their energy in the right direction. This finding is directly applicable to the program we already have in Wisconsin, One Bird—Two Habitats. This program includes an activity guide with background information, posters, and a video. It has been disseminated through workshops. The problem is that teachers don't know about it or the other education resource materials available, and we lack funds for

marketing or developing an effective delivery mechanism.

Delivery Mechanisms

What kind of a delivery mechanism would work to get One Bird—Two Habitats and other bird conservation education programs into the hands of teachers and into the classroom curriculum? The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has tried to disseminate One Bird—Two Habitats through all-day workshops, but it has proven difficult to recruit enough middle school teachers from one geographic area to fill a workshop. Through the WBCI telephone survey, we asked teachers what delivery system or dissemination method would work to get bird education into their classrooms and how they would prefer to obtain an activity guide for use in the classroom. Teachers said they would prefer to get a curriculum activity guide by borrowing it through a resource lending library through a CESA (Cooperative Educational Service Area), a WDNR office, a nature center, or university, or by attending a workshop, course, or training program. Few teachers expressed interest in simply purchasing new curriculum materials or receiving them directly through the mail. While many teachers can read resource materials and use them without training, only one said s/he would not be willing to attend a training program to get bird education materials. Most said that a participatory workshop is the best kind of training program. Training could refer to 1–2 hours up to an all-day workshop or a course offered in the summer or evenings. This information indicates that the previously attempted delivery method for One Bird—Two Habitats and other bird education programs was not completely off target.

We looked at other questions in the teacher telephone survey to try to determine how we could promote teacher participation in workshops. The most convenient time for a workshop seems to be during the summer, with in-service days or weekends second. College credit for workshop participation is valued by some and not by others, so providing credit may be helpful, but may not necessarily be a big draw to get teachers to attend workshops and use resource materials. However, correlation between any education program and Wisconsin's Academic Standards seems to be vital for teacher use. If we can correlate bird education materials to the state Academic Standards and market them as a route for teachers to meet the standards in the classroom without a lot of extra work, we may be able to draw more teachers to bird education workshops and programs.

Since the survey indicated that teachers don't know about existent programs, marketing is key for dissemination of bird conservation education materials and programs. It is worth noting the three education resources the most teachers in the survey identified as the least useful: a manual for a bird festival, slides, and Latin American contacts. In marketing programs that include these under-valued resources, we may find more success if we highlight other aspects of the program that are more appealing to teachers.

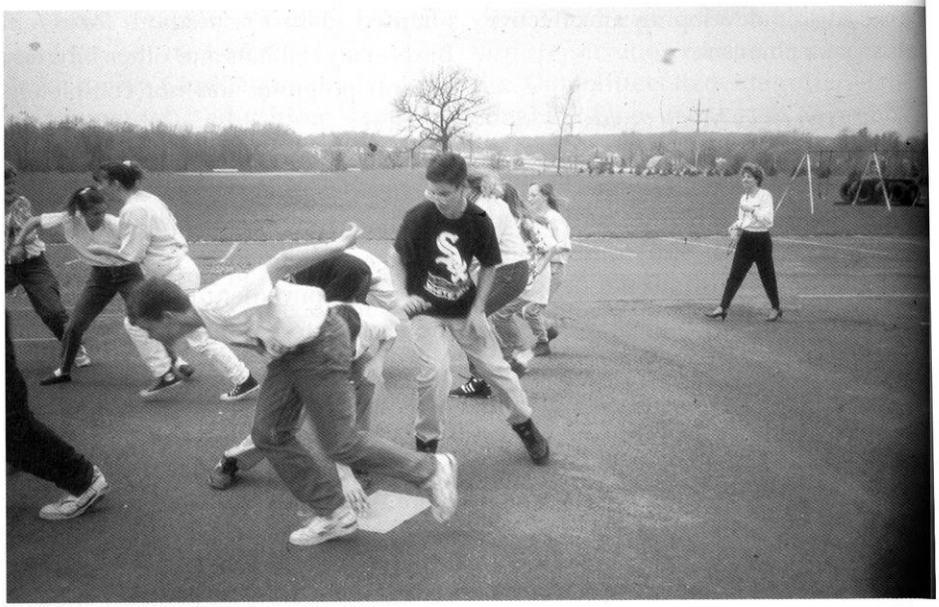


Figure 3: In an activity adapted from Aquatic Project WILD, students learn that habitat loss in nesting or over-wintering areas affects migratory birds. *Photo by Susan Gilchrist.*

New Programs

The graduate students conducting the interviews stated that both they and the teachers they interviewed overwhelmingly desired an activity guide similar to Project WILD (Figure 3) and Project Learning Tree, two environmental education programs that have been successfully implemented all across the country. The timing of this survey could not have been better in this respect. Even as we were contacting Wisconsin teachers to find out what resources they would use to teach about birds, the Council for Environmental Education, the same organization that spawned both Project WILD and Learning Tree, was creating a new program called Flying WILD. Flying WILD will soon be available nationally, as distribution partners are identified within the states. The initial notion of a manual for planning a school bird festival has been expanded so that Flying WILD is a weighty curriculum guide, chock full of both teacher-led classroom and student-led festival activities. Flying WILD is designed for the middle school level (6–8th grades) and could provide the final chapter in the awareness to action continuum for One Bird—Two Habitats. In WBCI's teacher telephone survey, teachers indicated that they are not interested in a manual for creating a bird festival, however, they do want an activity guide. Flying WILD is both, although the classroom activities could stand alone without a festival. If we want to distribute Flying WILD successfully in Wisconsin, we would do better to market the program as an activity guide with a service learning application rather than a manual for bird festivals.

The research can be applied to another new program under development as well. According to the telephone survey, most of the teachers did not consider going outside the classroom a major obstacle. Still, they said they would be more likely to use a volunteer expert as a speaker in the classroom than as the leader of a bird walk. Teachers said they would use binoculars and field guides if provided, but only 15 said they would use such resources monthly or more. These findings are directly relevant to an effort the Education Committee is supporting. Following a Minnesota model, Barbara Duerksen, the Youth Education Coordinator for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, is working to assemble birding kits that would include binoculars and field guides. The kits would be brought to the requesting school by a mentor, a birding "expert" who could introduce the students to basic bird watching. The aim is to recruit one volunteer mentor and provide one traveling birding kit for each county in Wisconsin. These volunteer birding mentors could serve as vehicles to deliver information about other bird conservation education resources to teachers as well.

Summary

The WBCI Education Committee wants to see bird conservation education incorporated into every level of education, preschool through adult. We have considered what programs exist and noted where there are gaps, particularly at the high school level. We have asked teachers how we can best deliver bird education to them. In what they said they want, we have found validation for the kinds of programs and materials that have been developed. We have discovered that few teachers know about the bird education programs that exist, and thus we have identified a marketing problem. We have examined teacher feedback on ways of disseminating bird education materials and observed that workshops or inservices are still desirable. If we address convenience of scheduling for teachers as much as possible in planning bird education workshops, marketing may be the significant factor in recruiting participants. We have noted that any education program that we want accepted into use in the schools should be correlated with the Wisconsin Academic Standards. We have seen how the interview data can be applied to marketing programs, whether the programs are new or already existing.

So much of the solution to the question of how we can deliver bird education programs seems to reiterate "marketing, marketing, marketing." That sounds like a birdcall, but let it be a call to action. Now that we know what we want to do to incorporate bird education into Wisconsin's education system, and we have some ideas about how to do it, we need support to deliver the programs to the teachers. Recognizing that education is a key tool for WBCI's work to keep common birds common and conserve and restore rare birds as well, we need funding and staff to coordinate the effort to implement the plan and attain our goals for bird conservation education.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to the WBCI Education Committee for all their work planning bird conservation education in Wisconsin and for their support of the teacher survey. Thanks especially to Steve Kupcho, Andy Paulios, Barbara Duerksen, and Dennis Yockers for help developing and piloting the teacher survey instrument. Michael Kaltenberg, who coordinated the data collection, and the graduate students who conducted the teacher interviews all deserve grateful acknowledgment: Jessica Cloninger, Gina Mallizzio, Meghan Most, Christine Neubauer, Angela Rowell, Andrew Tessmer, and Jeffrey Vorwald. For reviewing this paper, thank you to Steve Kupcho, Barbara Duerksen, and Noel Cutright.

With a Master of Arts in Teaching degree, Susan Gilchrist has worked with preschoolers through adults in a variety of positions, all with some education-related component. Currently she is the Environmental Education Researcher at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, where she was first hired to evaluate Project WILD, a wildlife education program, in 1988. The opportunity to develop the One Bird—Two Habitats curriculum unit sparked Susan's involvement in bird conservation education, and has led her as far afield as Nicaragua for bird education work. Recently she served as a reviewer for the new Flying WILD activity guide.

Eared Grebe *by Gary Krogman*

Diary Of The 2003–2004 Christmas Bird Count Marathon . . . A Midwestern Birding Odyssey

Kelly J. McKay

BioEco Research and Monitoring Center
420 1st Avenue
P.O. Box 452
Hampton, IL 61256
309. 755. 6731
KellyJMcKay@aol.com

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Program, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, provides some of the few truly long-term data used to document avian population trends. Additionally, with the large number of counts conducted across North America each year, the CBC Program also provides avian population data from a large geographic area. This combination of long-term and large-scale data makes the CBC Program an important source of information for the scientific monitoring of avian populations (Arbib 1981; Bock and Root 1981; Drennan 1981; Root 1988; Bibby et al. 1992). Participation in this program is certainly one of the best ways for citizens to contribute to scientific research, and thereby help monitor the health of our avian communities.

I have been participating on CBCs for over two decades. For many years, I have taken my passion and enthusiasm for CBCs to an extreme, by doing 8–11 counts each year and compiling 7 of these since 1997. During the fall of 2002, I decided to take my CBC participation to the next level—the challenge of doing a "CBC marathon." However, after more than a month of planning and organizing, logistical limitations only allowed me to schedule 20 CBCs.

Some of you may have read my article in last year's *American Birds* where I described the adventure of doing a 20-count marathon (McKay 2003). If so, you will recall that I planned on attempting to complete a full 23-count marathon during the 2003–2004 CBC season. In order to avoid the logistics problems encountered last year, I began planning and contacting count compilers throughout a six-state region of the Midwest by early November. I also waited to schedule the seven counts which I compile, so that they would be available to fill in open dates when no other CBCs were scheduled. After six

Table 1. 2003–2004 CBC marathon results from my field parties (dates, number of species, number of individual birds).

Count	Date	# Species	# Individuals
Davenport	12-14-03	64	13,274
Lost Nation	12-15-03	50	1,645
Jamaica	12-16-03	49	18,097
Green Island	12-17-03	59	3,088
Clinton	12-18-03	58	8,843
Western Mercer County	12-19-03	47	2,382
Cedar Rapids	12-20-03	59	2,505
Lake Red Rock	12-21-03	48	26,287
Keokuk	12-22-03	62	17,460
Princeton-Camanche	12-23-03	60	5,417
Van Petten	12-24-03	52	3,975
Chicago Lakefront	12-25-03	27	4,047
Montello	12-26-03	45	1,918
Lake Chautauqua NWR	12-27-03	65	3,164
Illini State Park	12-28-03	57	6,938
Horseshoe Lake	12-29-03	71	6,785
Union County	12-30-03	74	24,940
Mermet Lake	12-31-03	90	32,068
Jackson County	01-01-04	69	51,621
Adams County	01-02-04	30	501
North Linn	01-03-04	38	2,104
Muscatine	01-04-04	52	1,869
Andalusia	01-05-04	56	2,295
TOTALS		132	241,223

weeks and seemingly unending hours of telephone and e-mail conversations, not to mention considerable shifting in the scheduling of my counts, I was finally able to successfully schedule 23 CBCs (Table 1). After doing 20 counts last year, I realized that 23 CBCs would not be overly difficult to accomplish. Therefore, I decided to increase this year's challenge by seeing how long I could go without sleep. However, I did not want to negatively impact the counts so I asked all field parties that I worked with to let me know if I seemed to be making mistakes or missing birds. If so, I would certainly start sleeping so as not to jeopardize the integrity of the count. However, I ordinarily only sleep about five hours a night, so I believed this additional challenge to be possible to achieve.

After awaking at 8:00 AM on 13 December, I spent all day preparing equipment, my vehicle, and making last minute contacts regarding my work and the upcoming marathon attempt. I was very restless and pumped full of adrenaline as the eve of the CBC count period arrived.

14 December, Davenport, Iowa-Illinois—I began this initial CBC at 3:00 AM. Since I live within my territory for this count, no travel miles were required. I was joined in the morning by two 15-year old first time Christmas counters (Mike Warren and Peter Wood). Weather conditions were perfect to begin this CBC season. The

temperature ranged from the mid 20s to the low 30s, and there was little or no wind (0–5 mph). We had an extremely good day, marked by an impressive diversity of 13 waterfowl species. My group identified 64 species and 13,274 individuals (Table 1). Highlights for the day included 3 Common Redpolls, 2 White-winged Scoters, and 1 each of Greater Scaup and Thayer's Gull. Several common woodland species seemed to be less abundant than usual. I had now been awake for 40 hours.

15 December, Lost Nation, Iowa—I departed for this count at 3:15 AM. This CBC required an 88-mile round trip. The temperature was similar to yesterday, but the wind was much stronger (10–20 mph), which produced a "biting" wind chill. These winds kept birds in cover and made counting difficult. Ryan Schmitz and I formed a field party for this count. Although waterfowl were virtually nonexistent due to the heavy ice cover on the Wapsipinicon River, we still had an outstanding day, recording 50 species and 1,645 individual birds (Table 1). Notable species included 2 Hermit Thrushes and a single Winter Wren. As I returned home, I was still feeling really good and energized. However, that changed when I received a message that the next day's count, scheduled for Bridgeport, Wisconsin, had been postponed due to a winter storm predicted for the southern portion of the state. Suddenly, my CBC marathon attempt was in serious jeopardy only three days into the count period. I frantically jumped on the internet and searched for a replacement count. I finally found one in Jamaica! I know what you are thinking, but unfortunately this Jamaica is in central Iowa.

16 December, Jamaica, Iowa–This CBC was 4.25 hours away and required a round trip of 450 miles. Therefore, I left home at 3:15 AM. Half way to the count circle I encountered the winter storm that had been predicted. Snow and ice squalls left Interstate 80 ice covered and extremely treacherous. To make matters worse, sustained winds of 40 mph, which continued all day, left many of the roadways drifted over with snow and impassable. The temperature, which never escaped the mid 20s, made for severe wind chills. I spent the day working with Ray Cummins and Tom Johnson. Once again, the high wind kept birds holding "tight" in cover and made counting difficult. Nevertheless, our group did have a good day observing 49 species and 18,097 individuals (Table 1). However, 15,000 of these were Canada Geese. Other noteworthy birds included a single Northern Goshawk, 92 Ring-necked Pheasants, and 3 Western Meadowlarks. By the way, southern Wisconsin received less than an inch of snow.

17 December, Green Island, Iowa-Illinois—I began the 120-mile round trip drive to this count at 3:30 AM, where I joined Ulf Konig for the day. Following yesterday's extreme winter weather, today was much better. Although the temperature only reached the upper 20s, the wind (5–15 mph) lessened throughout the day. The milder conditions left me feeling very rejuvenated, and the bird activity greatly increased. As a result, our group had an excellent day recording 59 species and 3,088 individual birds

(Table 1). This count produced a number of highlights such as 35 Tundra Swans, 4 Winter Wrens, 3 Hermit Thrushes, a single Brewer's Blackbird, and 59 Purple Finches. For those of you keeping track, I had now been awake for 112 consecutive hours.

18 December, Clinton, Iowa-Illinois—I departed on the 62-mile round trip drive for this count at 2:45 AM. Ryan Schmitz and I once again formed a field party. We encountered periodic snow showers during the predawn hours. Following sunrise, the snow ended and the temperature ranged from the upper 20s to the low 30s during the day, with light to moderate winds (5–15 mph). Although I was feeling tired today, the marathon attempt continued to proceed on schedule. Ten species of waterfowl allowed our group to have a very impressive day. We identified 58 species and recorded 8,843 total birds (Table 1). This CBC yielded a bizarre mix of birds including 4 Yellow-rumped Warblers and 6 Snow Buntings. Additionally, we observed 5 each of the Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Harrier, while gulls were extremely scarce within the circle.

19 December, Western Mercer County, Illinois-Iowa—I left home at 3:15 AM and met the rest of my field party (Steve Hager and Brad Cosentino), to continue the 98-mile round trip drive to this CBC circle. A fairly strong wind (15–25 mph) persisted all day, along with falling temperatures which never exceeded the upper 20s. A substantial wind chill and significant ice cover on most water bodies, kept birds deep in cover and left waterfowl and gulls almost completely absent from this circle. These conditions produced a disappointing count, with only 47 species and 2,382 individuals being recorded (Table 1). The only notable birds included 14 Northern Bobwhites and 100 Eurasian Tree Sparrows.

20 December, Cedar Rapids, Iowa—This count involved making a 186-mile round trip. Therefore, I left for Cedar Rapids at 3:15 AM. During the first half of the day I worked alone, before joining Weir Nelson and Ken Kadlec in the early afternoon. The weather during this count was seasonably cold with temperatures ranging from the low teens to low 20s and light to moderate winds (0–15 mph). Incredibly, I felt very alert and energized all day considering that I have been awake for 184 consecutive hours. Bird activity was high during this CBC, despite the seasonably cold weather. My group recorded a very diverse 59 species and 2,505 total birds (Table 1). Among the highlights were single individuals of the Double-crested Cormorant, Pied-billed Grebe, and Long-eared Owl, along with 2 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 3 Carolina Wrens. However, common woodland species were present in much reduced numbers.

21 December, Lake Red Rock, Iowa—This CBC was 3.5 hours and 358 miles round trip from home. Consequently, I departed for this count at 2:00 AM. Jay Gilliam and I formed a field party for the day. Relatively strong winds (5–25 mph) and unseasonably mild temperatures (low 30s to upper 40s) characterized this CBC. Regardless of the decent waterfowl and gull diversity present on the lake,

my group had a fairly disappointing day, tallying only 48 species and 26,287 individuals (Table 1). Although an impressive number of birds were observed, 17,820 were Ring-billed Gulls and 5,100 were Canada Geese. Other noteworthy species included 83 Bald Eagles, 3 Thayer's Gulls, and 2 Glaucous Gulls. During the drive home, I began feeling tired and for the first time started to wonder if I would be able to complete this marathon challenge.

22 December, Keokuk, Iowa—I began the 2.5-hour drive to this count circle at 3:00 AM. This CBC involved a 190-mile round trip, plus I worked alone all day. The temperature was once again extremely mild ranging from the mid 30s to the upper 40s, while little or no wind (0–5 mph) occurred. However, a steady and sometimes heavy rain began in the late morning and continued through the remainder of the day. Nevertheless, bird activity was noticeably higher all day, and I had a very good count. Overall, I observed 62 species and 17,460 individual birds (Table 1). Among these species, 12 were waterfowl. A number of avian highlights characterized the day including 6,445 Canvasbacks, 36 Redheads, 4,630 Ring-necked Ducks, 2 American White Pelicans, and a single Lincoln's Sparrow. Furthermore, passerine response to the Eastern Screech-Owl tape was phenomenal all day.

23 December, Princeton-Camanche, Iowa-Illinois—This count was close to home and only required a 20-mile round trip. I departed my house at 3:15 AM. For the second day in a row, I worked alone. Amazingly, I felt very good all day and was never tired. The weather for this count was seasonable, with temperatures in the upper 20s to mid 30s and winds ranging from 5–20 mph. Once again, passerine response to the owl tape was excellent. As a result, I had another remarkable day tallying 60 species and 5,417 individuals (Table 1). As with yesterday, fair waterfowl diversity (11 species) was present within the circle. This CBC also yielded a number of noteworthy finds such as 4 Trumpeter Swans, 2 White-winged Scoters, 16 Northern Bobwhites, 113 Wild Turkeys, 120 Bald Eagles, and 2 Eurasian Tree Sparrows (one of the most northerly records).

24 December, Van Petten, Illinois—As I left my house at 4:15 AM on this Christmas Eve morning, to make the 164-mile round trip drive to this CBC, I was feeling really tired and mentally drained. Steve Hager and Ryan Schmitz joined me for this count. The weather was crisp and cold with temperatures hovering in the upper teens to mid 20s, and a 5–15 mph wind adding just enough wind chill to make it slightly uncomfortable and keep the birds holding fairly "tight" in cover. Nevertheless, we had a very good day identifying 52 species and 3,975 individuals (Table 1). Notable highlights included 4 Wood Ducks, 30 Meadowlark species, and 15 Rusty Blackbirds. However, the best encounter of the day, by far, was 3 Short-eared Owls perched on fence posts and observed as the sun was setting on this beautiful Christmas Eve.

25 December, Chicago Lakefront, Illinois—I began the 3-hour, 368-mile round trip, drive at 3:30 AM on this clear, brisk Christmas morning. Sea-

sonable temperatures (low 20s to low 30s) and lighter winds (5–10 mph) made for a very enjoyable count. I teamed up with Joel Greenberg as a field party. This is the only CBC that I participate on which is located entirely within a major city. This creates unique count conditions, such as the near total absence of natural habitat within the count circle, and the way birds hold "tight" to what little habitat they can find. For example, along Lakeshore Drive we found a couple of small landscape plantings of prairie grass (maybe 15 feet long by 3 feet wide). Within these "scraps" of habitat, there were 2 Song, 2 Swamp, and 6 White-throated Sparrows which simply would not leave the grass, despite the number of people disturbing them. The near total lack of habitat within this inner city CBC, along with the reduced numbers of waterfowl this year, resulted in a very poor count. My group could only identify 27 species and 4,047 birds (Table 1). The day's highlights included a single Common Loon, 3 Thayer's Gulls, and 24 Monk Parakeets. By the way, for those of you keeping track, my sleepless streak had now extended to 304 consecutive hours.

26 December, Montello, Wisconsin—I departed home at 1:30 AM to make the 4-hour, 499-mile round trip drive to this count circle. Despite the fact that this was my 193rd lifetime CBC, it was my first one in Wisconsin. I joined Bill Brooks for the day, helping him cover his territory. We had very good weather conditions with temperatures ranging from the mid teens to the mid 30s and light winds (5–10 mph). These favorable conditions allowed us to have a very good count for this far north—45 species and 1,918 individual birds (Table 1). The day's notable birds included 4 Mute Swans, a single Merlin, 3 Belted Kingfishers, and 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. During the long drive home, I was actually feeling rejuvenated and ready to continue the quest.

27 December, Lake Chautauqua NWR, Illinois—I left my house at 3:30 AM. This CBC was 2 hours away, and involved a 275-mile round trip. I was assigned to Angella and Dan Moorehouse's field party for the day. The weather was extremely mild, with the temperature warming from the mid 30s to the mid 50s and light to moderate winds (5–20 mph). During the early morning I felt great, but by late morning I was beginning to feel sick. My physical condition continued to worsen as the day went on. By early afternoon, I was very ill with a severe respiratory infection that left me with aching joints, a slight fever, and an uncontrollable cough. Nevertheless, we had a great day recording 65 species and 3,164 total birds (Table 1). Highlights from this CBC included 12 Great Blue Herons, singles of Red-shouldered Hawk and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and 2 Northern Mockingbirds. During the drive home, I was feeling very ill and wondered if this would jeopardize my completing the marathon attempt. Compounding my illness was undoubtedly the fact that I had not slept in 352 hours!

28 December, Illini State Park, Illinois—Participating on this CBC required a round trip of 205 miles. I departed for the count at 5:00 AM, and was now terribly sick. The infection left me with a severely congested

chest, which made breathing very difficult and coughing continuous and uncontrollable. I joined Ken Wysocki and John Duran for this CBC. Once again the weather was extremely mild, with temperatures in the mid 40s to mid 50s and moderate winds from 10-20 mph. Despite the fact that I was gagging with nearly every breath, our group had a very productive day. We observed 57 species along with 6,938 individual birds (Table 1). Some of the more interesting encounters included singles of Northern Shrike, Marsh Wren, Eastern Towhee, and Lincoln's Sparrow, along with 4 Fox Sparrows.

29 December, Horseshoe Lake, Illinois—I departed home at 11:00 PM (28 December) for the 7-hour, 388-mile drive to extreme southern Illinois, where I would spend the next 4 days. I continued coughing uncontrollably, which probably helped keep me awake during this long overnight drive. A good friend, Catherine Bland, also was taking part in this 4-day CBC tour of the southern portion of the state. During most of the night, we drove through light to moderate rain squalls which ended within an hour of beginning the count. Catherine and I were a team on this count. The weather was noticeably mild, which is typical for the southern reaches of Illinois. The temperature varied from the low 40s to the low 50s, and the wind was light (0–10 mph). We had a very good day identifying 71 species and 6,785 individual birds (Table 1). A greater diversity of birds is normally expected on these more southerly counts, including 15 species of waterfowl. Some of the more noteworthy highlights were 7 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 18 Field Sparrows, 10 Fox Sparrows, and 20 Eastern Meadowlarks. During the day, I started coughing up some blood, and by night I was feeling very sick again. The fear of not being able to continue the CBC marathon, brought about a decision to end my sleepless streak. I finally went to bed at 10:00 PM after being awake for 398 consecutive hours! The marathon was now ⅔ complete. However, as I fell asleep for the first time in 16 days, I wondered if I would be able to successfully achieve this odyssey?

30 December, Union County, Illinois—After 7 very restful hours of sleep, I awoke refreshed and feeling much better. However, I was still occasionally spitting up some blood. Steve Dinsmore and I teamed up for the day, and departed for the 26-mile drive to this count at 5:15 AM. We enjoyed another mild day, with the temperature varying from the mid 20s to the mid 40s and light winds similar to yesterday. These conditions led to another great day. My group recorded 74 species and 24,940 total birds (Table 1). This included 17 species of waterfowl. Among the many highlights of this count were 931 Greater White-fronted Geese, 6,100 Snow Geese, 53 Ross's Geese, 1 Golden Eagle, and a single Gray Catbird. Once again, many of the common woodland species were less numerous.

31 December, Mermet Lake, Illinois-Kentucky—Once again, Catherine Bland and I formed a field party. We had a 62-mile drive to the count circle, and therefore departed at 5:00 AM. The temperature was extremely mild (mid 30s to mid 50s) and the wind was almost nonexistent (0–5

mph). I was feeling much better today and was really enthusiastic about the count. Thanks to a remarkable variety of waterfowl at Mermet Lake (18 species), my group had an absolutely extraordinary day—90 species and 32,068 individuals (Table 1). This was the best CBC that I had ever participated on, in terms of diversity. The entire count was a highlight! For instance, we recorded 9 Black and 10 Turkey Vultures, 3 Loggerhead Shrikes, 12 Northern Mockingbirds, 1 Common Yellowthroat, single Vesper and Savannah Sparrows, and 5 Indigo Buntings. We spent New Year's Eve at Cathie Hutcheson's house (another southern Illinois CBCer). Cathie and her husband Lou put us up for the night and dished out a heaping helping of southern Illinois hospitality, along with a very delicious meal! Thanks to Cathie and Lou!

1 January, Jackson County, Illinois–Catherine Bland and I departed the Hutcheson's at 4:45 AM on this New Year's Day morning to make the 61-mile drive to the count circle, where we joined Vicki Lang and Steve Juhlin's field party for the day. Once again, mild weather persisted with temperatures in the mid 40s to mid 50s and light to moderate winds (5-20 mph). Fewer waterfowl than expected resulted in the least number of species among the 4 southern Illinois counts. Nevertheless, we still had a very good day observing 69 species and 51,621 birds (Table 1). Noteworthy species included 17 Red-shouldered Hawks, a single Golden Eagle and American Woodcock, 44 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 4 Brown Thrashers, 26,682 Red-winged Blackbirds, and 19,257 Common Grackles.

2 January, Adams County, Wisconsin—We departed Carbondale, Illinois at 7:00 PM (1 January), and drove 11.5 hours covering 612 miles north into central Wisconsin. During this trip, we stopped in the Quad Cities so I could drop off Catherine Bland. I worked alone for the first half of the day, and then helped Eric Howe during the latter half. The weather today was much more inclement than what I had experienced over the past 4 days, 600 miles to the south. The temperature never rose above the mid 30s and the wind was 5-15 mph. Late in the afternoon it began to rain heavily, making the roads icy for the first couple hours driving home. Although this was the northernmost count during the marathon, and therefore expected to have a lower diversity, my group still had a fairly poor day identifying only 30 species and 501 total birds (Table 1). Nevertheless, a number of notables were observed on this count including 25 Greater Prairie Chickens, singles of Northern Goshawk and Merlin, 6 Common Ravens, and 149 Common Redpolls. Following a 5-hour (249-mile) drive home, I was finally able to sleep after 42 consecutive hours without.

3 January, North Linn, Iowa—After a mere 3 hours of sleep, I departed on the 198-mile round trip at 4:30 AM. During this CBC, I joined a field party consisting of Weir Nelson, Ken Kadlec, and Diana Pesek. All day I felt very tired and I could feel my respiratory infection coming back. To make matters worse, a strong winter storm was approaching Iowa from the west. Consequently, the temperature dropped all day from the low 30s to the low 20s. The 5–15 mph wind created a "biting" wind chill, which along

with the falling thermometer, kept birds in cover all day and made counting very difficult. As a result, my group had an extremely poor day. We observed only 38 species and 2,104 individuals (Table 1). Few noteworthy birds were encountered, including very few waterfowl: 4 Rough-legged Hawks, 292 Cedar Waxwings, and 12 White-throated Sparrows.

4 January, Muscatine, Iowa-Illinois—Although I was nearing the successful completion of this CBC marathon, the last couple of days were not going to go down easily. I left on the 76-mile round trip at 4:00 AM, and was feeling terrible again as my infection was back in full force. Additionally, a major winter storm moved in overnight and continued through the entire day. Frigid temperatures (low to mid 20s) and moderately strong winds (10-20 mph), along with 8 inches of snow, created extremely difficult conditions with many roadways drifted shut. Furthermore, most birds held "tight" in cover through the day. Lindsey Maess, another first time Christmas counter, joined me in these brutal conditions. Amazingly however, we had a very good day tallying 52 species and recording 1,869 individual birds (Table 1). Nine species of waterfowl definitely helped. The only notable finds involved 2 Green-winged Teal, 1 Northern Shrike, 2 Hermit Thrushes, and 4 Yellow-rumped Warblers.

5 January, Andalusia, Illinois-Iowa—I departed on the 74-mile round trip drive at 4:30 AM. Catherine Bland and I once again formed a field party for this CBC marathon finale. The winter storm was now over, leaving in its wake very cold temperatures (low to mid teens) and light to moderate wind (10-15 mph) which produced a substantial wind chill. Regardless of the weather conditions, bird activity was good and we had a great day to conclude this 23-count CBC epic. My group identified 56 species and 2,295 individual birds (Table 1). However, many of the common woodland species remained relatively scarce. The highlights of this final CBC included 124 Horned Larks, a single Winter Wren and Northern Mockingbird, and 12 Lapland Longspurs. As I was driving home at the end of the day, I couldn't wait until next year and began to wonder what sort of CBC challenge I would undertake next.

Completing the full 23-count marathon, sets a new all-time record for the number of CBCs conducted by a single person in one year (breaking last year's record of 20 counts). Other than the incredible birds themselves, some of my dearest memories from this odyssey, as with last year's, will be the enjoyment of working with all the dedicated birders that I met and counted with along the way. Some of these folks were old comrades, others were new acquaintances, I consider them all friends. Certainly, the opportunity to work and bird with such quality people makes the grueling experience of conducting a CBC marathon a rewarding endeavor, and I would like to thank them all.

A summary of the following 2003–2004 CBC marathon facts can be found in Table 2. During the course of completing this CBC marathon, my field parties identified a total of 132 species and recorded 241,223 individual birds. I participated on 14 counts in Illinois, 7 in Iowa, and 2 counts in Wisconsin. My

Table 2. 2003–2004 CBC marathon specific statistics.

Total Species	132
Total Birds	241,223
Illinois Species	120
Illinois Birds	167,618
Iowa Species	93
Iowa Birds	71,186
Wisconsin Species	51
Wisconsin Birds	2,419
Total Hours	360
Total Miles	7,100.25
Hours Driving En Route	92.75
Miles Driving En Route	4,829
Hours Counting Birds	267.25
Miles Counting Birds	2,271.25
Total Hours Sleeping	32
Total Soda Consumed	16.4 gal.

groups recorded 120 species and 167,618 birds in Illinois, along with 93 species and 71,186 birds in Iowa, and 51 species and 2,419 birds in Wisconsin. Only 6 species were observed on all 23 counts (Rock Pigeon, Downy Woodpecker, American Crow, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, and House Sparrow). During the course of this 23-day adventure, I logged in 360 hours traveling 7,100.25 miles (including travel time and miles, as well as daily compilation time). Consequently, my total effort per count averaged 309 miles and 15.7 hours. By comparison, I spent 92.75 hours traveling 4,829 miles to and from counts, 267.25 hours (2,271.25 miles) actually counting birds, and only 32 hours sleeping. I went without sleep for 398 consecutive hours during the first 16 CBCs. Additionally, over this 23-day period I consumed 16.4 gallons of soda. With the successful accomplishment of a complete CBC marathon, I am now actively soliciting ideas from other birders and Christmas counters on a new CBC challenge. If anyone has a suggestion, please drop me an e-mail.

In conclusion, I am certainly not encouraging or even suggesting people attempt a CBC marathon. However, I hope those who read this article will be inspired to actively participate as much as he or she can on a program which I am so passionate about. In the years to come, I believe that "citizen scientists" will play an increasingly important role in the wildlife research and monitoring which is so very vital if we are to preserve the Earth's biodiversity. Until next year . . . good birding to all!

Literature Cited

Arbib, R. S. 1981. The Christmas Bird Count: constructing an "ideal model." Studies in Avian Biology 6: 30–33.

Bibby, C. J., N. D. Burgess, and D. A. Hill. 1992. Bird Census Techniques. Academic Press. San Diego, CA.

Bock, C. E., and T. L. Root. 1981. The Christmas Bird Count and avian ecology. Studies in Avian Biology 6: 17–23.

Drennan, S. R. 1981. The Christmas Bird Count: an overlooked and underused sample. Studies in Avian Biology 6: 24–29.

McKay, K. J. 2003. Diary of a mad counter: The challenging adventure of a Christmas Bird Count marathon. American Birds. The 103rd Christmas Bird Count, 2002–2003: 36–43.

Root, T. L. 1988. Atlas of Wintering North American Birds. An Analysis of Christmas Bird Count Data. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL.

Kelly J. McKay is a privately contracted wildlife biologist and Director of the BioEco Research and Monitoring Center in Hampton, Illinois. The majority of his work involves avian research, and he has been an avid birder for more than 20 years. He is an extremely prolific Christmas Bird Counter, having participated on 203 total CBCs.

Juvenile Sanderling taken at Wisconsin Point on 21 August 2004 *by Dennis Malueg*

Cedar Grove Banding Station. The top photo of the station first appeared in Vol. XVI, No. 3—Autumn 1954—of *The Passenger Pigeon*. The bottom photo was taken on 21 August 2004. There are more nets up now, there is a new building (on the same site as the old), and the vegetation has grown a bit, but basically the appearance remains much the same as it was 50 years ago.

50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

Hawk banding, which continues today at a few stations in the state, has its roots in Wisconsin at Cedar Grove (*see photos on previous page*). In the 1930s employees of the Milwaukee Public Museum initiated banding near Cedar Grove in southern Sheboygan County. The banding site is located in an open sandy area north of Bahr Creek, just inland from the Lake Michigan shore, and south of Old Cemetery Ridge. After a short hiatus during World War II, banding began in the fall of 1950 by Helmut Mueller and Dan Berger, who continue to band there each year. Dan's paper in this issue of *The Passenger Pigeon* discusses methods of trapping, measurements of hawks taken, has a picture of Dan holding a captured Swainson's Hawk (1 of 4 Swainson's caught in fall 1951 and 1952), and mentions a few band recoveries. The most interesting recovery was of an adult Cooper's flying south on 20 April that was killed 24 days later in Antrim County, Michigan—apparently in its nesting area!

As always, the "Field Notes" and "By The Wayside" sections are interesting to peruse. A (much) younger Jack Kaspar relates finding 5 White-fronted Geese on Lake Barney in Dane County on 5 April 1954 while on a UW-class field trip led by Dean Amadon. With reports of hundreds of these geese in southern Wisconsin in spring 2004, it is interesting to note that the "Field Notes" state, "There are very few Wisconsin records for this species."

Also in recent years, notice has been made that an area near Chippewa Falls is "good" for Red-tailed Hawks showing albinism. N. R. Barger in "By The Wayside" notes that he, Dr. Charles Kemper, and others observed such an individual there on 16 May 1954. The gene pool of this species still is apparently alive and well. (Excerpts from Vol. 16 (3), 1954)

Prepared by Noel J. Cutright, WSO Historian, 3352 Knollwood Road, West Bend, WI 53095-9414. h. 262. 675. 2443, w. 414. 221. 2179, Noel.Cutright@we-energies.com.

Snowy Egret *by Gary Krogman*

The Winter Season: 2003–2004

Kenneth I. Lange

1530 East Street
Baraboo, WI 53913
608. 356. 3658

This winter consisted of mild days, bitter cold days, light snowfalls, heavy snowfalls; it was described by several contributors as a "more normal winter." But how does one describe the weather, really? And isn't every day special, no matter what happens? I'm reminded of some lines from John Ruskin, a 19th century English critic and essayist: "Sun is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there's really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather." William Browne, an obscure 17th century English poet, expressed the same sentiment: "There is no season such delight can bring / as summer, autumn, winter and the spring."

The period began with mild weather and essentially snowless conditions. Dan Spuhler heard a pair of Great Horned Owls calling in Washington County on 2 December, an early date. Open water was widespread and waterfowl still common. For the Mississippi River's Pool 8 in Vernon County, Wisconsin and Houston County, Minnesota, for example, Fred Lesher reported from 5000–6000 Tundra Swan and numerous ducks and geese on 30 November. Much of Wisconsin experienced a light snowfall, the first for the period, on the 5th–6th of December, but conditions remained fall-like until the arrival of a major storm on the 10th and its aftermath of several days of cold air. Temperatures for the remainder of the month then fluctuated from seasonal to above normal, with light snowfalls and rain. December overall was a mild month; Devil's Lake in Sauk County, for example, was still half-open at the end of the month.

The fall-like weather continued into the first week of January, and once again, like last winter, businesses catering to winter sports, especially snowmobiling and cross-country skiing, were suffering. Old-fashioned winter weather—bitter cold with snow—finally arrived on the 4th–5th of January, and settled in for the next few days; Devil's Lake froze over on the 6th, and, as reported by Philip Ashman, all of the Madison lakes were frozen by the 8th. The weather for the remainder of the month was variable, with scattered snowfalls. At the end of January the snow cover over much of Wisconsin still was minimal, with significant depth only in the far northern part of the state from lake effect snowfalls.

The bitter cold of the last few days

of January, accompanied by snowstorms, extended into the first week of February. This was the wettest month of the period, with sufficient snow cover for skiing on most days. Warmer weather in the last week ushered in the first major migration of the period, for example geese, ducks, and blackbirds.

Here are representative weather summaries for the period. Jerry and Karen Smith in Oconto County reported "plenty of snow and cold, particularly in January and February," especially when compared to the last three winters. Jim Baughman in Vilas County described the winter as near normal for northern Wisconsin with typical seasonal temperatures for January and February, and the heaviest snowfalls in February; the snow cover at the end of February measured 20 inches. Robbye Johnson in Douglas County also found the winter to be "more normal" with some real snow depth and below zero temperatures. In Barron County Alta Goff noted "more snow cover than last year," and in Taylor County Paul J. Risch summarized the winter this way: cold in the beginning, thawing the end of December, colder the end of January into February, and much snow in February. Most snow, as noted by Daryl Tessen, fell between mid-January and mid-February. Karen Etter Hale in Jefferson County reported a mild December and February, and a "more normal" January.

The period included Wisconsin's 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th winter records of American White Pelican. Also notable were the four species of geese in Wisconsin by the end of the period, and all three scoters in Lake Michigan into January and possibly throughout the period. Are Mute Swans increasing in numbers and range? It is difficult to say from the winter reports, but an overall assessment might be timely.

For the third consecutive winter the Northern Harrier was widespread and relatively common after the Christmas Bird Counts. Northern Goshawk was reported in 9 counties in January and February, more than last winter but again hardly an invasion.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (two birds) was initially found at White Potato Lake in Oconto County in May 2000; a single bird was reported for February 2004. This exotic was also found in Arlington in Columbia County and in Pepin County, a total of three birds in both places. Are there nesting records? [Ed. note: see documentation in this issue.]

Northern owls were again in low numbers. There were no reports, including the CBCs, of Great Gray Owl or Boreal Owl, and just one report of Northern Hawk-Owl. The Snowy Owl was noted in six counties after the Counts, comparable to last winter.

A Gray Jay was found in February in Portage County, which is unusually far south for this species, while the Tufted Titmouse may be moving north. Winter reports for the titmouse included birds in Washburn, Portage, and Langlade Counties. However, as Sam Robbins points out in *Wisconsin Birdlife*, there are more winter reports for this species than for any other season, and many of these appearances are brief, without stable populations developing. It would be instructive if the northern populations of Tufted Titmouse were regularly monitored throughout the year.

Golden-crowned Kinglet was found in six counties after the CBCs, com-

Map of Wisconsin counties.

pared to 15 counties last winter. Eastern Bluebird was noted in a total of seven counties after the Counts, and likely overwintered in several of these counties. Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County continues to be a winter haunt of Townsend's Solitaire; the only other record for this western thrush was a bird in Portage County. Hermit Thrush was represented by a total of 24 individuals on 9 Christmas Bird Counts, and approximately six birds in a total of three counties thereafter. American Robin continues to be common and widespread in winter, while the Varied Thrush was noted at feeders in four counties. Three of the mimic thrushes (Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher) lingered into January. For the third consecutive winter, American Pipit was found in Wisconsin. Bohemian Waxwing was found on seven CBCs and in six northern counties there-

after, while Cedar Waxwing after the Counts ranged northwards to Marathon, Oconto, and Door Counties.

Exclusive of the Christmas Bird Counts, warblers were represented by the Yellow-rumped Warbler, from 1–7 birds in three southern counties, and the Common Yellowthroat, one through 2 December in Dane County.

There were the usual overwintering sparrows. After the CBCs, Lapland Longspur was reported from 13 counties, and Snow Bunting from 23 counties. None of the blackbirds overwintered in significant numbers.

With the exception of redpolls, winter finches continue to be relatively uncommon. Here's a summary for the weeks after the Christmas Bird Counts: Pine Grosbeak—15 northern counties; Purple Finch—14 widely distributed counties; Red Crossbill—Waupaca and Waushara Counties; White-winged Crossbill—6 northern counties; Common Redpoll—throughout much of the state and often in high numbers; Hoary Redpoll—8 northern and eastern counties; and Pine Siskin—20 widely distributed counties.

Late fall migration was noted for Canada Goose and Sandhill Crane, and inferred for various waterfowl and gulls.

Spring migration was reported for these species: Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross's Goose, Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck (?), Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck (?), Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Great Blue Heron (?), Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Northern Saw-whet Owl (?), Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird (?), Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird. See the species accounts for details.

A total of 72 people contributed reports or photos for 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. The counties with the most coverage (five or more contributors per county) were the following: Burnett, Columbia, Dane, Douglas, Forest, Iowa, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Portage, Sauk, Sheboygan, Waukesha, and Winnebago. Sixteen counties were covered by just one contributor per county: Ashland, Bayfield, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Green, Kewaunee, Marquette, Outagamie, Pepin, Richland, Taylor, and Wood. These 18 counties were not covered: Polk, St. Croix, Pierce, Trempealeau, and Vernon along the state's western border; Iron, Sawyer, Rusk, Price, Lincoln, and Marinette in northern Wisconsin; Monroe, Juneau, Adams, and Green Lake in central Wisconsin; Calumet in eastern Wisconsin; and Lafayette and Walworth in the southernmost tier of counties.

The following statewide species are not included in the species accounts: Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, American Crow, and Black-capped Chickadee.

These abbreviations are included with the species accounts: BOP-beginning of period, EOP-end of period, TTP-throughout the period, m. obs.-many observers, and CBC-Christmas

Bird Count. There were 100 CBCs in Wisconsin this winter. My appreciation once again to Bob Domagalski for sending a copy of the CBC report in time for me to include the highlights in this seasonal summary.

Reports
(1 December 2003–29 February 2004)

Greater White-fronted Goose—One on the Madison CBC, and (Jacyna) one in Kenosha County 1 January. Migrants in February: 16th-EOP, maximum 200 on the 29th, Dane County (m. obs.); 28th, 48 in Sauk County (Aaron Holschbach), and Rock County (Yoerger); and the 29th in Dodge county (Prestby), and Columbia County, 120 (Stutz).

Snow Goose—Total of 21 on 9 CBCs. January reports (1-2 birds) for Chippewa, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Ozaukee Counties (m. obs.). February reports for Columbia and Dodge Counties (the 29th), and Dane County (11th–29th) presumably included migrants (multiple observers).

Ross's Goose—Two records for 29 February: one with Canada Geese in Dane County (documented by Stutz), and Dodge County (Prestby).

Canada Goose—TTP in some 22 counties along Lake Michigan and inland, including Barron County in northwestern Wisconsin (m. obs.).

Mute Swan—After the CBCs, reports for 8 counties: La Crosse, Iowa, Dane, Shawano, Door, Waukesha, Milwaukee, and Racine (m. obs.). Maximum 43 on 14 February in Dane County (Tessen).

Trumpeter Swan—Total 173 on 4 CBCs, including 153 on the Hudson Count. Later reports for three counties: Portage (Hall), Shawano, maximum 15 (Peterson; Tessen), and Dane, one 21-26 February (m. obs.).

Tundra Swan—Lesher reported 5000 in La Crosse 4 December. Total 692 on 8 CBCs, including 371 on the Madison Count. Spring migrants in Dane County (where TTP) 21 February (Ashman).

Wood Duck—Total 11 on 9 CBCs. January reports for La Crosse and Sauk Counties; TTP in Racine County; and 24 February (migration?) in Ozaukee County (m. obs.).

Gadwall—Total 444 on 12 CBCs, including 313 on the Madison Count. TTP in Dane County, with a maximum after the Counts of 100 on 13 January; also TTP in Winnebago, Washington, and Milwaukee Counties. Increased numbers on 14 February in Winnebago and Rock Counties suggest migration (m. obs.).

American Wigeon—Single birds on the Fremont and Milwaukee CBCs, and January reports for Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties. Migrants (maximum 7) 28–29 February in Dane County, and 29 February in Manitowoc County (m. obs.).

American Black Duck—TTP in 17 counties, mainly eastern Wisconsin, north to Marathon County (m. obs.); maximum 22 on 14 February in Winnebago County (Ziebell).

Mallard—TTP in much of the state, but not in the extreme west or the northernmost two tiers of counties. Maximum 2000 on 14 February in Winnebago County (Ziebell) must have included migrants.

Northern Shoveler—Found on two CBCs—Madison (235) and Shawano (2). Later reports: TTP in Dane County, maximum after the Counts 55 on 13 January; Winnebago County, migrants 14 February-EOP; and Milwaukee County, migrants 26 February-EOP (m. obs.).

Northern Pintail—Total 7 on 4 CBCs. Migrants in February: 14th in Columbia County (6), then the 25th in Barron County, and 28th-29th in Dane, Waukesha, and Manitowoc Counties (m. obs.).

Green-winged Teal—Single birds on the Madison and Caroline CBCs. Also one thru 9 February in Waupaca County (Peterson), and one in Columbia County 14 February (Tessen).

Canvasback—Total 73 on 9 CBCs. Later reports: TTP in La Crosse, Ozaukee, and Mil-

waukee Counties (maximum 3), and 28 February in Sheboygan County (m. obs.).

Redhead—On 9 CBCs, total 438. TTP in Door, Ozaukee (maximum 300 on 18 January), and Racine Counties, with January reports for Oconto, Sheboygan, and Kenosha Counties. Migrants in Dane County 22 February-EOP, maximum 5 (Ashman), and possibly in Manitowoc County, 11 February-EOP (m. obs.).

Ring-necked Duck—On 9 CBCs, total 41. Later reports: Dane County, TTP?, migrants 29 February?; Ozaukee County, 8 January–5 February, one; and Milwaukee County, TTP (m. obs.).

Greater Scaup—On 4 CBCs, including Madison. TTP in Lake Michigan, Door County to Kenosha County; thousands in Milwaukee County 10 January (Tessen).

Lesser Scaup—Total 592 on 10 CBCs. TTP in Dane, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties. Migrants in south central Wisconsin 23 January-EOP, maximum 14 (m. obs.).

Harlequin Duck—Maximum two females 7 December-4 January in Milwaukee County (m. obs.; documented by Wood).

Surf Scoter—Possibly TTP in Lake Michigan, but the latest dates are 10 January in Milwaukee County and (2 birds) 8 January in Ozaukee County (m. obs.).

White-winged Scoter—Latest date 16 January in Milwaukee County (m. obs.).

Black Scoter—Latest date 31 January (maximum two) in Milwaukee County (m. obs.).

Long-tailed Duck—Lesher noted this species 3 December in La Crosse County. Found on CBCs bordering Lake Michigan from Door County to Kenosha County, also one on the Hudson CBC; TTP in Door County (m. obs.).

Bufflehead—TTP in Lake Michigan from Racine County (Kenosha County?) north to Door County, also TTP in Waukesha and Dane Counties (and—one bird—Sauk County?).

Common Goldeneye—Lesher reported 10,000 on 3 December in La Crosse County. TTP in these localities: the Wisconsin River from at least Iowa County north to Portage County; Winnebago County; Lake Michigan from Door County to Racine County; Waukesha County; and Rock County. Likely migrants in Winnebago County 14 February and Marathon County 28 February (m. obs.).

Barrow's Goldeneye—Doctor's Park in Milwaukee County for the third consecutive winter, 7 December-21 February, a male (documented by Wood).

Hooded Merganser—TTP in these localities: Lake Michigan, north to Manitowoc County, maximum 10 on 10 January in Milwaukee County, and Dane, Sauk, and Portage Counties. Records for 28–29 February in La Crosse, Iowa, and Green Counties (m. obs.).

Common Merganser—TTP in these localities: the Wisconsin River from at least Iowa County north to Portage County; Rock County; and Lake Michigan between Door and Racine Counties. Migrants 14 February in Marathon County (20+), and 27 February in Manitowoc County (m. obs.).

Red-breasted Merganser—CBCs in Lake Michigan counties, also the Oshkosh, Lake Geneva, and Madison Counts. TTP in Lake Michigan between Door and Racine Counties (30 January in Kenosha County).

Ruddy Duck—Lake Geneva, Racine, and Kenosha CBCs. One later report: TTP in Ozaukee County, maximum 6 (m. obs.).

Gray Partridge—Excluding the CBCs, reports for Shawano, Brown, Door, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, and Kenosha Counties; maximum 18 on 7 February in Brown County and 15 in Shawano County (m. obs.).

Ring-necked Pheasant—Northward to these counties: Barron, Taylor, and Marathon (TTP in all 3 counties); Florence, 1 January; and Door, TTP (m. obs.).

Spruce Grouse—No reports after the CBCs.

Sharp-tailed Grouse—Three on the Gilman CBC. One later report: TTP in Taylor County (Risch).

Greater Prairie-Chicken—After the CBCs, these reports: Marathon County, 22 February, and (Hall) Portage County, TTP, maximum 193 on 24 February.

Wild Turkey—After the CBCs, reports for 29 counties, north to Washburn, Taylor, Langlade, Florence, and Door Counties; maximum 85 on 11 January in Manitowoc County (Sontag).

Northern Bobwhite—After the CBCs, reports for Richland County, 6 on 13 February (Duerksen), and Kenosha County, 20+ on 13 January (Hoffmann).

Red-throated Loon—One on a Manitowoc County CBC, 4 January.

Common Loon—Total 8 on 5 CBCs. One later report, Dane County, 1 January (Heikkinen).

Pied-billed Grebe—Total 17 on 4 CBCs, including 11 on the Lake Geneva Count. No later reports.

Horned Grebe—Two in Dane County 21 December (Stutz), and one on the Milwaukee CBC.

American White Pelican—Wisconsin's 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th winter records: one on the Green Bay, Brown County, CBC; one in Lake Nagawicka, Waukesha County, 3 December–10 January (Winter); one in Winnebago County, 31 December–25 February (Bruce; Knispel); and an emaciated immature rescued by the local humane society 29 January in La Crosse County (m. obs.).

Double-crested Cormorant—Total 54 on 9 CBCs. Later reports: Winnebago County, TTP, 3 (Tessen); Manitowoc County, 11 January, 2 (Sontag); Sheboygan County, 10 January (Brassers); Ozaukee County, TTP, maximum 5 (m. obs.); and Milwaukee County, 10 January, 1 (Tessen).

Great Blue Heron—After the CBCs, reports for 7 counties: La Crosse, 14 January; Iowa, one TTP; Columbia, 14 February; Dane, TTP?; Rock, TTP?; Jefferson, one TTP; and Oconto, one thru 11 January. Possible migrants in Dane and Rock Counties 28–29 February (m. obs.).

Black-crowned Night-Heron—An immature on the Burlington CBC and thru 6 January when it appeared to be in ill health.

Turkey Vulture—The two birds on the Baraboo CBC may have overwintered; also one on the Kettle Moraine CBC in Fond du Lac County.

Osprey—Uttech reported one in Ozaukee County 6 December.

Bald Eagle—TTP in some 10 northern counties, including Douglas and Vilas Counties, also TTP in a number of central and southern counties. Thru 8 February in Rock County (m. obs.).

Northern Harrier—Widespread and numerous throughout the period. Stutz noted one in Oneida County 7 December. January reports for several southern and central counties, with birds TTP in some 6 eastern counties. Migrants in late January in Kenosha and (?) Sheboygan Counties, and 18 February-EOP in south central Wisconsin and Portage and Marathon Counties (m. obs.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk—After the CBCs, reports for 15 counties in south central and eastern Wisconsin (m. obs.).

Cooper's Hawk—After the CBCs, reported for 22 counties, north to Washburn (11 January, Haseleu), Marathon, Portage, and Door Counties (m. obs.).

Northern Goshawk—After the CBCs, reported from 9 counties: Douglas, Vilas, Washburn, La Crosse (28 January-EOP, an immature, Kostuch), Langlade, Oconto, Door, Manitowoc, and (30 January, Hoffmann) Kenosha (m. obs.).

Red-shouldered Hawk—TTP or presumably so in Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties and Iowa County, and one thru 2 February in Oconto County (m. obs.). A migrant in Dane County 29 February (Stutz).

Red-tailed Hawk—Northward to these counties: Douglas, TTP; Marathon, maximum

8+ on 24 January; Florence, 3 January; and Door, TTP (m. obs.).

Rough-legged Hawk—TTP in much of Wisconsin; still in southern Wisconsin, for example Richland County, EOP (m. obs.).

Golden Eagle—These reports after the CBCs: Marathon County, one on 8 January (Tessen); Wood County, one on 2 January (Stutz) and two on 27 February (Prestby); Jackson County, 22 February (Thiessen); Grant County, an adult on 24 January (Mueller); and Dane County, an adult on 10 February (Ashman).

American Kestrel—Northward to these counties, where TTP unless indicated otherwise: Barron; Taylor; Marathon, two on 24 January, and a migrant on 29 February (Belter); Langlade; Oconto, BOP and EOP; and Door (m. obs.).

Merlin—Excluding the CBCs, reports for these counties: Portage, TTP (m. obs.); Outagamie, one on 5 February (Tessen); Ozaukee, one on 10 January (Tessen); and Dane, 16 January-EOP (m. obs.).

Gyrfalcon—At least one by the grain elevator at Connor's Point in Superior, Douglas County, preying on pigeons, probably TTP (documented by Johnson and by Svingen).

Peregrine Falcon—After the CBCs, reports from Manitowoc, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee Counties (m. obs.).

Virginia Rail—Two on the Poynette CBC.

American Coot—TTP in these counties: Ozaukee, maximum 33 on 5 February, and Milwaukee; Winnebago; and Dane. January reports for Door, Manitowoc, Racine, Kenosha, and Jefferson Counties (m. obs.).

Sandhill Crane—Found on three CBCs (1–2 birds), and a total of 58 on the Burlington CBC. Migrants 25–29 February in eastern and south central Wisconsin, beginning on the 25th in Dane County (a total of 25, Stutz) and Winnebago County (Knispel).

Killdeer—Yoerger in Rock County reported one on 17 January. Migrants 28–29 February in Green, Rock, Dane, Jefferson, Winnebago, and Milwaukee Counties (m. obs.).

Purple Sandpiper—One at Milwaukee's Bradford Beach, 4 January (documented by Wood).

Wilson's Snipe—Total 24 on 12 CBCs. Later reports: Dane County, 7 February (Heikkinen), and Oconto County, 25 January-EOP, maximum 4 (Smiths).

Bonaparte's Gull—Kenosha CBC, count period.

Mew Gull—One in Milwaukee County, 6 December-3 January (documented by Frank, Gustafson, Prestby, Tessen, and Wood).

Ring-billed Gull—TTP in these localities: Lake Michigan, north to Sheboygan County; Waukesha and Washington Counties; and Winnebago County. Migrants in Manitowoc County 22 February, and 28 February in Rock and Dane Counties (m. obs.).

California Gull—One at Little Lake Butte des Morts at Menasha, Winnebago County, 2 January (documented by Tessen).

Herring Gull—TTP in these localities: Lake Michigan, including Door County; Waukesha and Washington Counties; Winnebago County; and Dane County. A total of 500 still in both Columbia and Sauk Counties on 17 January; in Sauk County thru 24 January (m. obs.).

Thayer's Gull—Excluding the CBCs, reports for the entire period from Lake Michigan counties; 13–24 January for Dane, Columbia, and Sauk Counties; and 31 December, Douglas County. Maximum 3 (m. obs.).

Iceland Gull—Excluding the CBCs, reports for Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Milwaukee Counties, 20 December-EOP (documented by Sontag and by Wood), and the Wisconsin River in Dane and Sauk Counties, a first winter bird, 13–19 January (documented by Martin, Stutz, and Thiessen).

Lesser Black-backed Gull—These reports: a lone bird again in Dane County, 4 January (documented by Martin and by Stutz); two on the Lake Geneva CBC; and Lake Michigan

from Racine to Manitowoc Counties, 14 December-24 February (documented by Gustafson and by Sontag).

Glaucous Gull—Excluding the CBCs, these reports: Lake Michigan from Racine County to Manitowoc County, mainly in January and February, maximum 6+ on 4 January in Manitowoc County (Sontag); the Wisconsin River in Dane, Columbia, and Sauk Counties, 27 December-24 January, maximum 3 (m. obs.); and Douglas County, 5 on 31 December (Stutz).

Great Black-backed Gull—Excluding the CBCs, all reports come from Lake Michigan, Racine County to Door County, maximum 17+ on 1 January in Manitowoc County (Sontag).

Rock Pigeon (formerly Rock Dove)—Northward to the following counties, where TTP except for Florence County: Douglas, Vilas, Florence (1 January), and Door (m. obs.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Three localities: Arlington in Columbia County, maximum 3 TTP (m. obs., documented by Stutz); White Potato Lake in Oconto County, one from 1–22 February (Smiths); and three on the Durand CBC in Pepin County, still there 19 February (documented by Polk).

Mourning Dove—Northward to the following counties, where TTP: Washburn, Vilas, and Door. Noted in Douglas County 3 January, and in Florence County 1 January (m. obs.).

Eastern Screech-Owl—TTP in these counties: Dane, Winnebago, Door, Ozaukee, and Washington. Also January/February records for Shawano, Manitowoc, and Kenosha Counties (m. obs.).

Snowy Owl—After the CBCs, reports for these counties: Douglas, Taylor, Langlade, Brown, Sheboygan, and Kenosha (m. obs.).

Northern Hawk Owl—One in Burnett County, 8–25 January (documented by Goff, Prestby, Tessen).

Great Gray Owl—No reports, including the CBCs.

Long-eared Owl—Excluding the CBCs, these records: one TTP in Dane County (Thiessen), and one TTP in Ozaukee County (Uttech).

Short-eared Owl—Excluding the CBCs, 1–2 in these counties: Marathon, 2 December; Dane, Winnebago, and Ozaukee, where TTP; and Rock, Portage, and Door, February reports (m. obs.).

Boreal Owl—No reports, including the CBCs.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—Total 20 on 12 CBCs. Later reports: TTP in Ozaukee County; probably TTP in Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County (maximum three on 28 February, documented by Wood for 10 January); one in Washburn County, 28 January; and 22–28 February in 5 counties (Green, Jefferson, Dane, Sauk, Shawano).

Belted Kingfisher—TTP in at least several counties (Dane, Sauk, Portage, and probably Oconto). Also January reports for Grant, Washington, and Racine Counties, and February reports for Rock, Iowa, Columbia, and Ozaukee Counties (m. obs.).

Red-headed Woodpecker—Haseleu reported "many" in an area with dead trees in Washburn County, 15 December. For northern Wisconsin, also in Oconto County, 14–29 December, one. Records for four southern counties: Grant, 25 January; Sauk, 28 January; Columbia, TTP; and Racine, 10 January (m. obs.).

Red-bellied Woodpecker—Northernmost reports, where TTP except for Florence County, for these counties: Burnett, Marathon, Florence (3 January), and Door (m. obs.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Burcar found this species in Florence County, BOP. After the CBCs, these reports: Sauk, thru 27 January, maximum 2; Iowa, 14 February; Dane, 20 January and 2 February; Jefferson, 9–30 January; and Rock, 13 February (m. obs.).

Black-backed Woodpecker—Single birds on the Clam Lake and Phelps CBCs. Later reports: one on 12 January in Forest County (Tessen), and two on 25 February in Vilas County (Peterson).

Northern Flicker—TTP or possibly so in these counties: Richland, Sauk, Columbia, Iowa, Dane, Green, Rock, Kenosha, Racine (maximum 5 on 8 January, Gustafson), Waukesha, Washington, Door, and Oconto (m. obs.).

Northern Shrike—After the CBCs, reports for 22 counties in the far northwest, the northeastern corner, the easternmost 2–3 tiers of counties, and the central part of the state north to Marathon County (m. obs.).

Gray Jay—Including the CBCs, reports for these counties: Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Vilas, Forest, Langlade, Oneida, Price, and Portage. The latter county is unusually far south for this species: one was found 6 February (Janz) and 18 February (Schaufenbuel).

Common Raven—Southernmost reports for Jackson County (3 on 2 January, Stutz), Portage County (TTP, Hall), and Manitowoc County (23 February, Jim Holschbach).

Horned Lark—TTP in several counties, for example Dane and Manitowoc, with peak numbers in February (m. obs.).

Boreal Chickadee—Including the CBCs, reports for these counties: Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Shawano (m. obs.).

Tufted Titmouse—Excluding the CBCs, reports for these counties: Washburn, one at a feeder 4 November-4 February (Harbaugh), Dunn and Pepin, Chippewa and Eau Claire, La Crosse, Crawford, Richland, Sauk, Columbia, Dane, Green and Rock, Waukesha, Portage (TTP), and Langlade (5 January-20 February, Schimmels).

Red-breasted Nuthatch—Scattered throughout the state, except for the western and southwestern sections; relatively low numbers (m. obs.).

White-breasted Nuthatch—Northward to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas, Vilas, Florence, and Door (m. obs.).

Brown Creeper—Excluding the CBCs, northernmost reports for these counties: Douglas (17 January), Vilas (TTP), Forest (12 January), Florence (3 January), and Door (TTP).

Carolina Wren—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 4 counties: Eau Claire, at a feeder in February (Polk), Portage, at a feeder thru 10 February (Mielke), Ozaukee, 1 January (documented by Bontly and by Strelka), and Milwaukee, thru at least 24 February (m. obs.).

Winter Wren—Total 11 on 8 CBCs. Later reports for Iowa County, 16 January, and Dane County, 17 January (m. obs.).

Golden-crowned Kinglet—After the CBCs, reports for these counties: Portage, 8 January; Forest, 12 January; Oconto, one thru 11 January; Door, TTP; Winnebago, TTP; and Milwaukee, at least one TTP (m. obs.).

Eastern Bluebird—TTP in Sauk County (maximum 7), possibly in Columbia and Dane Counties, Waukesha County, and possibly in Ozaukee and Racine Counties. Migrants in south central and southeastern Wisconsin by 15 February (m. obs.).

Townsend's Solitaire—At least one probably TTP in Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County (documented by Stutz), and one eating juniper berries 15 February in Portage County (Hall).

Hermit Thrush—Total 24 on 9 CBCs. Later reports for Dane County, TTP, maximum 4 on 1 February (m. obs.), Waukesha County, 10 February (Gustafson), and Racine County, 8 January (Gustafson).

American Robin—Numerous and widespread for the 6th consecutive winter. After the CBCs, reports for 24 counties: TTP north to Pepin, Eau Claire, Portage, Winnebago, and Door Counties. Maximum 90 on 2 February in Dane County. Migrants 21 February-EOP, north to Taylor, Marathon, and Oconto Counties (m. obs.).

Varied Thrush—Including the CBCs, reports for feeder birds in Brown, Iowa, Dodge, and Waupaca Counties; no records after 20 January (m. obs.).

Gray Catbird—Green Bay CBC, count period. One other record—one in Sheboygan County, 10 January (Brassers).

Northern Mockingbird—Milwaukee CBC, count period. One other record— one in Marquette County, 3 January, eating juniper berries (Tessen).

Brown Thrasher—One on the Green Bay CBC and one on the Madison CBC. Two other records: one in Waukesha County, TTP (Larson), and one in Ozaukee County, 6 January (Uttech).

European Starling—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Douglas, Vilas, and Door (m. obs.).

American Pipit—This species, rare in winter, was found for the third consecutive winter—one on the Racine CBC for the second consecutive winter.

Bohemian Waxwing—Total 168 on 7 CBCs, including 150 on the Bayfield Count. Later reports for Vilas, Oconto, Door, Shawano, Marathon, and Portage Counties. High numbers in Vilas County (140 on 1 January, Baughman), Oconto County (56 on 7 February, Smiths), and Portage County (35 on 29 February, Janz).

Cedar Waxwing—The northernmost report from Vilas County, 1 January; thru 18 January in Oconto County. Tessen found large flocks in January in Shawano County (175 on the 12th), Outagamie County (300 on the 9th), and Kewaunee County (200 on the 21st); also high numbers in Ozaukee County (185 on 2 January), and Dane County (100 on 2 February). TTP in Portage County, with a group of 35 just to the north in Marathon County in January and February. Generally absent from the western third of Wisconsin. Movement in southeastern Wisconsin, 21-23 February (m. obs.).

Yellow-rumped Warbler—On 13 CBCs, a total of 38, including 10 on the Milwaukee Count. Later reports: Dane County, 13–23 January, maximum 2 (m. obs.); Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County, thru 12 January, maximum 7 (Gustafson); and Kenosha County, in "red cedars" in several locations, 7 December-31 January (Jacyna).

Common Yellowthroat—Ashman found one in Dane County thru 2 December.

Spotted Towhee—The adult male in Muskego County Park in Waukesha County first noted 21 November 2003 was found TTP by Gustafson (a total of 48 times!): documented by Gustafson and by Tessen. Another male appeared at a feeder, also Waukesha County, 10 February (documented by Aune).

Eastern Towhee—Count period on the Madison, Poynette, and Stevens Point CBCs. The bird in Portage County remained TTP (Hall).

American Tree Sparrow—TTP in Barron, Marathon, Oconto, and Door Counties; 1 December in Washburn County (m. obs.).

Chipping Sparrow—Two on the Trempealeau CBC and one on the Florence CBC. Later reports: one at a feeder in Waushara County, 18 January (Harriman), and an adult at the Little Suamico Banding Station in Oconto County, 29 February (Smiths).

Field Sparrow—One on the Brussels CBC. One later record: one in Rock County, 14 February (Tessen).

Vesper Sparrow—One on the Randolph CBC.

Savannah Sparrow—Three on the Madison CBC and one on the Lake Geneva CBC.

Fox Sparrow—Total 13 on 9 CBCs. Later reports for 6 counties: Dane, TTP, maximum 2 (m. obs.); Columbia, 17 February (Domagalski); Kenosha, 31 January (Jacyna); Waukesha, 12 January (Gustafson); Ozaukee, 7 December-26 January (Strelka); and Oconto, one TTP (Smiths).

Song Sparrow—After the CBCs, reports for 13 southern and eastern counties. Sontag in Manitowoc County found this species TTP and noted a maximum of 11 on 24 January. Also TTP in Winnebago County, southeastern counties, Rock County?, Dane County, Sauk County?, and Iowa County. Migrants EOP in scattered localities, for example Green And Rock Counties, and Oconto County (m. obs.).

Lincoln's Sparrow—One on the Bridgeport CBC.

Swamp Sparrow—After the CBCs, records for 1–3 birds in these counties: Rock, Dane, Manitowoc, Waukesha, Milwaukee, and Kenosha (m. obs.).

White-throated Sparrow—From 1–8 birds TTP at these localities: a number of counties along Lake Michigan; Outagamie and Winnebago Counties; Dane County; Portage County (at feeders); and Barron County (one at a feeder).

White-crowned Sparrow—Total 24 on 8 CBCs. Later reports for Marathon County (one on 24 January, Belter), Manitowoc County (TTP, maximum 12 on 6 January, Sontag), Dodge County (one from 28 January-8 February, Tessen), and three southeastern counties (m. obs.).

Dark-eyed Junco—Northward to these counties: Barron (TTP), Washburn (11 January), Vilas (23 February), Oconto (TTP), and Door (TTP).

Lapland Longspur—After the CBCs, reports for 13 southern and eastern counties; the largest flocks approximately 100 in Jefferson County, 13 February, with Horned Lark and starlings (Hale), and Dodge County, 8 February (Tessen). TTP in Winnebago and Outagamie Counties (m. obs.).

Snow Bunting—After the CBCs, reports for 23 counties in these localities: the eastern third of the state, south central Wisconsin north to Marathon County, Richland and Iowa Counties in the southwest, and Barron and Burnett Counties in the northwest. The largest flocks were reported by Tessen in Shawano County—700 on 18 January, and by Belter in Marathon County—350+ on 24 January. Latest date for southern Wisconsin (Richland County)— 21 February.

Northern Cardinal—Northward to these counties: Barron (TTP), Washburn (3 December), Vilas (TTP), Florence (3 January), and Door (TTP).

Red-winged Blackbird—Apparently TTP in these counties: Racine and Waukesha, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac?, Winnebago, and Oconto. Migrants in eastern and southern Wisconsin from 21 February-EOP (m. obs.).

Eastern Meadowlark—After the CBCs, one on 19 January in Door County (R. and C. Lukes). Migrants in Washington County, 28 February, and Ozaukee County, 29 February (m. obs.).

Rusty Blackbird—Total 57 on 10 CBCs. Later reports: Iowa County (TTP?, maximum 12 on 17 January), Green County (28 February), Rock County (14 February), and Waukesha County (12 January and 28 February).

Brewer's Blackbird—Total 84 on 3 CBCs, including 82 on the Hustisford Count. Later reports: 5 February in Fond du Lac County, wintering? (Tessen), and 9 February-EOP in Dane County, wintering? (Burcar).

Common Grackle—TTP, 1–2 birds, in a few counties, for example Winnebago and Dane. Migrants (low numbers, generally just 1-2) from 22 February-EOP in southern and eastern Wisconsin, north to Oconto County (m. obs.).

Brown-headed Cowbird—Just one or a few birds at a given locality after the CBCs, except for a flock of 50 in Buffalo County, 3 January. Migrants (low numbers, generally just 1–2) from 20–28 February in eastern and southern Wisconsin, north to Manitowoc County (m. obs.).

Baltimore Oriole—One in Dane County, 2-3 December (documented by Thiessen), the first winter record since December 2001.

Pine Grosbeak—After the CBCs, reports for 15 northern counties, south to Portage and Waupaca Counties (m. obs.). Belter found the largest flock, a group of 30 on 21 February in Marathon County.

Purple Finch—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 14 widely distributed counties. Generally just one or a few birds at a locality; the highest count was 20 on 28 February in Iowa County (m. obs.).

House Finch—Northward to Vilas County (TTP), Florence County (1 January), and Door County (TTP).

Red Crossbill—A total of 8 on two CBCs, the Florence Count and the Solon Springs

Count. Later reports for just two counties: Waupaca, 7 January, 1 (Peterson), and Waushara, 19 February (Paulios).

White-winged Crossbill—Total 89 on 7 scattered CBCs. Later reports for 6 northern counties: Douglas, Vilas, Forest, Oneida, Menominee, and Shawano. Maximum number 5 on 8 January in Shawano County (m. obs.).

Common Redpoll—Throughout the state, except for the western and southwestern sections. High counts (30+) in a number of counties; Belter in Marathon County found the largest flocks—up to 100 at a feeder and 220+ in a field on 24 January. Still in southern Wisconsin, for example Dane and Columbia Counties, 27 February, and Ozaukee County, 29 February (m. obs.).

Hoary Redpoll—Found on three CBCs. After the Counts, reports for 1-3 birds, typically with Common Redpoll, in 8 northern and eastern counties: Douglas, Burnett, Ashland, Portage, Oconto, Menominee, Manitowoc, and Washington (documented by Bruhnke, Cutright, Johnson, Prestby, Smiths, Tessen).

Pine Siskin—After the CBCs, reports for 20 widely distributed counties, but not in southwestern Wisconsin. Generally just one or a few birds at a given locality (m. obs.).

American Goldfinch—Northernmost reports for Douglas County (TTP), Vilas County (TTP, low to moderate numbers, Baughman), Florence County (3 January, Burcar), and Door County (TTP, maximum 61 on 1 February, R. and C. Lukes). The largest flocks were reported by the Smiths in Oconto County—255 on 12 January, and by Tessen in Langlade County—150+ on February.

Evening Grosbeak—Exclusive of the CBCs, reports for 8 northern counties and (24 January, Prestby) Sauk County. Relatively small flocks (maximum 18) the rule, except for Menominee County, where on 6 December Stutz noted a group of 250, and on 7 January and 17 February Tessen found a group of approximately 100.

House Sparrow—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Douglas, Vilas, Florence, and Door (m. obs.).

Contributors

Philip Ashman, Judy Aune, Jim Baughman, Dan Belter, Marilyn Bontly, David and Margaret Brasser, Paul Bruce, Erik Bruhnke, Kay Burcar, Nathan Carlsen, Seth Cutright, Raymond J. Dischler, Bob Domagalski, Barbara Duerksen, Martin Evanson, James C. Frank, Alta Goff, Dennis Gustafson, Lora Hagen, Karen Etter Hale, Kent D. Hall, James R. Harbaugh, Bettie Harriman, Judy Haseleu, Chunk Heikkinen, Joyce Hoeft, Ron Hoffmann, Aaron Holschbach, Jim Holschbach, Joe Jacyna, Gerry Janz, Robbye Johnson, Tom Klubertanz, Roy Knispel, Jeff Kostuch, Kenneth I. Lange, Gerald Larson, Fred Lesher, Roy and Charlotte Lukes, Mary Malesevich, Chester B. Martin, Bob McInroy, Dan Mielke, Bill Mueller, Tom Overholt, Andy Paulios, Mark Peterson, Muffy Petrick, Janine Polk, Tom Prestby, Paul J. Risch, Joe Schaufenbuel, Lynn J. Schimmels, Paul and Glenna Schwalbe, Jerry and Karen Smith, Charles Sontag, Jean Strelka, Aaron Stutz, Robert Sullivan, Peder H. Svingen, Daryl Tessen, Steve Thiessen, Tom Uttech, Marilyn Winter, Thomas C. Wood, Quentin Yoerger, Norma Zehner, Tom Ziebell.

Sora *by Judith Huf*

"By the Wayside"—Winter 2003–2004

Documentations were received for Ross's Goose, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Gyrfalcon, Purple Sandpiper, Mew Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Northern Hawk Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Townsend's Solitaire, Spotted Towhee, and Hoary Redpoll.

Compiled by Kenneth I. Lange
1530 East Street
Baraboo, WI 53913
608. 356. 3658

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

29 February 2004, Northern Dane County—As I came over a hill and approached the ponds I immediately saw a white goose in the middle of one of the ponds. After parking and observing the bird from a distance (between 30-60 yds), I quickly became convinced the bird was a Ross's Goose. Fieldmarks noted that separate this species from Snow Goose included: steep forehead, small bill—lacking the grinning patch—, warty area at the base of the bill, and small size (side-by-side comparisons were possible with Canada Geese—the Ross's was relatively petite). Other fieldmarks included: pure white plumage except for the folded primaries and secondaries, which were black, and pinkish orange bill and legs.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

7 December 2003, North of Bradford Beach, Milwaukee County—This was a female, with overall brown coloration, darker on the head and back than on the flanks. It had a very short stubby black bill. A bright white circular patch was behind the eye, and a large dull white patch was between the bill and the eye with a very small white patch above it.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

3 January 2004, Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County—Two females were present about 75 yards from shore. They were overall brown with short

black bills. A distinct white spot appreared on the face behind the eye and a less bright, and less well defined white area was seen between the eye and the bill.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

7 December 2003, Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County—The Barrow's Goldeneye was in a mixed flock of scaup and Common Goldeneye about 120 yards from the shoreline. Since many of the Common Goldeneye were first year birds, there were many individuals with black from the back extending far down the sides, but the Common Goldeneye showed dusky or mottled black in this area and the Barrow's Goldeneye, being an adult, had black extending farther down the sides than on adult Common Goldeneye, and it made a clean separation with the white flanks and sides. The rear flanks had extensive black, which reached to the water line and made a nearly vertical separation with the white sides. A black lobe, or spur, extended down from the shoulder area nearly to the water line. Six large white dots and one small white dot were distinctive and extended from the shoulder area rearward over the scapulars. Beneath these white dots were two thin white horizontal stripes (or one broken strip) on the black just above the sides.

The head appeared black (due to lack of sun, no sheen was discernible), and in front of the eye and behind the bill, was a white crescent shaped patch, unlike the oval patch seen on adult Common Goldeneyes. In comparison to the Common Goldeneyes, the bill was shorter, but it was also black. The eye color was a pale yellow. Leg color was not seen, and the bird was not seen in flight.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

29 December 2003 and 10 January 2004, Duluth-Superior Harbor Area, Douglas County, WI—During the Duluth CBC on 20 December 2003, Dave Evans told me that he had seen an adult gray-morph Gyrfalcon in the Duluth-Superior harbor the previous day, and believed that it was probably the same male that overwintered here January-early March 2003. Unfortunately, he could not refind the bird on the day of the CBC (it apparently spent most of its time at the Peavey Elevators in Superior, where a number of birders and tour groups had good looks at the bird in Janaury and February 2004 as it perched on the elevators in the early afternoon and pursued Rock Pigeons). During late December, I looked for the bird in the Port Terminal several times without success, except for a brief glimpse through binoculars on 29 December 2003 as it flew from the Port Terminal towards Connor's Point in Superior.

On 10 Janaury 2004, I parked at the Port Terminal and began scanning the ice off Connor's Point. I suddenly spotted the Gyr perched on the superstructure of a ship on the Duluth side of the harbor. As soon as I repositioned my vechicle in order to use a spotting scope, the bird took off and flew towards Connor's Point on the Wisconsin side of the harbor. I watched it through my scope until it

landed on another ship near the Peavey Elevator in Superior. It sat there for several minutes, so I left the Port Terminal and drove to Connor's Point in hopes that it would still be there —it was! From an estimated distance of 300 yards, I watched it through a Leica Televid 77 mm scope at 20–60X, and took notes as it perched on top of the ship. After several minutes, it took off in pursuit of pigeons near the Peavey Elevators and provided brief but memorable views in flight.

It had a grayish crown, hindnape, back, scapulars, wings, and tail, with pale edging on the coverts/scapulars giving a frosty appearance. Its tail showed narrow brownish-gray bands and extended at least two inches beyond wingtips at rest. A grayish mustachial stripe [indistinct] was seen. Underparts were whitish with grayish spotting along flanks, with a few sparse streaks on breast sides. Legs and feet were dark yellow—unable to see color of cere, bill was gray. In flight, flat profile to slightly bowed, long tail, all grayish above, pale below.—*Peder H. Svingen, Duluth, MN.*

23 January 2004, Connor's Point in Superior, Douglas County—I drove a student to Connor's Point after work to look for the Gyrfalcon. As we were turning the corner and pulling over by the Peavey Elevator, he yelled "There it is, there it is!" While stopping, I managed a look at the bird in flight. It was flying up from the ground and away from us, so only the top of the bird was visible. The flight feathers looked almost white. The bird landed on a power pole about 2 blocks away, down across the tracks on private property. We took turns watching it through my scope. It was about twice the size of a pigeon, medium gray/brown on the back. It kept its back to us, but turned its head to watch us. The head was pale gray, with lighter cheeks and a pronounced malar stripe. It was twice the size of a pigeon—too large for a Peregrine, and had no "helmet." The large eyes and malar stripe rule out other hawks, as do the pointed wings in flight. We watched him for about 15 minutes, then he flew farther away, down the line of poles.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, WI.*

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

4 January 2004, North of Bradford Beach, Milwaukee County—This plump, squat shorebird was foraging on the algae mat on the Lake Michigan shoreline. It had a dark gray head and breast and white underparts with extensive streaking on the flanks. The mantle, back, and upper scapulars were dark gray and brownish gray. The median and greater coverts and lower scapulars were similarly colored, but edged in white. The eye had an uneven white ring. The legs were bright orange and the bill was a duller orange for the proximate half, and dark brown distally. I did not see the bird in flight or hear any calls.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

7 December 2003, South Metro Pier, Milwaukee County—This gull was about .25 mile north of the pier among a large flock of Ring-billed Gulls. It was slightly smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls and had similar

plumage. The back and wings were only slightly darker gray than corresponding areas on the Ring-billed Gulls, and this coloration plus the presence of fine dark streaking rather than smudgy streaking on the white head suggested the European race, rather than the darker Pacific race which is found in California.

Although it has been ten years, I remember the Mew Gull at Juneau Park Lagoon in 1993 as being easy to pick out from the Ring-billed Gulls based on coloration. This was not the case with this gull. The darker coloration could be noted from adjacent birds facing in the same direction, but could easily have been missed during a quick scan. The Mew Gull had clean white underparts, and what little I could see of the tail was unmarked white. As mentioned, the head was white with extensive streaking, and there were no smudgy areas in front of the eye as were seen on the 1993 bird.

The eye was brown and the legs yellow. Leg coloration fell within the range of yellow noted on various Ring-billed Gulls. The head shape, though somewhat more rounded than the Ring-billed Gulls heads, did not correspond to any of my field guides or the photographs in the P. J. Grant guide. It peaked toward the rear of the head, and although it was not an extreme peak, it differed from any Ring-billed Gull, and was noticeable enough to catch my attention. Perhaps this was an effect of the wind, or perhaps just an unusual individual.

The tertial crescent was very broad and clean white and I found during several scans with the scope that I could pick out this bird on that characteristic by itself. The wingtips were black with white spots and differed little from wingtips of the Ring-billed Gulls. The most distinguishing characteristic was the thin, short, yellow bill. It was unmarked except for a slight brownish discoloration on the lower mandible from where I judged a gonys (imperceptible on this bird) should be, to about .25″ from the end.

Unfortunately, during my fifteen minute observation I did not see the bird in flight. It moved up the beach while I was looking elsewhere.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

1 January 2004, Oak Creek water treatment plant, Milwaukee County—The bird was with Ring-billed Gulls on the beach at the end of the walk at the Oak Creek Plant. It was an adult, with slightly darker mantle [than the Ring-billed Gulls], dark eye, thin yellow bill (no marks), and yellow/green legs.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

3 January 2004, South Metro Pier, Milwaukee County—After a fruitless two hour search, a birder thought he saw the Mew Gull fly to an area 0.5 miles north of the pier; having already hiked there and back, I tried one more time. Sure enough, it was swimming in a flock of Ring-billed Gulls a short distance from shore. The all yellow bill was decidedly thinner, slightly shorter, and more pointed than the bills of the Ring-billed Gulls. The bird was slightly smaller than the Ring-bills, with a more rounded head profile. Otherwise the color of the mantle and whiteness of the head and breast were similar to the Ring-billed Gulls. Black primary (folded) wingtips were also noted.—*Jim Frank, Mequon, WI.*

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

2 January 2004, Little Lake Butte des Mortes in Menasha, Winnebago County—This one caught me by surprise! While scanning the meager bird offerings on Little Lake Butte des Mortes, and mainly frozen, I noticed a gull that arrived while I was checking out the few Herring Gulls. What first attracted me was its smaller size than the Herrings. However, it was not as small as Ring-billeds would be. I set up the scope, which revealed a gull with a yellow bill with black and red marks, dark eye, slightly darker mantle, brown streaked head and gray-green legs—a winter California Gull. After 5+ minutes it took flight, passing several turns in front of me before heading elsewhere.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

4 January 2004, South Shore Park and McKinley Marina, Milwaukee County—The South Shore Park bird was resting on the water about 200 yards from my position, among Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. It appeared to be a fairly uniform pale brown above and below, but the wingtips were slightly darker than the body plumage, eliminating Iceland Gull. The bird was about Herring Gull size, had a dark brown eye and a pale bill with a dark tip. When it flew briefly to a different postion, I noted that the underwing was a uniform pale brown. Based on bill coloration, I judged this to be a second winter Thayer's Gull that had not yet acquired gray feathers on the mantle.

The bird at McKinley Marina was an adult Thayer's Gull, resting on the pier with numerous Herring Gulls. I separated this species from the Herrings by the larger white spots on the primaries, thicker white tertial crescent, brown eyes, rounder head, and lack of any black visible on the under surface of the exposed primary tips. Only a small portion of the underwing was seen because the bird did not fly, but the similar area on the Herring Gulls showed black, not white. This gull also had more dark streaking on its head than nearby gulls. The back was pale gray, the bill was yellow with a red spot hear the gonys, and the underparts were white.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*)

20 December 2003, Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County—This gull was about 250 yards out on Lake Michigan, resting on the water. It was among Common Goldeneye and Bufffleheads and there were no other gulls nearby for direct comparison. The back and wings were a pale gray except for the wingtips which were white except for three gray bars near the tip of the folded wing. The head, neck, tail, and underparts were a clean white with no visible streaking except for a small dark smudge on the bird's breast on the right side only, which I judged to be contamination rather than natural coloration.

I saw the bird in flight as it briefly circled over the lake and noted a completely white, unmarked underwing. The tips of the upperwing showed a limited amount of gray which appeared as three thin bars in flight. The head was rounded and the bill

was petite in comparison to a Herring Gull's bill. It was pale yellow (straw color) with a black spot on the lower mandible near the gonys. The eye was dark and there was no smudging at all on the face. I neglected to look for leg color while the bird was flying, so it remained unnoticed. The only similar species is Thayer's Gull which would show some black, rather than gray, on the folded wingtip.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

3 Janaury 2004, North of Bradford Beach, Milwaukee County—I initially identified this as an adult Glaucous Gull because the wingtips appeared solid white through the binoculars, and because the bird was only about 34 yards from shore it seemed too large for an Iceland Gull. All adult Iceland Gulls I have seen in Wisconsin had gray bars on the wingtips, indicating Kumlien's race, so I was quick to eliminate that species. Further study, however, revealed that this was an Iceland Gull with extremely pale wingtips, and through the scope I could make out three faint gray bars when the bird presented itself at the proper angle.

I had been talking with a birder who was just learning to identify some of the gulls, and he questioned my initial ID because the photograph in his field guide showed a paler gray on the wings of a Glaucous Gull than on the bird we observed. I dismissed his concerns by saying that coloration could not be relied on during waning light on cloudy days, and that photographs were notoriously unreliable for matching color. After he left, I studied the bird more closely through the scope and realized I had erred. The bill was less angular than that of nearby Herring gulls and slightly smaller. Instead of being noticeably larger than a nearby Herring Gull, it was comparable in size, which was inconsistent with Glaucous Gull. The underparts were clean white and there was very little streaking on the white head. The back and wings were pale gray except for the wingtips which were white with three barely discernible gray slashes, or bars. The legs were pink and the eye was an intermediate yellowish-brown. Another characteristic that eliminated Glaucous Gull was the length of the wings, which extended well beyond the tail. Head shape was another distinguishing characteristic, as it was somewhat rounder than the heads of nearby Herring Gulls. The bill was yellow with a red spot near the gonys.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

17 January 2004, Wisconsin River in Sauk City, Dane and Sauk Counties—I was initially struck by the small size and pale plumage of this first basic gull. It was smaller than any of the neighboring Thayer's and Herring Gulls. On closer study the bird had a dove-like head, white to ivory plumage with brown streaking as opposed to a B1 Thayer's which would appear to be much more brown. I studied the tertials closely and noted that they were patterned—Sibley shows Thayer's will have dark-centered tertials—which this bird did not. The bird had an all-dark bill, dark eye, and pink legs.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

21 December 2003 and 4 January 2004, Middleton, Dane County—This

is probably the familiar bird that has been visiting Madison for years. Adult plumage, dark gray upperparts, black primaries, smaller in size than a Herring Gull, dark streaking on the head concentrated around the eye.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

19 February 2004, Durand, Pepin County—The three Collared-Doves were larger than Mourning Doves (several of which were nearby) and had long, squared-off tails. They were medium gray-brown on the back, wings, and upper suface of the tail, with a slight rufous tinge on the back and inner part of the wings (mainly secondary, I think). The primaries were dark. The area of wing between the dark primaries and the slightly rufous area was plain gray; this was especially easy to see on one bird when it flew, and could be seen on sitting birds as a gray border along the curve of the wings. The head, neck, and breast were pale grayish-buff (appearing slightly pink on one bird), merging into whitish on the lower belly. Each bird had a black half-collar on the lower nape. The undertail coverts were gray. The under side of each bird's tail was white from tip to coverts and black on either side of the coverts, though the black did NOT extend to the outer webs of the outer tail feathers. This may indicate some Ringed Turtle-Dove genetic admixture, as has happened in other areas of the country. When one bird spread its tail while preening, I could see that the upper surface had extensive whitish corners. The legs and feet were pinkish and the bills were dark. The birds had red eyes. No vocalizations were heard.—*Janine Polk, Eau Claire, WI.*

29 February 2004, Arlington, Columbia County—First I noted the birds were chunkier than Mourning Doves and when they flew their tails were more square, not pointed. The black collar was noted, as was a gray coloring overall. The birds' mantles also had some brown coloring that closely matched the color of Mourning Doves. The birds' bills were black, eyes and feet were pink/red, and dark wing tips were observed on birds in flight. The voice was a strange cooing, almost a cross between a Mourning Dove and a Barred Owl. I observed three birds perched on telephone poles/wires and later feeding on some spilled grain.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*)

8 January 2004, Burnett County—Arriving about mid-morning, I learned from a local birder that he had watched it about 15–20 minutes. Driving along the country road east to the junction, I almost immediately discovered it perched in a tree along the treeline. After some time it disappeared, to shortly reappear on the power line just south of the junction where it remained for a long time before flying into the woods located to the northeast—a most cooperative bird.

This is not your typical appearing owl. The long tail, hawk-like appearance, black bordered facial disks, brown body with white spots and

brown marked breast were easily seen.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)

10 January 2004, Vernon Marsh, Waukesha County—During an unsuccessful search for Long-eared Owls in the tamarack bog, I saw this owl perched on a limb near the trunk of a tree. It had a partially eaten rodent under its belly and appeared to be keeping it warm. Later, another birding couple showed interest so I escorted them to the roost site, and the rodent was not visible except for the tail, which created an illusion of an owl with a mouse tail!

This was a very small owl with a brown back and white spots on the back. The under parts were white but thickly and heavily streaked with longitudinal reddish-brown stripes. The head was brown and finely streaked with white. The eyes were yellow and the bill was black. The facial disk was white and reddish-brown with only a faint outline of dark brown.

This bird allowed very close observation, never showed alarm or alertness other than to look in my direction for a few seconds from time to time.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

24 January 2004, South Bluff of Devil's Lake State Park, Sauk County—While visiting the park with Tom Prestby we stopped at the bottom of the bluff and tried to pish the bird toward us. The bird quickly responded and we heard a tooting call in response to our efforts. Eventually the bird flew into view and landed about 10 feet away from us. Features noted included: gray plumage, white eye ring, small black bill, white sides on the long tail (it perched almost directly above us), the wings showed some dark gray/black markings and a buffy region.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

10 February 2004, Waukesha, Waukesha County—As I looked up from my reading, my eye was drawn to a brown, black, and white bird on the railing of the deck just outside the glass patio doors. I immediately recognized it as a towhee and called it to the attention of my husband, Vern, who was doing a Project Feederwatch count in a different room. He was able to see it briefly through the side of a bay window. The towhee attempted to feed from a platform feeder, but flushed twice when it was harassed by a squirrel. It briefly perched in a nearby tree but returned to feed on seed on the floor of the deck that had been scattered from the feeder. When it was near the glass door, it was less than six feet from my position, and I was able to observe all the requisite field marks without the aid of field glasses.

We are familiar with both Eastern Towhees and Spotted Towhees, having seen several of the latter in western states. Each year, Eastern Towhees nest in our neighborhood and frequent our feeders from April through summer and early fall. The following field marks were easily noted: The

ground color of the head, bill, back, wings, and uppertail was dark black. The back and wings were heavily spotted with small white spots. The sides were bright rufous, similar to that on Eastern Towhees. Underparts were white. At such close range, the red of the iris was easily noted. The intensity of the black and rufous parts of its plumage leads us to believe it was a male. We at first wondered if it could have been the same individual that had been present in Muskego Park since late November, since the park is about six miles south of us. But we later learned that Dennis Gustafson observed the Muskego towhee on the same date as our observation. Despite watching intensively during the next several days, we have not seen it again.—*Judy Aune, Waukesha, WI.*

Hoary Redpoll
(*Carduelis hornemanni*)

4 January 2004, on Bell Crossing Road, Washington County—This bird had a small round body, black legs, and mostly black wings with wing bars. It was very white and lighter above the wings onto the body and back, with a reddish cap on the head. The sides of the body below the wings were very white. It looked as if it did not have any stripes on sides and appeared to have a shorter, smaller looking bill. It had a black tail and under tail coverts clear with one spot. Whiter face with black under the bill. It was eating at a feeder and then flew away.—*Seth Cutright, West Bend, WI.*

13 January 2004 into March, At Containment Area in Manitowoc Harbor, Manitowoc County—Several flocks of Redpolls made the containment area and nearby neighborhoods their feeding ground this winter. On many visits to the containment area a frosty redpoll was found with a flock of 8 Common Redpolls. This bird was easily found even in flight (lighting permitting) by its smaller size and light appearance. On a single occasion, a male was found. The male was easily distinguished from the Common Redpolls by its very light appearance, a pink wash on its breast, and very light streaks on the sides. The back was almost white and streaked with fine darkish brown. The forehead was white and continued as a white eye line. This contrasted with a dark eye line of the Common Redpoll. The rump was white and undertail coverts unstreaked. The wing also appeared lighter. The female was most often found and was also smaller and very light. It, however, lacked the pink "blush" on the breast and the sides were streaked, but noticeably finer than the Common Redpoll. Other field marks were similar to the male. All attempts to observe the smaller, conical bill failed. This must be a field mark secured only with bird in hand or at a feeder at very close range.—*Charles Sontag, Manitowoc, WI.*

1–3 February 2004, Northland College, Ashland County—The Hoary Redpoll was slightly larger and more "bulky" than the Common Redpolls. The darkness of its wings contrasted much more against its body than the Common Redpoll's wings. It had a pure white belly, while barely showing any light gray broken streaks. The rump was pure white and its bill was noticably stubbier and shorter than

the Common Redpoll's beaks. The face was very pale and white, with no traces of brown. The undertail coverts were white with no striping. Its nape was white that blended into mostly white with a few thin gray streaks. Overall, the bird had a "ghostly" appearance. It was feeding on my dorm room window feeder.—*Erik Bruhnke, Ashland, WI.*

11 February into March 2004, Superior, Douglas County—Redpolls had been increasing in numbers at my feeders from three in January to about 30 birds. On 11 February I spotted a very pale bird. The belly, vent, and undertail coverts were unmarked white, the breast had pale pink streaks and two pencil line thin black streaks on each side. The wing bars looked wider than those of the Common Redpolls. The bird's rump was unmarked, and its bill looked a little smaller than the Commons' bills.

Two other Hoaries have been here with it, both with completely unmarked underparts and rumps, reduced side streaking, wider looking wing bars (probably due to thinner black and "whiter" light streaks), whiter between back streaks, giving them a "frosty" look.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, WI*

Northern Hawk Owl *by Gary Krogman*

WSO Records Committee Report Winter 2003–2004

Jim Frank

WSO Records Committee Chair
10524 N. O'Connell Lane
Mequon, WI 53097-3314
262. 242. 2443
jcfbirddr@yahoo.com

The WSO Records Committee reviewed 28 records of 16 species for the winter 2003–2004 season. Twenty-three of the records were accepted. In addition, 2 older records were reviewed and not accepted.

Accepted

American White Pelican—

#2004-002 Waukesha Co., 9 January 2004, Winter (photo).

Photographic evidence proved this individual to be an all white pelican with the expected large, long beak with a proximal pouch.

Barrow's Goldeneye—

#2003-037 Milwaukee Co., 7 December 2003, Wood.

The Barrow's Goldeneye was observed to have a dark head with a crescent-shaped, white, facial spot, a steeper forehead than the Common Goldeneyes, black extending down the flanks encompassing white spots (instead of white extending up the edge of the back encompassing black spots), and a stubbier, dark bill.

This bird was present at a site only 1.5 to 2 miles south of Virmond Park, the wintering location of a Barrow's Goldeneye for the seven winters prior to the now three consecutive winters at Doctor's Park in Milwaukee Co.

Gyrfalcon—

#2004-003 Douglas Co., 10 January 2004, Svingen; 23 January 2004, R. Johnson.

This large hawk was gray overall with pale edges to the coverts, a faint malar stripe, narrow banding on the tail, and whitish underparts with gray spotting on the flanks. The legs were yellow. Perched, the tail extended beyond the wingtips several inches. In flight, the wings were slightly pointed.

Mew Gull—

#2003-049 Milwaukee Co., 6 December 2003, Gustafson (photo); 7 December 2003, Wood; 1 January 2004, Tessen; 3 January 2004, Frank.

Routinely, this bird was seen in comparison to Ring-billed Gulls. This indi-

vidual was slightly smaller, but otherwise similar in color. The broader white tertial stripe made this bird discernible from the Ring-bills at a distance. The bill was decidedly smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls' bills, narrow, and all yellow.

California Gull—

#2004-012 Winnebago Co., 2 January 2004, Tessen.

This gull was between the size of the adjacent Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. The yellow bill had a black and red mark near the gonys, the eye was dark, the mantle was slightly darker gray than the mantles of the other two species. The white head had some brown streaking. Finally, the legs were gray-green.

Thayer's Gull—

#2003-076 Walworth Co., 27 December 2003, Fitzgerald.

This adult bird had a limited amount of black on the upper primary tips and no black on the underside of the primary tips. The mantle was slightly darker gray than the mantle of the Herring Gulls, the head more rounded in contour, and the beak was a bit smaller and yellow.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—

#2003-077 Walworth Co., 27 December 2003, Fitzgerald.

Two dark gray mantled gulls were noted to be smaller than Herring Gulls. The underwing was extensively dark with a single white spot on the last primary.

Eurasian Collared-Dove—

#2003-066 Columbia Co., Stutz.

#2003-070 Pepin Co., Polk.

This dove was closer to Rock Dove than Mourning Dove in size. The tail was longer than a Mourning Dove's and squared off, rather than pointed. The overall color was paler than the brownish plumage of a Mourning Dove. The nape of the neck had a black crescent across it. In flight, the primaries were darker than the secondaries. The distal 2/3 of the underside of the tail was white in contrast to the black of the proximal 1/3 of the undertail and the dark gray undertail coverts.

Northern Hawk-Owl—

#2003-071 Lincoln Co., 1 November 2003, Ott.

#2004-004 Burnett Co., 8 January 2004, Tessen.

These long-tailed owls were brown with white spotting, had barred breasts, black vertical borders to the facial disks, yellow eyes, and lacked ear tufts.

Spotted Towhee—

#2003-062 Waukesha Co., 1 January 2004 Tessen, 22 November 2003, Prestby.

#2004-005 Waukesha Co., 10 February 2004, Aune.

Other than the white spotting on the mantle, this bird appeared to be the same size and color as an Eastern Towhee.

The second report was of a bird six miles from the Muskego County Park location. That Muskego bird was present on February 10 so it is believed there were two different birds involved in these reports.

Chipping Sparrow—

#2004-006 Waushara Co., 18 January 2004, Harriman.

This sparrow was as small as a chick-

adee with a reddish cap, black line through the eye, and white supercilium. The unmarked gray breast distinguished this bird from a Tree Sparrow. The nape and rump were gray.

Savannah Sparrow—

#2003-075 Walworth Co. 27 December 2003, Fitzgerald.

In a mixed flock of sparrows, this bird was differentiated from a Song Sparrow by its smaller size, yellow lores, pale beak, and slightly notched tail. When flushed, a small amount of white was evident on the outer tail feathers.

Baltimore Oriole—

#2003-072 Dane Co., 25 December 2003–early January 2004, Fusek (photo).

The photograph showed an orange oriole with a black head, black back, and black wings with white wingbars.

Hoary Redpoll—

#2004-007 Marinette Co., 4 January 2004, S. Cutright.

#2004-008 Manitowoc Co., 13 January–4 March 2004, Sontag.

#2004-009 Ashland Co., 1–3 February 2004, Bruhnke.

#2004-010 Douglas Co., 11 February–13 March 2004, R. Johnson.

#2004-011 Portage Co., 27 February 2004, Prestby.

These birds were distinguished from Common Redpolls by an overall whiter appearance. Closer inspection revealed minimal flank streaking, an unmarked rump, one or no undertail covert streaks, and a noticeably smaller, stubbier bill than the Commons.

NOT ACCEPTED

American White Pelican—

#2004-001 Winnebago Co., 4 January 2004.

The description was limited to a large white bird with an orange bill. Although this identification was most likely correct, the description did not entirely support the identification. Without a more relative indication of size, without mention of black primaries, and without a more precise indication of the beak size and shape, a case could be made for a mute swan, or even a snow goose.

Plegadis Ibis—

#2003-073 Winnebago Co., 18 September 2003.

Again the brevity of the description did not allow a clear identification of the three birds. Because they were seen in flight from a moving car, the paucity of field marks is expected. The birds were described as dark and heron-shaped with a curved neck and head. The observer assumed that the curved neck eliminated cormorants from consideration. Depending on whether they had just taken flight, were turning, wind conditions, etc., the neck contour can vary.

Again the size was not indicated beyond being "medium." A reference to other birds seen in the general area and time frame would be more helpful. In addition, in flight, ibis have a surprisingly rapid wingbeat compared to cormorants or herons. This characteristic was not noted. Finally, the beak shape would lend the most credence to the identification. Unfortunately, this moving vehicle type of observation just did not allow a longer assessment of the bird.

Cinnamon Teal—

#2003-078 Crawford Co., 17 December 2003; Trempealeau Co., 15 October 1990.

The Crawford Co. bird was tamer than its compatriot waterfowl, allowing a photograph that indicated this bird had a clipped hallux, indicative of captive origin.

The second, belated report of an all cinnamon, small duck, with a dark bill was unsettling for two reasons. In spite of the distinctive color pattern, a few more color characteristics regarding back feathering and speculum color would help eliminate hybrid possibilities. Second, as indicated from the 2003 sighting of a Cinnamon Teal in southwestern Wisconsin, a bit of behavioral information would lend support for a wild origin for the bird.

Great Gray Owl—

#2003-074 Manitowoc Co., 20 December 2003.

This "heard only" situation was of a low two note call heard twice in the same time frame as 5 Great Horned Owls and 2 Barred Owls. Calls are notoriously hard to "translate" into words. The hoots of these three species would be no exception. In an uncharacteristic location, identifying a lower pitched call as a Great Gray Owl needs visual support. In the hands of experienced ears, the identification would be possible, but hard to substantiate.

Baird's Sandpiper at Rainbow Flowage in Oneida County on 10 October 2003, *by Dennis Malueg*

Wisconsin May Counts: 2004

Jim Frank

10524 O'Connell Lane
Mequon, WI 530976
262. 242. 2443
jcfbirdde@yahoo.com

The four May Counts in 2004 are the lowest number conducted in memory, continuing the downward trend that started 8 years ago. In the prior decade, counts had numbered in the low twenties. In spite of the low level of participation, observers were treated to numerous unexpected birds. Leading the way in participation as usual was Winnebago with 40 participants. Winnebago remained on the top of the species list with an always amazing total of 186 species, Milwaukee/Ozaukee followed with 178, Marathon with 161, and Oconto listed 156 species (Table 1).

The total species list of 221 is quite low compared with an average of 244 over the previous 15 years, but is obviously a reflection of the limited number of counts. The only species new to this list were a White-winged Dove in Milwaukee/Ozaukee and an unidentified Ibis in Marathon. Third ever records of Thayer's Gull from Milwaukee/Ozaukee and Eurasian Collared-Dove from Oconto made it three years in a row for each species. The 15 year total for species is now 294.

The paucity of counts makes comparisons to other years problematic. The diversity of gull species of the last two years (8) and (7) was almost matched this year with 6 species. Mixed flocks of immature birds on Lake Michigan continue to linger, now into the early summer. Found on all 4 counts were Wilson's Phalarope (third highest number of counts reporting them in 15 years in spite of the limited number of counts!), Brown Creeper, Golden-winged Warbler, Pine Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Vesper Sparrow. A bit unexpectedly, Least Bittern, Bald Eagle, Upland Sandpiper, Red-headed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Orchard Oriole each appeared on three of the four counts.

Table 1. The 2004 Wisconsin May Counts.

Count	Date	Time	Sky	Wind	Temp	Observ.	Species
Oconto	5/24	05:00–22:00	Clo.	NE 10	40–57	10	156
Marathon	5/16	02:30–21:00				9	161
Winnebago	5/08	04:00–23:00	Rain	NE 10	46–60	40	186
Milwaukee/Ozaukee	5/15	03:00–17:00	Pt.Clo.	NE 10	43–53	8	178

Table 2. Species of note on Wisconsin May Counts in 2004.

Species	Count(s)recorded
American White Pelican	Oconto, Winnebago
Black Scoter	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Long-tailed Duck	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Harlequin Duck	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Common Goldeneye	Winnebago
Common Merganser	Marathon, Oconto
Red-necked Grebe	Winnebago
Least Bittern	Winnebago, Marathon, Oconto
Cattle Egret	Winnebago
Plegadis (sp.) Ibis	Marathon
Merlin	Marathon
Peregrine Falcon	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Gray Partridge	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Greater Prairie-Chicken	Marathon
Yellow Rail	Winnebago
King Rail	Winnebago
Common Moorhen	Oconto, Winnebago
Thayer's Gull	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Iceland Gull	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Great Black-backed Gull	Winnebago
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Oconto
White-winged Dove	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Whip-poor-will	Winnebago, Marathon
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Winnebago, Milwaukee/Ozaukee, Oconto
Acadian Flycatcher	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Carolina Wren	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Northern Mockingbird	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
American Pipit	Winnebago
Orange-crowned Warbler	Winnebago, Milwaukee/Ozaukee, Oconto
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Winnebago, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Louisiana Waterthrush	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Connecticut Warbler	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Hooded Warbler	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Grasshopper Sparrow	Marathon, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Henslow's Sparrow	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Le Conte's Sparrow	Oconto, Marathon
Harris's Sparrow	Winnebago
Dark-eyed Junco	Winnebago, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Lapland Longspur	Winnebago, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Western Meadowlark	Winnebago
Orchard Oriole	Oconto, Winnebago, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Evening Grosbeak	Oconto

North American Migration Count 2004: Wisconsin

Jim Frank

10524 N. O'Connell
Mequon, WI 53097-3314
262. 242. 2443
jcfbirddr@yahoo.com

The twelfth North American Migration Count took place on May 8, 2004 in numerous states and counties across the country. The count differs from Wisconsin's traditional May Counts in that this count attempts to count the *individual numbers* of each species (as you do on Christmas Bird Counts) and the number of *party hours* is also reported (again as on Christmas Counts). It differs from the Christmas Counts in that the count area is an entire county, not a 15 mile diameter circle. In addition, this count is taken on the *same day* across the country (*always the second Saturday in May*) to in essence take a "snapshot" of the spring migration in North America. The premise is that *numbers* of birds will create useful comparative data for the future, something the mere "ticking" off of species doesn't generate.

The count is held on the second Saturday of May, a time when some of the northern states haven't reached their peak of migration, but still have lingering early migrants. The southern states may be past their peak, but late migrants may still be present. Because spring migration is so dynamic, counts have to be held on the same day to avoid repetitive counting. Obviously nothing is foolproof, we all are aware of how far some birds can fly in one day's time if they are on the move.

Please note it is possible to conduct a traditional May Count on the same day as a Migration Count, as long as it occurs on the second Saturday in May and individuals are counted for the species. In the year 2005, the date of May 14 will be used for the Migration Count.

In examining the data from 2004 relative to the previous eleven years, the early date influenced the overall count in the reduced number of shorebirds, warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and thrushes. For those still wondering about the repercussions of West Nile virus, the corvid numbers still appeared normal for the second year in a row since the big outbreak of 2002.

Individually, Winnebago County as usual led the way, this time with a total of 186 species. They were followed by Marathon County's 149 species and

Table 1. The 2004 North American Migration Count in Wisconsin.

County	Species	Observers	Party-hours
Bayfield	131	29	32
Ashland	60	15	5
Vilas	93	5	18
Clark	136	11	80
Marathon	149	17	62
Florence	101	3	28
Winnebago	186	28	94
Milwaukee	60	5	5
Kenosha	135	2	24
Total	**223**	**112**	**338**

Clark County compiled a list of 136 species. Bayfield's 29 observers again inched out Winnebago's 28 for participation honors (Table 1.)

In this twelfth year of counting, new to the count list were Prairie Warbler in Kenosha County and Great Black-backed Gull in Winnebago County. The twelve year total is now 278 species recorded on Wisconsin Migration counts. This year's 223 species total was a bit below the average of 227 species for the twelve years of counting.

Unusual species included Eared Grebe (1, Marathon), Gray Partridge (2, Kenosha), Yellow Rail (3, Winnebago), King Rail (1, Winnebago), Willet (2, Bayfield), Glaucous Gull (1, Kenosha), Great Black-backed Gull (1, Winnebago), Northern Saw-whet Owl (1, Florence), Northern Shrike (1, Bayfield), Prairie Warbler (1, Kenosha) , Prothonotary Warbler (1, Kenosha), Connecticut Warbler (1, Milwaukee), Hooded Warbler (4, Milwaukee), Le Conte's Sparrow (2, Clark), and Western Meadowlark (1, Winnebago).

The following species recorded the highest total numbers in twelve years of Migration Counts: Bald Eagle (60), Red-shouldered Hawk (4), Broad-winged Hawk (100), Rough-legged Hawk (8), Merlin (9), Wild Turkey (205), Virginia Rail (45), Pileated Woodpecker (35), Swamp Sparrow (764), and White-crowned Sparrow (284). Second highest count totals were noted for Wilson's Phalarope (11), Grasshopper Sparrow (7), Northern Cardinal (411), and Orchard Oriole (11).

Record low numbers were recorded for American Bittern (9), Least Bittern (1), Mute Swan (1), Wood Duck (73) , Greater Scaup Duck (2), Black Tern (14) , and Whip-poor-will (3). For the first time in the twelve years, no Ruddy Turnstones were found.

The 2005 North American Migration Count is to be held Saturday, May 14. Compilers of the 2004 counts are listed below. If you are interested in joining one, contact them. If you want to initiate a new one yourself, contact Jim Frank, 10524 N. O'Connell Lane, Mequon, Wisconsin 53097. Even if you count alone, the data is useful since it is analyzed by party-hours.

COUNT COMPILERS:

Bayfield Co.—Wendy Stein, 77015 W. Maple Hill Road, Washburn, WI 54891.

Ashland Co.—Dick Verch, 906 Ellis Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806.

Vilas Co.—Bill Reardon, 1700 Open Acres Lane, Eagle River, WI 54521.

Florence Co.—Jean Strelka, 12366 N. River Road, Mequon, WI 53092.

Clark Co.—Ken and Jan Luepke, B894 Eau Pleine Road, Spencer, WI 54479.

Marathon Co.—Lynn Ott, 409 N. 11th Street, Wausau, WI 54403.

Winnebago Co.—Tom Ziebell, 1322 Ceape Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Ozaukee Co.—Jim Frank, 10524 N. O'Connell Lane, Mequon, WI 53097.

Milwaukee Co.—Beverly Bryant, 9701 W. College Avenue, Franklin, WI 53132.

Kenosha Co.—Ron Hoffman, Box 886, Kenosha, WI 53141.

American Bittern *by Gary Krogman*

Dunlin *by Gary Krogman*

Wisconsin Big Day Counts: 2004

Wayne Rohde

WSO Bird Reports Coordinator
W6488 Beloit Rd.
Walworth, WI 53184

SUMMARY

A total of 16 Big Day counts was submitted for inclusion in *The Passenger Pigeon* this year, with five received from Daryl Tessen, and four from Jim Frank—both perennial veterans of Wisconsin Big Days. Not surprisingly, all but two of the Big Day counts took place in May, with the best tallies occurring May 15–19. The team of Betchkal, Franke, Paulios and Peterson recorded the most species, **185**, closely followed by that of Cutright, Fitzgerald, Howe and Prestby, with **182**. Cutright, Fitzgerald and Prestby also participated in a July count that eclipsed the previous July record by 32 species.

This year's slate of Big Days was graced by such gems as Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, White-winged Scoter, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Black-necked Stilt (at two, and possibly three, locations), American Avocet, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, Red-necked Phalarope, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, White-winged Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Black-backed Woodpecker, Bell's Vireo, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Prairie Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, LeConte's Sparrow, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak—reflecting one of the most remarkable spring parades of rarities in Wisconsin birding history.

PARTICIPANTS, DATES, LOCATIONS, TOTALS & HIGHLIGHTS

Jim Frank, April 29, Ozaukee and Milwaukee Counties, ***120 species.*** **Highlights**: Greater White-fronted Goose, 15 spp. of ducks, Osprey, 9 spp. of shorebirds, 5 spp. of gulls (incl: Iceland, Lesser Black-backed), 14 spp. of warblers (incl: Orange-crowned), 11 spp. of sparrows (incl: Lark), Brewer's Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole.

Daryl Tessen, May 7, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County (the first of three successive days at Horicon, during the Bird Festival), ***121 species.*** **Highlights**: 11 spp. of ducks, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Yellow Rail, 14 spp. of shorebirds (incl: Black-bellied Plover, American Avocet, Hudsonian Godwit), all the swallows, 12 spp. of warblers (incl: Blackpoll), and 150 Lapland Longspurs.

Daryl Tessen, May 8, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County, ***108 species.***

Highlights: Bald Eagle, 12 spp. of shorebirds (incl: Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover), and 16 spp. of warblers (incl: Bay-breasted).

Daryl Tessen, May 9, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County, ***122*** *species.* **Highlights**: Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, 10 spp. of ducks, Bald Eagle, 15 spp. of shorebirds (incl: Black- bellied Plovers, both dowitchers), and 18 spp. of warblers (incl: Black-throated Blue).

Daryl Tessen, May 11, Baxter's Hollow, Devil's Lake State Park, Spring Green Prairie, Schluckebier Sand Prairie, Governor Dodge State Park, Nine Springs, Arlington Ponds, Horicon Marsh, and Grassy Lake in Columbia County (an unplanned route), ***127*** *species.* **Highlights**: Red-necked Grebe, Bald Eagle, 14 spp. of shorebirds (incl: Baird's Sandpiper, both dowitchers), Eurasian Collared-Dove, Acadian Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, all the swallows, 12 spp. of warblers (incl: Prothonotary, Louisiana Waterthrush), Lark Sprarrow, 50 Lapland Longspurs, and Purple Finch.

Daryl Tessen, May 12, Milwaukee lakeshore from Racine to Manitowoc Counties (another unplanned outing), ***122*** *species.* **Highlights**: Red-throated Loon, Rough-legged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, 15 spp. of shorebirds (incl: Baird's Sandpiper), Great Black-backed Gull, 300+ Caspian Terns, White-winged Dove, Philadelphia Vireo, all the swallows, Northern Mockingbird, 13 spp. of warblers (incl: Black-throated Blue, Prairie), and Blue Grosbeak.

Steve Betchkal, Scott Franke, Andy Paulios & Jesse Peterson, May 15, Portage, Wood, Sauk, Columbia, Green Lake, Dodge, and Fond du Lac Counties, ***185*** *species.* **Highlights**: Trumpeter Swan, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, King Rail, Black-bellied Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, Red-necked Phalarope, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will, Acadian Flycatcher, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, LeConte's Sparrow, and Purple Finch.

Seth Cutright, Sean Fitzgerald, Eric Howe & Tom Prestby, May 15, Portage, Wood, Sauk, Columbia, Green Lake, Dodge, and Fond du Lac Counties (a scouting run for the May 16 effort), ***157*** *species.* **Highlights**: Least Bittern, lingering American Black Duck and Red-breasted Merganser, Black-necked Stilt, and Lark Sparrow.

Jim Frank, May 15, Ozaukee County, ***143*** *species* (despite losing 1 hour with a flat tire, and 3 hours while visiting his grandmother!). **Highlights**: 12 spp. of ducks, 12 spp. of shorebirds (incl: Upland Sandpiper), 5 species of gulls (incl: Thayer's, Iceland), Philadelphia Vireo, all the swallows, Winter Wren, 23 spp. of warblers (incl: Orange-crowned), 11 spp. of sparrows, Lapland Longspur, and Orchard Oriole.

Kent Hall, May 15, Portage County, ***143*** *species.* **Highlights**: Greater Prairie-Chicken, 10 spp. of shorebirds, Whip-poor-will, Olive-sided Flycatcher, all the swallows, 23 spp. of warblers (incl: Canada), 11 spp. of sparrows (incl: Henslow's), Brewer's Blackbird, and Pine Siskin.

Robbye Johnson & Shaun Putz, May 15, Douglas County, ***156*** *species.* **Highlights**: Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, 19 species of ducks, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Sharp-tailed Grouse, King Rail, 12 spp. of shorebirds (incl:

Willet), 4 spp. of terns, Whip-poor-will, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, all the swallows, both kinglets, 19 spp. of warblers, 11 spp. of sparrows (incl: Harris's), Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak.

Seth Cutright, Sean Fitzgerald, Eric Howe & Tom Prestby, May 16, Portage, Wood, Sauk, Columbia, Green Lake, Dodge, and Fond du Lac Counties, ***180*** *species* (yielding a two day, back-to-back total of 189 species). **Highlights**: Red-necked Grebe, Least Bittern, Snowy Egret, Black-bellied Plover, Black-necked Stilt, eight Whimbrels, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, five Red-necked Phalaropes, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole.

Scott Diehl & Jim Frank, May 16, Ozaukee and Dodge Counties, ***148*** *species*. **Highlights**: 12 spp. of ducks, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, 12 spp. of shorebirds (incl: Upland Sandpiper), 6 spp. of gulls (incl: Thayer's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed), 4 spp. of terns, Philadelphia Vireo, all the swallows, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, 22 spp. of warblers, 9 spp. of sparrows, and Orchard Oriole.

Eric Howe, Mike & Jennifer Ramsden, Wayne Rohde & Al Schirmacher, May 17, Walworth, Rock, Dane, Sauk, Columbia, Green Lake, Dodge, and Fond du Lac Counties (perhaps the most disorganized, laid-back Big Day ever—we made it up as we went, and spent lots of time "ooing" and "aahing" over species rare and otherwise!), ***156*** *species*. **Highlights**: Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, Bald Eagle, Northern Bobwhite, Yellow Rail, Black-necked Stilt (at both Nine Springs and Horicon Marsh), Red-necked Phalarope, Acadian Flycatcher, all the swallows, Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Henslow's Sparrow.

Jim Frank, May 19, Ozaukee and Dodge Counties, ***148*** *species*. **Highlights:** (3 new species during a Big Day count, after 20+ years of Big Days: White-winged Scoter, Black-necked Stilt, and Golden-crowned Kinglet). **Other highlights**: 13 spp. of ducks, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, 13 spp. of shorebirds (incl: Upland Sandpiper), Red-necked Phalarope, 6 spp. of gulls (incl: Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous), 4 spp. of terns, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, all the swallows, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, 19 spp. of warblers (incl: Canada), 9 spp. of sparrows, and Orchard Oriole.

Seth Cutright, Sean Fitzgerald & Tom Prestby, July 10, Portage, Wood, Sauk, Columbia, Green Lake, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties, ***157*** *species*. **Highlights**: Common Loon, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Bobwhite, Upland Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Louisiana Waterthrush, Canada Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco.

Addendum #1

Received after the completion of Wisconsin Big Day Counts: 2003 was a report from the Baughman brothers, summarized below:

Jeff Baughman, Jim Baughman & Scott Baughman, May 24, 2003, Vilas County, ***119*** *species.* **Highlights**: Merlin, Ruddy Turnstone, Whip-poor-will, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray Jay, American Pipit, 18 spp. of warblers, LeConte's Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird, and Evening Grosbeak.

Addendum #2

Although the Big Day by Randy Hoffman and Al Shea (***230*** *species* in **May 2002**) continues to be the highest number of species ever seen on a single Big Day count in the state of Wisconsin, several new reports of monthly highs were received this past year (as designated in parentheses), and are now incorporated in Wisconsin's highest Big Days by month:

January: *76 species.*

February: *94 species* (Randy Hoffman, February 24, 2002, topping the previous record of 57 by 37 species).

March: *112 species* (Randy Hoffman, March 31, 2001, topping the previous record of 91 by 21 species).

April: *172 species* (Randy Hoffman, April 29, 2002, topping the previous record of 123 by 49 species).

May: *230 species.*

June: *147 species.*

July: *157 species* (Seth Cutright, Sean Fitzgerald and Tom Prestby, July 10, 2004, topping the previous record of 125 by 32 species).

August: *186 species* (Randy Hoffman, August 31, 2002, topping the previous record of 170 by 16 species).

September: *194 species* (Randy Hoffman, September 2, 2001, topping the previous record of 163 by 31 species).

October: *158 species* (Randy Hoffman).

November: *137 species* (Randy Hoffman).

December: *93 species* (Randy Hoffman).

Rules & Regulations

For those unfamiliar with Big Day count rules:

The count must be taken within a 24-hour calendar day (midnight to midnight).

The count must be taken within the state boundaries, but it may cover as many parts of Wisconsin as birders can reach in the time limit.

All participants must be within direct conversational contact at all times during the birding and traveling periods. This excludes meal and rest stops if birding is not conducted during those times. This limits the number of parties involved to one, and participants to that number safely and comfortably contained in one vehicle.

Areas can be revisited during the day.

Counting individual birds is optional.

The same areas may be covered on different Big Day counts.

No fees are involved in conducting the counts.

It is critical that all unusual species—whether they are early or late sightings, or rare species—be completely

documented. Reports of rarities are subject to review by the WSO Records Committee.

Be sure to drive safely. Sleep deprivation is characteristic of those engaging in Big Days, and drivers and passengers alike are urged to use great caution while driving.

Please note that there is no special Big Day form; standard checklists, such as WSO's ***Wisconsin Birds—Field Checklist***, may be used. Completed Big Day lists should be sent to Wayne Rohde, WSO Bird Reports Coordinator, by no later than August 1 for inclusion in *The Passenger Pigeon.*

Female Ruddy Duck *by Gary Krogman*

Carolina Wren *by Gary Krogman*

WSO Awards—2004

Daryl Tessen

3118 N. Oneida Street
Appleton, WI 54911
920. 735. 9903
bhaunts@core.com

The Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology was pleased to present three awards during the annual convention in Chippewa Falls on 22 May 2004.

During the business meeting on Saturday afternoon, The Silver Passenger Pigeon, for service to WSO, was presented to Jeffery L. Baughman (Figure 1). Although he did not become a "birder" until he was college-age, Jeff has developed excellent birding skills

Figure 1: Jeffery L. Baughman with his Silver Passenger Pigeon, 2004.

of both sight and sound, and he has a wonderful ability to share his skills with others. Due to this, Jeff has served as Field Trip Co-chair for 17 years, from 1987 to the present. Over this time, he and Tom Schultz have developed a stimulating schedule of WSO field trips that draws large numbers of birders (both members and non-members) and serves to introduce novice bird-watchers and the general public to birding. Numerous field trips have even attracted the attention of the local press with pictures appearing of the eager crowd of birders.

Jeff's skills also served WSO well as he served from 1995–1999 on the Records Committee. He was Vice President in 2003–04, becoming President this year, 2004. As Jeff continues his service to WSO as President, it is an honor to award him the Silver Passenger Pigeon.

The Bronze Passenger Pigeon is given to individuals who have made major contributions to ornithology by either professional or volunteer work outside of service to WSO. The 2004 Bronze Passenger Pigeon was awarded to Karen Etter Hale (Figure 2). Karen most often works behind the scenes to get things done for conservation and ornithology issues. She is particularly noted for her quiet, persistent leadership skills. She is often called upon to coordinate and organize people and organizations to make things happen. She's been called the "quiet bulldog."

Karen has served for 14 years as Executive Director of Madison Audubon Society, providing professional testimony on behalf of birds at governmental hearings, to the Department of Natural Resources, and to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She was most instrumental in obtaining protection of shorebird habitat at the 9 Springs Water Treatment facility in Madison.

Figure 2: Karen Etter Hale, awarded the Bronze Passenger Pigeon, 2004.

She currently serves as statewide Chair of the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, conducting the Council meetings, publishing the newsletter, attending most committee meetings, and pushing the agenda for bird conservation in Wisconsin. She was instrumental in establishing the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, an umbrella group of 70+ environmental and outdoor organizations that work toward common conservation goals. She served as the Wisconsin Chair of the North American Waterfowl Management plan for 5 years, working to ex-

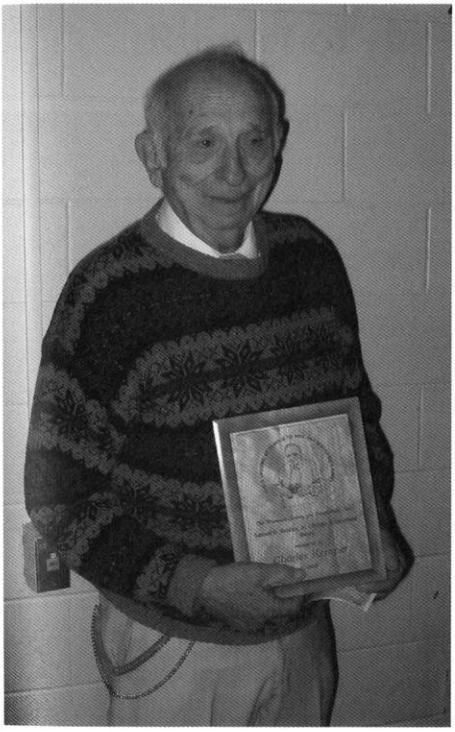


Figure 3: Dr. Charles Kemper, recipient of the 2004 Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award.

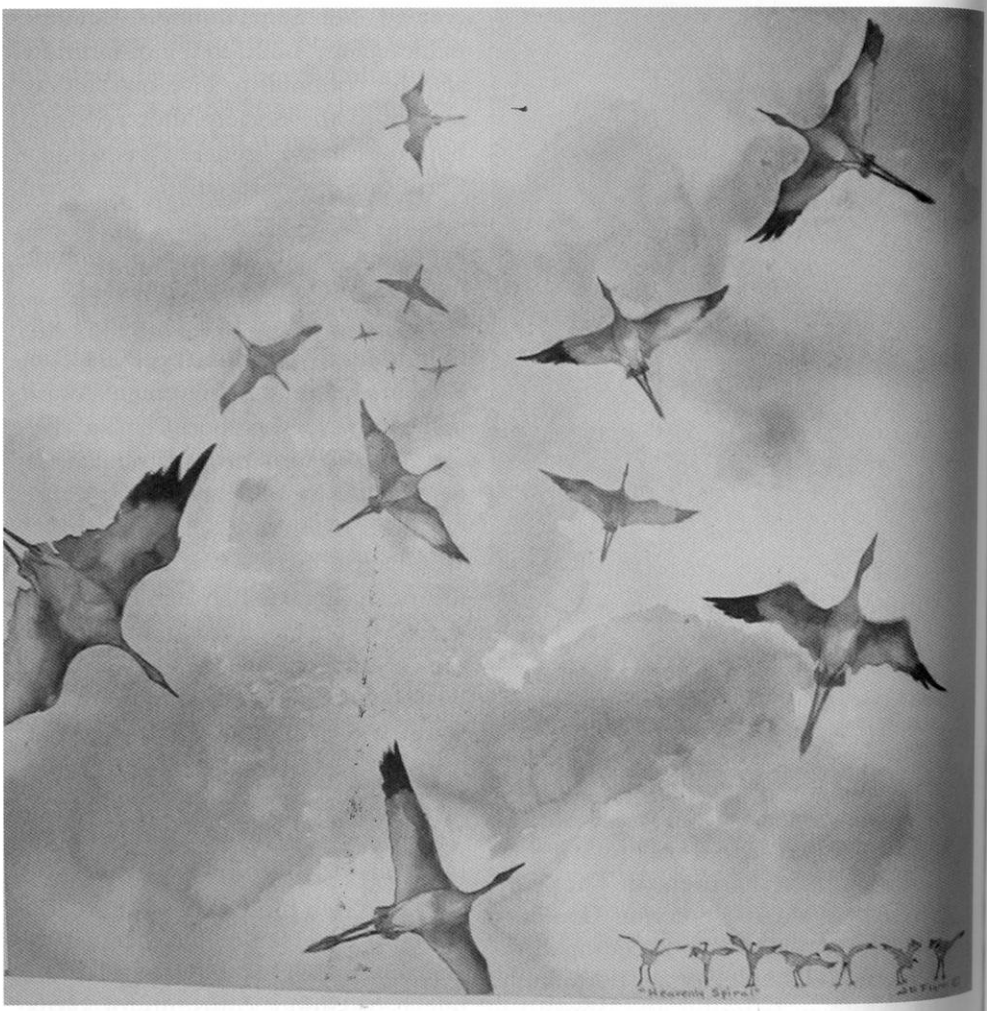
tend the program's focus toward nongame species, especially shorebirds. She has served on the Steering Committee of Partners in Flight in Wisconsin, on the Steering Committee of the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas and as the Regional Coordinator for WBBA in Jefferson and Waukesha Counties.

It is with great pleasure that WSO pays tribute to Karen for her long years of much service to the cause of ornithology in Wisconsin and beyond.

In 2001, the WSO Board of Directors created the Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award to honor individuals who continue to give outstanding service to the Society after receiving both the Silver Passenger Pigeon and a Certificate of Appreciation. This award also serves to pay tribute to the late Sam Robbins and the level of commitment to WSO that he exemplified.

The WSO Board of Directors was delighted to present the 2004 Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Charles Kemper. Charlie (Figure 3) was awarded the Silver Passenger Pigeon in 1965 and a Certificate of Appreciation in 1983. His service to WSO began in 1953 when he took the job of Spring Field Notes Editor for the WSO journal, *The Passenger Pigeon.* He continued his work for WSO and birds by serving as Conservation Chair from 1956–61, Publicity Chair in 1963, Autumn Field Notes Editor in 1964-65, *The Passenger Pigeon* Editor from 1967–87, and Chair of several conventions in the Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire area.

Charlie has banded birds since 1954 and conducted a long-term study on television tower collisions of birds. Charles Kemper and Sam Robbins share a long tradition of working for and supporting WSO.



Heavenly Spiral *by Janet Flynn*

Report of the Annual Meeting, 22 May 2004

Minutes of the 2004 Annual Business Meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

The WSO Annual Business meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., 22 May 2004, in the auditorium of Chippewa Falls Middle School. President Noel Cutright paused for a few minutes, giving attendees time to familiarize themselves with the flow of the meeting by reading the meeting agenda and Annual Reports of Officers and Committee Chairs.

Cutright welcomed all present and called attention to "Special Thank You's" at the bottom of the "WSO Convention Schedule," which was distributed at registration. He didn't repeat the list of people but wanted to thank Chippewa School Board, Charlie Kemper, and Daryl Christensen by name, and others, by spirit (to Chippewa Wildlife Society, Jennifer Nieland, Andy Paulios, Jim Williams, Janine Polk, Ron Windingstad, Sherry Christensen, Chippewa Falls Pick 'n Save, Chippewa Falls Middle School, our special speakers, and Chippewa Valley Convention and Visitor's Bureau; also to all volunteers and silent auction donors).

Cutright said that it was different to open the WSO convention with the business meeting being first thing. Are there any member reactions? He said that paper sessions at the last convention had started at 1:30 p.m. and people seemed satisfied, so convention organizers tried this again but still want to hear how members feel.

Minutes of the last meeting (2003 Annual Meeting) had already been read, and approved with corrections, by a Reading Committee (Tod Highsmith and Karen Etter Hale).

Cutright asked WSO Treasurer Christine Reel for comments or additions to the Financial Report ("WSO Annual Report, May 2003—May 2004,"). First, Reel repeated the Board's appreciation of the "outstanding generosity" of WSO members during 2003 as expressed in both Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon support and Unrestricted/Matching Funds Campaign donations. Second, she said that there are not a lot of ways to reduce expenses, that sometimes all of member dues go to covering publication costs for *The Passenger Pigeon* and *The Badger Birder* and work is being done to reduce those costs. Third, she stressed that 100% of Life Membership payments go directly to the WSO Endowment Fund. Fourth, Reel explained that the organization of the Statement of Revenue and Expenses has been separated into two parts, Operating Expenses (which were helped with the matching campaign), and Nonbudget Items (which don't impact the annual budget). The Balance Sheet summarizes the financial statement. She then asked for comments and suggestions. One member said

that WSO's financial situation seemed to have improved markedly, getting control over expenses. Reel said that "we're not out of the woods" because WSO membership totals, and hence income, are going down. One reason expenses are down is that publication costs have come down.

Continuing with "Annual Reports of Officers," Cutright commented that the third paragraph of the President's report told of the Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon, asking coordinator Carl Schwartz if he remembered the totals. Schwartz said that last Sunday (May 16), Honey Creek had recorded 84 species (versus an average of 85) and banded 22 species. WSO participants were out listening to sounds from 4 a.m. to the walk to the waterfall, which they were unable to reach after all; WSO must figure out a way to clear the trail to the waterfall, he said. Honey Creek fundraising was similar to past years. WSO had accumulated about $2,800 but was still taking pledges. Contributors will soon be getting the birdathon/bandathon report along with a bill for their pledges. Cutright said that WSO had now experienced 20 years of the Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon, and he hopes to put together a summary for *The Passenger Pigeon.* Cutright closed his President's report with reference to his "Quad 30 Campaign," with which he's already collected $18,000 for conservation; he hopes to post observations daily.

Vice President Jeff Baughman will be heard from later, said Cutright.

Secretary Jane Dennis called attention to Midwest Birding Symposium 2003, the last year of WSO sponsorship (with Eagle Optics and *Birder's World*). Through a combination of participant donations, matching funds, and in-kind contributions, we were able to add $50,000 to the fund for genetic enhancement of the Greater Prairie-Chicken in the Midwest. (MBS 2001 had provided over $30,000 toward reestablishing the Whooping Crane in the Midwest.) The next Midwest Birding Symposium, under new sponsorship, will be in the Quad Cities in 2005.

WSO Editors of *The Passenger Pigeon* were "half here," said Bettie Harriman, in the absence of co-editor, Neil Harriman. She explained that *Pigeon* volume 65/4 was not in members' hands at the time of the convention, as had been anticipated. The final issue of any volume needs several trips between editors and publishers because it includes the year's index. "It's taking a little longer," Harriman said. WSO members could receive both volume 65/4 and volume 66/1 in the same package.

Harriman gave "a desperate plea" for articles to be submitted to *The Passenger Pigeon.* The editors have no articles waiting to be perused/published beyond volume 66/2, she said. If you know of people at universities or the Department of Natural Resources who are involved in research pertaining to birds, please ask them to write up their findings and submit an article. In response to inquiry, Harriman said that a submittal doesn't have to be "Chi-square significant." Observations are just fine. There have been recent requests for more philosophical ponderings, she said, much like Wayne Rohde posts on Wisbirdn. Retired WSO Editor Tod Highsmith commented, "Look at special issues from a few years ago. Birders don't have to wait for special issues to express their

'wonder' at birds." WSO President Cutright "promised" an article next year on his Quad 30 campaign.

Going on to the "Annual Reports of Committee Chairs," Cutright said that *Badger Birder* editor, Mary Uttech, was "very receptive" to input from contributors. "This is your newsletter," he said, and the editor is open and approachable, via email. "No, we are not doing away with paper copies" of the *Birder*, Cutright said but if 500—instead of 1,000—copies of the newsletter are sent out, WSO does save, mainly on postage.

Bird Reports Coordinator Wayne Rohde reiterated that many areas of the state remain unreported, mainly southwest and far northern. He would appreciate reports, with documentation, from these areas, too.

WSO Bookstore chair Joan Sommer had nothing to add to her written report ("WSO Annual Report, May 2003–May 2004,"). Daryl Christensen had taken over the bookstore for a couple of hours this morning, she said, while she was "out looking at the Bell's Vireo."

While WSO Conservation chair, Bill Mueller, had nothing to add to his written report, Cutright asked him to stand for recognition.

President Cutright said that he had suggested to the Board that WSO add a Historian position and that he would become chair. WSO now has a room for records at the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Cutright will organize the room, solicit information from long-term members such as Charlie Kemper, and pursue members such as Mary Donald for field notes. Cutright will ensure that WSO gets information into a safe storage area.

The continued WSO membership trend downward is of concern, said Membership chair Jesse Peterson, as shown by the graphics in his written report. He cited certain activities initiated to reverse this trend. Publication of the new *WSO Membership Brochure*, for instance, helps to "get the word out." Also, under Peterson's supervision, an e-*Badger Birder* has been introduced. The first issue of the electronic version of the WSO newsletter is now going out—to 10 WSO members who are already signed up. Peterson had proposed the e-*Birder* because it could be a lot less expensive to distribute; WSO will weigh member response. Membership renewal forms will soon be sent out, said he. So far, WSO members have used renewal forms in the *Badger Birder*, and membership is two-thirds paid up. There were no questions or comments.

Bettie Harriman said that the WSO Publicity Committee had a dual report since Harriman now serves as *Passenger Pigeon* co-editor and Ursula Petersen, who is with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, took over in January 2004 and has been working to get the WSO display board and materials to new audiences.

The wintertime WSO symposia (Oshkosh, coldest, was on grassland birds; Green Bay, with a blizzard, focused on forest songbirds; and Stevens Point featured wetlands) will be renewed, said Harriman, now that our sponsorship of the Midwest Birding Symposium has ended. The WSO Symposium on Neotropical Migrants is taking place in Wisconsin Rapids, at the Hotel Mead, on 4–5 February 2005. Speaker Chandler Robbins will be accompanied by other discussions

of the migration phenomenon, such as using radar to determine location, analyzing isotopes to find out exactly which bird came from which place to which wintering site, and listening to night migration sounds (Bill Evans). The February 2005 symposium will be held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) annual meeting. Tidbits on the WSO Symposium on Neotropical Migrants will be coming across in future issues of the *Badger Birder.*

The appearance of "Research—Bob Howe" on the agenda led into Cutright's comment that Wisconsin has added another breeding bird species, the Eurasian Collared-Dove (while on the way to Honey Creek on 15 May, Cutright et al. had seen a female incubating in Arlington). WSO will continue adding to new breeding records with an online form on the WSO website under Research for such observations. Cutright and Howe (and Harriman *in absentia*) had dropped off 6 inches of the WBBA on the desk of University of Wisconsin Press on 30 April. He forecasts about 575 pages for "the first state atlas published with color photos." Editors will "now sit back and crank it through the channels."

Youth Education chair Barbara Duerksen said that she was excited about the 3 grants awarded, some ongoing into fall. She will talk later about her involvement in the WBCI Education subcommittee and the Bird Conservation Mentor Program, a new joint WSO/WBCI project.

Opening discussion of Old Business, Cutright asked Dr. Charlie Kemper if he were ready to share what happened at Wisconsin Point (on the 3-day preconvention trip involving 98 people on 2 buses). Kemper said that he hadn't really thought about it, but it reminded him of his brother's experience in World War II during the Blitzkrieg in London. The bombing was something terrible. A building was struck, and many people ran out; his brother asked one man, What happened? The man said, "I don't know—I flushed the toilet and the whole building fell down." Kemper said that the birders had left at 3:00 in the morning and rode for hours to Wisconsin Point. Once there, and as people were standing around, he thought he'd walk out to the beach to see what was happening with gulls and shorebirds and such. Kemper said he wasn't gone more than 10 minutes, but when he came back, 97 people had disappeared. Not knowing where everybody went, he turned to walk back to the buses, but no one was there either. Kemper walked 4.5 miles back to the road. He didn't think that the buses would leave without him, but if so, "What's Plan B?" He could hitchhike back to town, but probably people would think that someone walking along with binoculars around his neck was pretty strange. So Kemper asked some road workers, "Have you seen 2 buses go by?" He said that was all he knew, that Cutright would have to explain the rest. Cutright said that the buses had gone to meet the group at the Lighthouse, where, once everyone was loaded and ready to leave, someone asked, "Where's Charlie?" So 97 people went looking, park rangers went looking, and finally the road workers "found" Charlie. You never know what to expect on a preconvention trip, said Cutright.

Cutright turned to Vice President Jeff Baughman for the location and

date of the 2005 WSO Convention. Baughman spoke of the job of finding the next convention, looking over such potential sites as Horicon, Manitowish Waters, or Eagle River/ Rhinelander. The next WSO Convention, in 2005, he said, will be in Sheboygan, chaired by Scott Baughman. The date was still being decided, though it would probably be the third weekend of the month, 21–22 May 2005.

Cutright asked Tod Highsmith what the Nominating Committee (Highsmith, chair, with Barb Duerksen and Carl Schwartz) had achieved. What we achieved, said Highsmith, was to find a Vice President candidate to fill the slate of officers. The slate proposed is: Jeff Baughman, President; Dave Sample, Vice President; Christine Reel, Treasurer; Bettie and Neil Harriman, Editors; Jane Dennis, Secretary. It was moved and seconded that the slate of officers be accepted. The motion carried.

Opening New Business, just-elected WSO President Jeff Baughman asked attendees to "Give Noel a hand—he's really one of the reasons the organization is so successful." This was Cutright's second stint as president, Baughman said. After learning that Daryl Christensen couldn't take over, Cutright had agreed to serve for a year if Baughman would step in as President after one year. "The boat is floating real well right now," said Baughman, saying that he did not intend to "do anything new, just keep rowing." He does have a few ideas, which he will share with WSO membership at another meeting or on the "President's Page" of *The Passenger Pigeon*.

Baughman continued on the WSO Convention. The Sheboygan convention will probably have a 2-day preconvention bus trip. He and Scott Baughman had just started to talk. They will be asking some of the other local organizations such as the Sheboygan Audubon and Plymouth Bird Club for help and may get assistance from Riveredge Bird Club. It was suggested that WSO organizers take a survey of member reaction to a 2- or 3-day preconvention trip, that they get input via the *Badger Birder* whether birders like one or the other.

Baughman said that he had presented the idea of having a WSO Convention Committee to the Board of Directors. That is, he said, instead of getting a new list of people for each convention, WSO could "appoint" four or five volunteers to plan every convention, maybe on a rotating basis, and aim to go to different places. WSO would still need help from local people and places — "it would require YOU to help when the convention comes to your area"—but would not need locals to plan the whole thing each year. It was suggested that WSO focus the convention more on birding and put the papers/business meeting at a "less birdy," more nonmigratory time of year. Baughman said that he'd like to take advantage of June and nesting birds, that he'd suggested Eagle River because of local contacts (Jim Baughman) and Manitowish Waters (John Bates) because it's "one of the birdiest spots in the state."

Calling for other new business, it was announced that, starting 10 July 2005, WSO member Tom Uttech was having a "large show" at the Milwaukee Art Museum. "Magnetic North: The Landscapes of Tom Uttech" will be on view at the museum through 3

October. There will be a sizable article about Uttech in the next *Badger Birder.*

Bill Mueller announced that WSO Board was working to update the *WSO Speakers' Bureau* pamphlet. He asked that people contact either him or Christine Reel if they were willing to speak on birding or if they knew birder contact information.

It was moved that the annual business meeting be adjourned. The motion carried. President Baughman struck the gavel at 2:00 p.m.

[*A copy of the complete minutes is available from WSO Secretary, Jane Dennis, 138 S. Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-5248; 608. 231. 1741; jadennis@facstaff.wisc.edu.*]

Annual Reports of Officers

President–Noel Cutright—My one-year term has passed quickly. Recruiting and then engaging active Officers and Board of Directors members is critical to the success of any non-profit organization. The WSO leadership is blessed with a cadre of wonderfully committed and skilled individuals who are hard working and who are just plain nice folks to know and work with.

One of the Society's biggest headaches this year completely disappeared when Bettie and Neil Harriman stepped in and took over as Editors of *The Passenger Pigeon.* In a short time they have managed to crank out some high-quality issues and are on track to have our keystone publication on schedule very soon.

With Bettie busy with the *Pigeon,* she asked to be relieved of her Publicity chores, and we are fortunate to have Ursula Petersen step in as a very capable replacement. At the January Board meeting, a Historian's position was added to the Board, and I will assume this position, now that I've reached the age 60 mark, when Jeff Baughman takes over the President's gavel. The Society has a dedicated office in the Cofrin Arboretum Center for Biodiversity building at UW-Green Bay that will be used to store many of WSO's records and papers. At last year's annual meeting I announced that after 19 years I was stepping aside as the coordinator of the Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon. Carl Schwartz has done a wonderful job of taking this over without a glitch. I hope to review the now 20 years of the Birdathon/Bandathon in a future article in the *Pigeon.* One area where I've failed is to revitalize the Honey Creek committee. If anyone would like to volunteer to serve on this committee, please contact me or Jeff.

I've been busiest this year with completing the Breeding Bird Atlas manuscript along with Bettie Harriman and Bob Howe, who are co-editors, and with help from Tom Schultz, Dave Kuecherer, and other photographers, and Jennifer Davis heading up the Atlas office in Green Bay. The completed manuscript is now in the hands of the UW-Press in Madison.

You've heard about my "Quad 30 Campaign." So far, working through the early stages of this exciting project has been a labor of love, but the rubber is about ready to hit the road, and we'll see by the end of June whether or not "love" is still in my vocabulary.

I'm terribly excited with the leadership role that the WSO has played in helping the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) to get off the ground and realize some real suc-

cesses. I continue to believe firmly that the WBCI is the biggest thing to ever hit the ornithological scene in the state. Stay tuned!

Lastly, the WDNR has been challenged on many fronts over the past year with issues such as Mute Swan control, implementing a Mourning Dove hunting season, the Whooping Crane re-introduction program, dealing with a shrinking state budget, and much more. I've helped the WDNR prepare a revised and updated restoration and management plan for the Greater Prairie-Chicken; it's been a long journey that is nearing completion and one that WSO members will hear more about over the coming months and years. Suffice it to say, there are some huge issues surrounding this species, whose population is in a very precarious position in the state.

Vice President–Jeff Baughman—No report.

Secretary–Jane Dennis—As WSO Secretary in 2003–2004, I was privileged to attend The Midwest Birding Symposium 2003, sponsored by WSO, Eagle Optics, and *Birder's World*, in Green Bay, at the Regency Suites Hotel/KI Convention Center, 11–14 September 2003.

This Symposium benefitted the Greater Prairie-Chicken. By combining attendee and speaker donations, book and souvenir sales, and proceeds of two silent auctions, the 2003 Symposium collected over $8,000 for the Greater Prairie-Chicken Restoration Project, an effort organized by the Nature Conservancy of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to generate genetic diversity for a critically endangered species. With the help of matching funds from the Minnesota Prairie-Chicken Society ($10,000) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ($25,000), plus the addition of equipment (valued at $7,500) from the Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus, MBS 2003 contributed $50,000 to enhance the biological mixture of the Greater Prairie-Chicken in the Midwest.

This is why these symposia are held: To help the birds. Plus field trips and speakers and exhibitors and oh, what a show! The Midwest Birding Symposium 2005 and 2007 will be hosted in the Quad Cities under the direction of the Quad Cities Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Davenport, Iowa. Wish to see you there.

Treasurer–Christine Reel—1. Your outstanding generosity during 2003 led to the following successes:

- The Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon brought in $2,714 from 58 donors. Added to your direct contributions of $486, total support of Honey Creek came to $3,200. Compare that amount to Honey Creek expenses of $3,803, and your donations came close to supporting WSO's nature preserve. While it is not mandated that the property support itself, it is heartening that it very nearly does. You are to be applauded for your support of this natural area in the Baraboo Hills.
- Our year-end Unrestricted/Matching Funds Campaign brought in $8,502 (some funds were received during January and therefore do not appear in this Statement of Revenue). Added to the anonymous match of $5,000, the total came to $13,502 from 94 donors. Thank you again and again for your generous

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I. WSO Statement of Revenue and Expenses, 1999–2003

Unrestricted Revenue	**2003**	**2002**	**2001**	**2000**	**1999**
Birder Advertising	837.00	799.00	437.50	580.00	472.00
Convention	0	2,522.88	1,470.92	1,951.94	370.00
Donations					
Unrestricted	8,311.00	0	0	0	0
Other	1,665.46	2,012.00	926.00	1,181.22	357.67
Interest/Dividends	438.64	1,357.69	293.06	442.41	734.51
Investment Income	0	0	0	62,127.00	16,162.18
Membership Dues	37,058.00	31,088.25	25,366.00	28,097.79	27,088.71
Pigeon Subscr/Back Iss	813.00	879.92	456.00	296.98	545.50
WSO Pubs/Bookstore	6,486.74	8,950.50	2,968.67	1,137.08	2,379.93
Miscellaneous	0	0	11.40	163.30	100.00
Costa Rica Trip	0	6,038.20	19,200.00	21,860.00	7,800.00
Seminar	0	0	0	0	5,402.00
Total Unrestricted Revenue	**$55,609.84**	**$53,648.44**	**$51,129.55**	**$117,837.72**	**$61,412.50**

Expenses (Unrestr Rev)	**2003**	**2002**	**2001**	**2000**	**1999**
Administration	297.92	477.50	63.75	478.71	603.75
Awards	289.00	114.60	218.49	0	104.02
Bird Reports Coord	156.77	51.16	118.52	772.80	1,030.66
Birder Mailing	1,994.30	1,425.51	2,477.51	2,730.62	2,829.16
Birder Printing	4,467.01	8,550.74	5,894.82	10,716.46	6,672.99
Convention	0	1,280.00	400.00	400.00	800.00
Field Trips	0	0	0	194.35	192.46
Hotline	75.60	88.45	90.50	254.80	198.08
Membership	1,437.95	1,274.69	2,398.59	2,174.85	2,009.54
Pigeon Mailing	1,305.85	1,757.42	1,742.97	3,206.62	2,620.76
Pigeon Printing	8,625.99	13,849.04	17,569.44	29,570.73	24,700.78
President	0	0	0	20.90	32.00
Publicity	185.00	647.75	401.06	665.23	691.87
Records	166.89	220.53	176.04	252.68	27.00
Schol/Grants	2,950.00	2,000.00	1,350.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Treasurer	529.27	208.81	0	60.80	89.70
WSO Pubs/Bookstore	1,048.96	1,155.75	1,824.37	680.82	390.00
Haunts	0	0	780.00	55,765.06	297.69
Printing	7,179.30	157.80	0	1,130.91	5,224.60
Youth	140.36	0	100.84	288.97	333.16
Miscellaneous*	900.00	663.80	0	0	3,047.21
Costa Rica Trip	0	19,888.20	5,555.63	21,566.00	8,175.00
Robbins Trip	0	0	0	0	3,043.40
Seminar	0	0	0	0	6,397.97
Total Expenses (Unrestr Rev)	**$31,750.17**	**$53,811.75**	**$41,162.53**	**$132,931.31**	**$71,511.80**

* Miscellaneous support during 2003:
American Bird Conservancy, $150
Canada Goose Symposium, $250
Conservation through Birding Summit, $250
Wisconsin Outdoor Alliance, $250

(Continued)

Restricted Revenue	**2003**	**2002**	**2001**	**2000**	**1999**
Endowment					
Donations	161.00	292.00	183.00	161.00	827.00
Interest/Dividends	43.62	0	0	0	0
Life Memberships	4,000.00	1,450.00	2,200.00	1,700.00	3,325.00
Honey Creek	210.00	0	0	0	0
Donations	486.00	1,340.45	936.00	1,191.00	1,692.50
Bandathon	2,713.73	2,503.70	2,440.00	2,640.38	3,118.50
Memorials	275.00	2,235.00	757.67	150.00	195.00
Schol/Grants					
Donations	2,831.54	2,832.00	834.22	1,813.55	1,410.50
Haunts Sales	3,228.00	5,838.00	12,079.00	12,811.00	0
Youth Schol/Grant Dons	246.00	135.00	318.00	642.00	587.70
Other Donations	211.55	0	0	0	0
Haunts	0	250.00	500.00	474.94	0
Pigeon	0	0	0	1,500.00	0
Robbins Trip	0	0	0	0	4,335.00
Total Restricted Revenue	**$14,406.44**	**$16,876.15**	**$20,247.89**	**$23,083.87**	**$15,491.20**

Expenses (Restr Rev)	**2003**	**2002**	**2001**	**2000**	**1999**
Honey Creek	4,013.11	3,527.94	3,685.73	3,712.28	3,228.94
Youth Schol/Grants	100.00	388.28	0	790.00	570.00
Miscellaneous	43.00		0	0	
Total Expenses (Restr Rev)	**$4,156.11**	**$3,916.22**	**$3,685.73**	**$4,502.28**	**$3,798.94**

II. Grants Administered by WSO and Other Non-budget Projects, 1999–2003

	2003	**2002**	**2001**	**2000**	**1999**
Atlas Income	7,486.34	34,313.73	54,547.84	8,260.85	58,923.18
Atlas Expenses	-25,960.09	-34,440.55	-7,884.73	-36,591.01	-68,441.98
Bald Eagle Grant Inc	3,623.30				
Bald Eagle Grant Exp	-3,623.30				
IBA Quad 30 Campaign Inc	150.00				
IBA Quad 30 Campaign Exp	0				
MBS/CTB Summit Inc	83,416.07	5,029.20	93,967.77	2,000.00	
MBS/CTB Summit Exp	-90,935.33	-23.78	-93,463.64	-592.62	
Nicaragua Field Gd Inc	490.00				
Nicaragua Field Gd Exp	-490.00				
Nicaragua Grant Inc	0	10,000.00			
Nicaragua Grant Exp	-3,285.65	-6,714.35			
1 Bird 2 Habitats Grant Inc	0	120.00	0	2,721.44	
1 Bird 2 Habitats Grant Exp	0	0	-181.60	0	
Osprey Grant Inc	11,050.00	13,000.00			2,000.00
Osprey Grant Exp	-6,359.46	-8,142.48			-2,000.00
SRSEF Inc	1,353.35	1,062.52	3,643.33	4,613.52	
SRSEF Exp	0	0	0	-300.00	
WBCI IBA Coord Inc	20,000.00				
WBCI IBA Coord Exp	-16,635.69				
WBCI Pub Rels Inc	15,525.00				
WBCI Pub Rels Exp	-12,149.33				

(Continued)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (Continued)

III. WSO Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2003

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Cash (Checking)	2,924.12	2,582.70	2,822.52	2,612.27	1,085.88
Bookstore	6,805.88	6,043.44	0	0	0
Slides	7,156.64	7,007.79	0	0	0
General Savings	78,391.40	34,873.01	28,987.33	17,890.65	3,615.85
Money Mkt	17,146.24	17,037.90	0	0	957.38
Endowment Savings	10,302.60	16,120.98	3,982.44	1,559.35	7,136.37
Money Mkt	43,494.39	36,646.21	50,025.56	50,025.56	50,025.56
Schol/Grants Savings	0	0	0	0	15,300.00
MBS Savings	0	7,520.05	2,504.13	0	0
Atlas Savings	55,391.85	70,363.31	70,490.13	23,161.20	51,630.37
SRSEF Savings	3,817.40	2,867.70	3,991.50	5,000.00	0
CD	17,793.71	17,587.38	15,000.00	0	0
WSO Pubs/Bkst Inventory	27,081.61	26,455.11	44,888.65	59,640.03	18,587.30
Slides Inventory	1,590.02	1,609.85	8,164.20	7,546.05	8,040.32
Fixed Assets (Equip)	2,745.00	6,569.61	8,919.10	8,919.10	8,919.10
Fixed Assets (Land)	27,665.00	31,895.13	31,895.13	31,895.13	31,895.13
Total	**$302,305.86**	**$285,180.17**	**$271,670.69**	**$208,249.34**	**$197,193.26**

response. We expect these funds to help us meet our expenses during the next several years, as we continue to search for ways to reduce expenses while maintaining an important presence in Wisconsin's natural community.

2. Concern regarding expenses related to *The Badger Birder* and *The Passenger Pigeon*, our two greatest areas of regular operating expenditures, has been ongoing. We are pleased that *The Passenger Pigeon* is frequently complimented as one of the best journals of its type. However, the struggle to find a balance between the high quality of our publications and keeping expenses in line with income keeps your Board of Directors thinking. (Hence the recent implementation of e-Badger Birder availability.) The breakdown during 2003 is as follows:

Pigeon–

Expenses for 2003 (2 issues) . . . $9,932

Expenses if the usual 4 issues had been paid for . . . $19,864;

Birder–

Expenses for 2003 (12 issues) . . . $6,461

Expenses if the usual 11 issues had been paid for . . . $5,923

Total publication costs . . . $25,787

Per-recipient annual cost (based on 1200 copies per issue) . . . $21.49

3. A large number of WSO members have made Life Membership payments during 2003. All Life payments go directly into our Endowment Fund (as directed by our By-laws), to increase the underlying financial grid on which our organization stands.

4. To facilitate better understanding, the Statement of Revenue and Expenses has been separated into two parts: unrestricted revenue and the expenses that are paid from those funds, and restricted revenue and related expenses. Although complete accuracy isn't possible because some funds fall into both categories, this separation should give members a

clearer indication of what funds are available to pay our general operating expenses (see the unrestricted categories).

Editors, The Passenger Pigeon–Bettie and Neil Harriman—In 2003 at the annual meeting, Dreux Watermolen was elected to the position of editor of *The Passenger Pigeon.* Unfortunately, the time commitment for his job with the Department of Natural Resources increased about that time and he was unable to produce the journal in a timely fashion. Therefore, in the fall of 2003, Tod Highsmith, the previous editor, stepped in to get volume 65, numbers 1 & 2 published, and Bettie and Neil Harriman volunteered to become the new editors.

The first issue by the Harrimans [Vol. 65(3)] was mailed to members in late March 2004. As this is being written Volume 65 (4) is in the page proof stage and the editors hope it will be in the members' hands long before you are reading this report at the May 2004 convention.

The first number for volume 66 is currently at the typesetter and should follow 65(4) quickly. Once members receive that issue, *The Passenger Pigeon* will be back on schedule. Bettie and Neil intend to keep it as close to the expected time-table as possible.

We wish to thank the members of WSO for their understanding and patience during the transition with the *Pigeon.*

The editors do have one plea to everyone—we need material for the journal if we are to get it out to you on time with any content to speak of. We can only publish what we receive, so please consider writing articles, poems, and other bird-related subjects for the Pigeon. Contact the editors if you have any questions about how to produce a manuscript for the journal: bettie@vbe.com for Bettie and harriman@uwosh.edu for Neil.

Annual Reports of Committee Chairs

Awards–Daryl Tessen—Awards to be announced at convention banquet.

Badger Birder Editor–Mary Uttech—Completed 11 issues of the newsletter.

Bird Reports Coordinator–Wayne Rohde—Since this is my first written annual report as Bird Reports Coordinator, I'd like to clarify two important matters. First, Bird Reports Coordinator is the new title of the position previously known as Associate Editor of *The Passenger Pigeon.* Second, a special thanks is due Jan Hansen, my predecessor, who made the transition for assuming this responsibility a smooth one. Jan helped me in several vital ways, through phone calls, e-mail messages, a personal meeting in Green Bay, and the preparation of various reporting forms—complete with instructions concerning all facets of their use. His efforts on my behalf were marked by excellence, thoroughness and patience. Any flaws in this system are my responsibility, not Jan's.

During the first year and a half of filling this role, my primary attention has been focused on sending out the various seasonal reporting forms, gleaning important data from completed forms and from observations shared via the Wisconsin Bird Net, preparing quarterly reports of significant sightings for *North American Birds (NAB),* and forwarding appropriate materials to the Seasonal Editors of *The Passenger Pigeon* and to WSO's

Records Committee. Though paperwork and data entry of this type can be rather tedious endeavors, the reward of the 240 hours I invest in these tasks per year is the perspective I gain by which to see what's happening relative to birds and birding in Wisconsin. Simply stated, this job is an education, in and of itself.

But I do not labor alone. The work of the *Pigeon* Seasonal Editors (Karl David, Kenneth Lange, Mark Peterson and Thomas Soulen) and the Records Committee (headed by Jim Frank) is an enormous task, and I invite you to join me in my admiration of and gratitude for those who faithfully serve in these capacities. Thanks is also due to Thomas Sykes, Jim Williams and Bettie Harriman, of "wisbirdn," each of whom fielded and helped me with several questions, and to Bob Domagalski, whose skill and zeal in maintaining details of early and late records, along with key information generated by his careful review of the Christmas Bird Count results, greatly enrich the seasonal reports I submit to *NAB*.

My next item of attention, to be completed during calendar 2004, concerns further revision of all WSO reporting forms, including making them more user-friendly—especially in light of an increasing desire by field reporters to fill them out electronically. To that end, Jeff Baughman, Jim Baughman and Thomas Schultz all deserve credit, each in different ways, for assisting me with this process. Results of this project and an explanation of the new forms will be included in future mailings of forms, as well as in *The Badger Birder*.

As Jan mentioned in his last annual report, many areas of Wisconsin are underreported, while other areas are—strange as it may seem—"over reported." It's my desire that additional field birders in the former portions of the state be encouraged to submit regular seasonal reports, and that those in the latter parts of the state give consideration (as Jan suggested) to a mechanism which avoids redundancy of reporting through the utilization of a point person for such areas, to receive reports from birders in these areas before submitting a summary to me. Finally, never hesitate to call or e-mail me regarding any questions, concerns or suggestions you have relative to Wisconsin birding records: wsrohde@genevaonline.com, or 262. 275. 5548.

Bookstore–Joan Sommer—The bookstore had a very good year. Annual sales reached $18, 871.25 in combined sales between our in-house inventory and the online bookstore.

Our Joy of Wisconsin Birding T-shirts were a big hit with our membership and other Wisconsin birders. Several new books of interest to state birders were published in 2003 and sales of these titles through the bookstore were brisk. These titles include: *Birdsong Ear Training Guide* (CD); *Birds of Minnesota and Wisconsin*; *Wisconsin Naturally: A Guide to 150 great State Natural Areas*; and *Wisconsin's Natural Communities*.

Additionally, WSO published new editions of the Wisconsin Field Checklist and *Wisconsin Birds: Checklist with Graphs* (the Blue Book, formerly known as the Red Book).

Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts continues to sell steadily even three and a half years out from publication. In order to encourage more birders to take advantage of the vast information gathered in *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird*

Haunts, the WSO Board recently agreed to a discounted price. As of May 1, 2004, the price of Haunts was discounted to $25.00. We hope many of you will take advantage of the new price.

The bookstore continues to do steady business. I would encourage you to purchase your birding books through the WSO Bookstore. It is a non-profit organization which exists solely to meet your needs for birding information. Purchasing your birding books and other birding materials through the WSO Bookstore offers a way for you to support the WSO and to obtain the materials you need at a reasonable cost.

Please let me know if you have any comments or suggestions on the bookstore. I value your input and am here to serve your needs. I look forward to seeing many of you in the field this coming year.

Conservation–Bill Mueller—As Conservation Chair during this past year, I

- Attended three board meetings.
- Represented WSO on the Urban/Suburban Habitat Subcommittee of WBCI, which continued work on the plan for Lakeshore State Park (on Milwaukee's Harbor Island), and beginning development of a plan and criteria for a "Bird City" recognition program.
- Chaired the Issues Committee of WBCI. This committee focused on a number of areas this year, including
  - Planning and organizing a symposium on gull management, held in Milwaukee in March of '04, which was attended by 67 representatives from local governments, state and federal agencies, the University of Wisconsin, the WI Humane Society and other private organizations. The symposium focused on increasing gull populations in the western Great Lakes region, problems caused by these increases, gull-related sources of bacterial contamination at Lake Michigan beaches, the management permit application process, gull management and the law, humane and effective management options for gull species, and case studies of successful management.
  - Raising awareness of the threat posed to birds by feral and free-ranging cats. This included instituting a new survey of feral and free-ranging cats, done on the 2003–04 Christmas Bird Counts, creation of a WBCI bookmark to promote education about cats and birds, and beginning work on a WBCI "white paper" on cats and birds.
  - Minimizing window strikes and associated bird mortality and injuries.
- Submitted a "Conservation Notes" column for *The Badger Birder*.
- Represented WSO on the State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan Advisory Team.
- Represented WSO on the American Bird Conservancy Policy Council, as a signatory to actions dealing with Mute Swan control, mountaintop mining and its effect on bird populations, and EPA's responsibility regarding pesticides and their effect on birds.
- Represented WSO, providing comments on the Wisconsin Statewide Forest Plan.
- Took the WSO display to Milwaukee Audubon's Natural Landscaping

Conference at UW-Milwaukee in February, and the Milwaukee Public Museum's Environmental Awareness Fair in April.

Education–Mariette Nowak—During the past year, I have worked on the final editing of my brochure entitled "Beyond the Birdfeeder: Creating a Bird-Friendly Yard with Native Wisconsin Plants." With help from both Christine Reel and Robert Howe, illustrations for the brochure were chosen, including one drawing by Thomas Schultz which was previously published in *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts*, 3rd edition. Christine Reel did an outstanding job in designing the brochure and the printing of the brochure was generously funded by the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. The brochure can also be found on the WSO website.

I have also given several slide programs on birdscaping for bird clubs in Racine, Wisconsin, and DuPage County, Illinois.

In addition, I have coordinated a series of spring birding hikes in the South Kettle Moraine State Forest. I also represented the WSO with its display and educational materials, at the dedication of the new entrance station at the Ottawa Lake Campground in the South Kettle Moraine State Forest last summer.

Field Trips–Jeff Baughman and Tom Schultz—Presented a full roster of popular and successful field trips.

Membership–Jesse Peterson—As the graphics indicate, membership continued to trend downward in 2003. While membership levels remain healthy, this trend generates concern. To attempt to reverse this downward trend, we are working to increase awareness of WSO and, hopefully, increase membership. Activities are already showing promise in the form of

Total membership at calendar year end:

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Single	752	737	730	718	700	726	738	685	572	494
Family	385	372	361	353	380	344	358	351	304	282
Sustaining	89	96	86	63	51	56	50	49	40	34
Life (1 of 4)	10	8	3	8	9	9	10	3	2	0
Life (2 of 4)									2	2
Life (3 of 4)									1	2
Life-Couple (1 of 4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Life-Couple (2 of 4)									0	0
Life-Couple (3 of 4)									0	0
Life	93	99	107	107	110	119	120	126	130	132
Life-Couple	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Patron	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	7	7
Senior	58	46	50	49	41	41	60	79	126	131
Youth								6	6	7
Library	46	46	47	49	44	43	41	41	41	36
Exchange	42	47	48	48	48	46	46	46	47	47
Honorary Life	6	6	6	5	4	3	3	4	2	2
Board	2	5	8	8	18	12	5	4	3	3
Total	**1489**	**1468**	**1452**	**1414**	**1411**	**1404**	**1437**	**1400**	**1283**	**1182**

Membership Renewal Status (as of 4/30/2004):

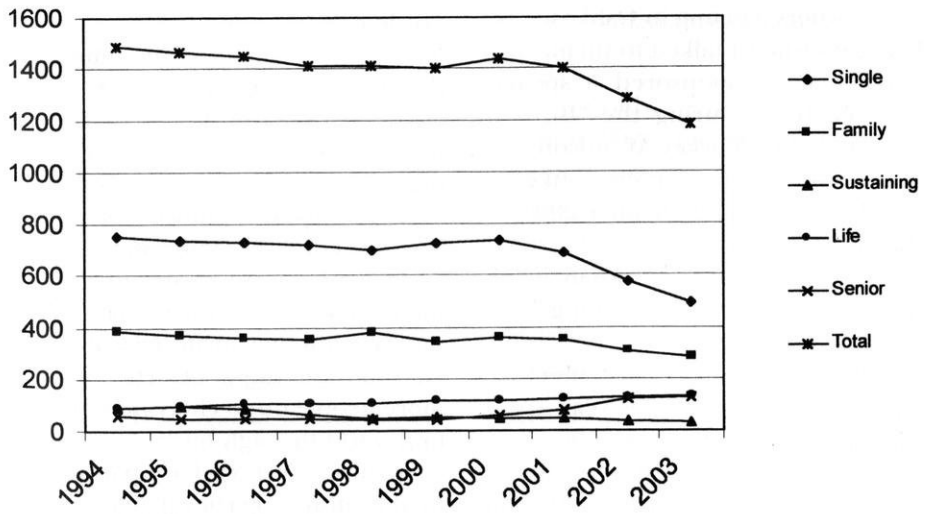
	Paid thru 2003	Renewed for 2004	% Renewed	New Members
Single	494	314	64%	29
Family	282	190	67%	19
Sustaining	34	25	74%	2
Life (1 of 4)	0	0	0%	0
Life (2 of 4)	2	2	100%	0
Life (3 of 4)	2	1	50%	0
Life-Couple (1 of 4)	2	1	50%	0
Life-Couple (2 of 4)	0	0	0%	0
Life-Couple (3 of 4)	0	0	0%	0
Senior	131	82	63%	1
Youth	7	3	43%	1
Library	36	33	92%	0
Subtotal	990	651	66%	52
Life	132			
Life-Couple	1			
Patron	7			
Honorary Life	2			
Board	3			
Exchange	47			
Subtotal	192			
Grand Total	**1182**			

increased numbers of new members (52 so far in calendar year 2004 vs. 32 at the same time last year).

Activities and accomplishments throughout the past year include:

- Published new Membership Brochure
- Met with various people to develop marketing and membership improvement ideas

Membership Trends, 1994–2003:



- Along with other board members, distributed Membership Brochures to several state parks
- Took over publication and mailing of The Badger Birder
- With help from Mary Uttech, introduced the e-Badger Birder, an electronic version of the WSO newsletter
- Reviewed and cleaned up the publication exchange program
- Managed the annual membership renewal activity

Publicity–Bettie Harriman and Ursula Petersen—

Bettie Harriman: Since this time last year, the WSO display and free educational materials, and sometimes items for sale, were present at the Southern Kettle Moraine open house at Ottawa Lake (thanks to Mariette Nowak), the Midwest Birding Symposium in Green Bay on 11–13 September 2003 (thanks to all who helped staff the booth), and the annual meeting of the Fox Valley Wild Ones in Oshkosh on 24 January 2004 (where I also gave a presentation). In addition, WSO handouts were available at the Wisconsin Woodland Owners meeting in Oshkosh on 7 February when I talked to them.

WSO again sponsored a speaker and reception during the "Birds in Art" at Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum when Gene Jacobs spoke on bird banding on 12 October 2003, "A Bird in Hand."

I assisted Ron Windingstad in obtaining prizes for the Matching Fund campaign this past fall.

I attended three Board meetings while Publicity Chair this year, spoke with numerous reporters about birds or WSO, and continue to serve on the Outreach Committee of the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, as well as the IBA Committee and the Coordinating Council.

I turned over the printing, folding, and mailing of *The Badger Birder* to Jesse Peterson after the December 2003 issue.

When my husband Neil and I agreed to become the editors for *The Passenger Pigeon*, I did so on the condition that someone else would become Publicity Chair. I was delighted when Ursula Petersen stepped forward to take on this responsibility. I am very comfortable that she will do a superb job for WSO and that you will offer her all the support and assistance that you gave to me. A huge personal THANK YOU to every member who has been a part of the publicity work of WSO while I have been doing this job.

Ursula Petersen: My term as WSO's publicity chair began in January '04. Mainly I'm coordinating use of the display and handout materials for various events where public participation and bird interests might intersect. I'm personally committed to including the non-birding community as much as possible. Suggestions from you regarding potential functions that might use the display to advantage are sought. Help with transportation of the display and materials, and display attendance to explain about birds and answer questions are much appreciated since we cover the entire state. A small budget takes care of necessary costs for conference attendance and printing of additional materials. We hope all our combined efforts will turn more people on to cherishing the natural world through birds.

So far in 2004, we have participated in the annual Fertilizer, Aglime and

Pesticide conference in Madison, a UW-Milwaukee presentation, and the Gull Management conference in Milwaukee. Quite a few WSO flyers were taken at the FAP conference. By May 1, we anticipate attending 3 more events including the Environmental Awareness Fair at Milwaukee Museum 4/17, Waukesha's Earth Day 4/24, and the Upper Mississippi Birding Festival starting 4/30. Seven more events are scheduled beyond that through fall '04. We may not get to all of these unless we go to a flying display. We are talking about developing a second display set.

Thanks very much to Bettie for helping me along the way; to Bill Mueller for transporting the display to events; also to Bettie, Bill and Mariette Novak for attending and presenting programs at events.

Records–Jim Frank—

	Records Reviewed	Records Accepted
Winter 2002–2003	34	31
Spring 2003	32	26
Summer 2003	12	8
Fall 2003	57	46
Total	**135**	**111**

The Official Wisconsin list is now at 422 species with the addition of the Black-tailed Gull. Added to the Hypothetical State List was a Rock Wren. Also posted for the year were the second state record for Lewis's Woodpecker and a second state record for Green Violet-ear based on photos from 2002.

Committee members for the year were Bob Domagalski, Scott Baughman, Dan Belter, Mark Korducki, and Jim Frank.

Research–Robert Howe—No report.

Scholarships and Grants–Janine Polk—Steenbock Award, for beginners, amateurs and independent researchers, to fund almost any type of meaningful bird-related project:

- Kenneth F. Damro, Chimney Swift Traditional Nesters Research Project
- Linda L. Johnson, MAPS station—Marquette Co. Wisconsin
- Mark Jung, Wood Duck nest video project
- Norma Rudesill, Yellow-headed Blackbird survey—Polk and St. Croix Counties

Nelson Grants, established through a 1993 bequest from the Charles and Mary Nelson family, for ornithological research involving wetlands:

- Julie C. Garvin, "Extra-pair mate choice and immune response in Common Yellowthroats"
- Matthew A. Hayes, "Extra-pair paternity within a population of Sandhill Cranes in south-central Wisconsin"

WSO Grants, to provide additional support for work that is being carried out and funded through another program:

- Ryan Brady, "Chequamegon Bay Raptor Migration Survey and Education Program"
- Jon Motquin, "Economic Impact Analysis of Recreational Bird Watching in the Horicon Marsh"
- William E. Stout, "Urban Cooper's Hawk Nesting Study in the Metropolitan Milwaukee Area"

Website–Jennifer Davis—Continued to maintain WSO website including: posting the Annual Convention information; posting items in the Impor-

tant Dates section; posting articles from *The Badger Birder* to the Birder News section; archiving Hotline Reports (Jane Dennis prepares the reports for the web); posting the Table of Contents from each issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*; updating Bird/Nature Organization entries; updating WSO Administrators and Committee Chairs; updating the WSO State Checklist; updating and revising the Christmas Count page; updating the Bookstore page; and updating and revising the online forms.

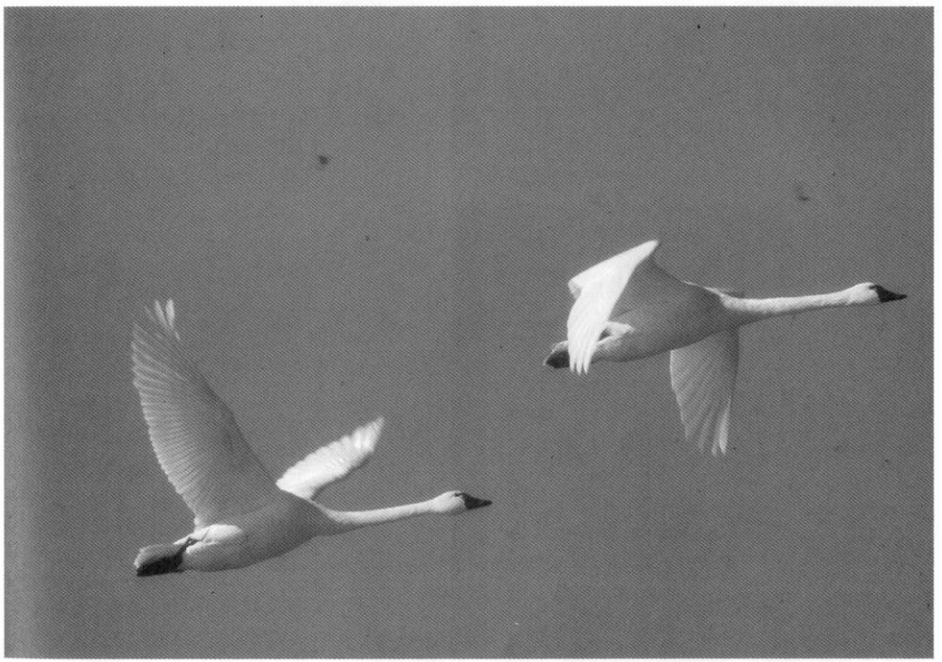
Youth Education–Barbara Duerksen— In April 2004, the WSO Youth Grant Program awarded three grants:

1. Mike Bembenek, middle school student from the Rosholt School District, to survey birds in the Benn Conservancy, create a brochure for students and community, and teach first graders about the birds in the conservancy.
2. Leah Schmitz and Tanisha Thomas from Frank Allis Elementary School in Madison, for their project, "The Frank Allis Prairie Restoration Bird Watching Club."
3. Quentin Eberhardy, Mosinee, for his first grade class of St. Peter Lutheran School in Schofield to learn about birds and study the birds in their school yard.

Youth Grants are awarded in spring and fall for bird research or education. We received no youth grant applications for last September's grant cycle.

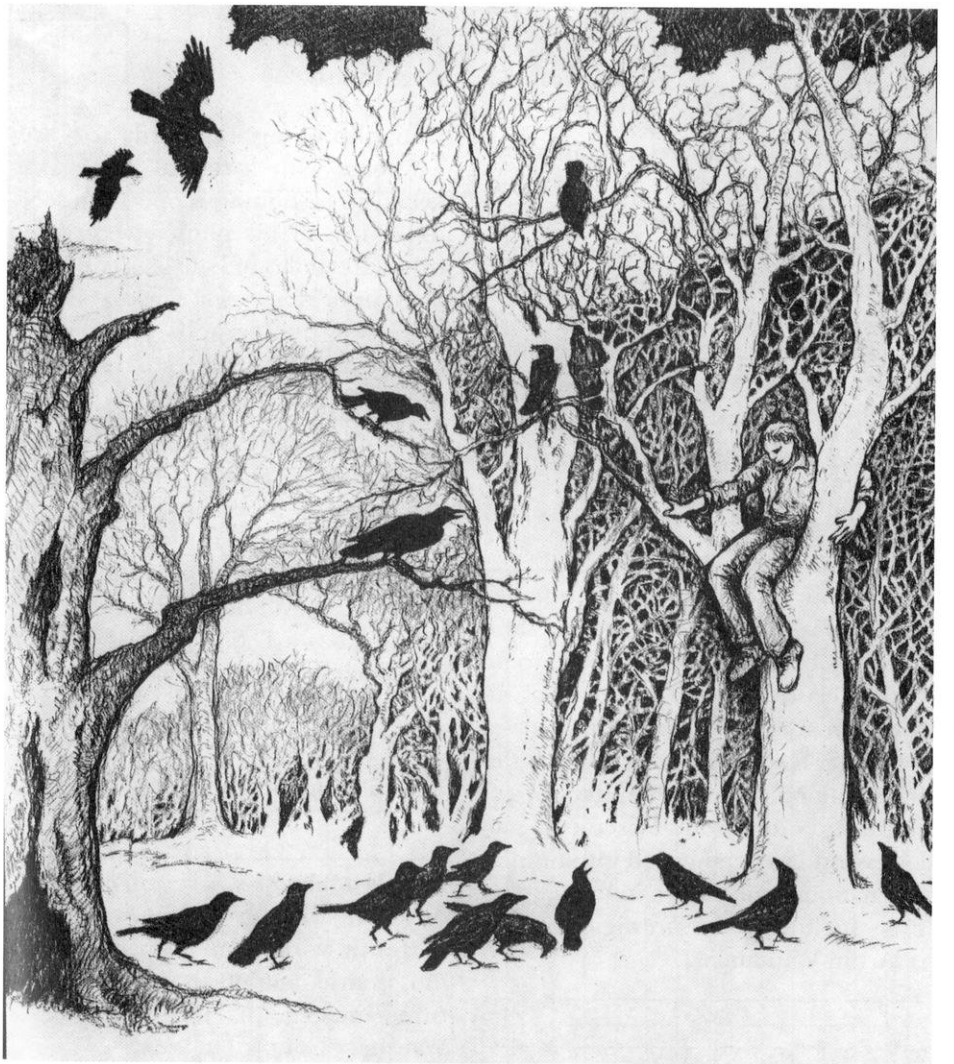
Youth Education Coordinator activities of the past year:

- held outdoor bird conservation workshops as a part of the Richland County Conservation Field Days for sixth graders, with 217 students attending;
- attended the Midwest Birding Symposium in Green Bay in September and served as judge for one of the teams in the Super Bowl of Birding, a birding competition for middle school students;
- attended education subcommittee meetings of WBCI, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative;
- worked with Steve Kupcho and Ron Windingstad on planning and fundraising for The Bird Conservation Mentor Program, a new joint project of WSO and WBCI. This will be a volunteer-based project to introduce students and others to the common birds of Wisconsin and their habitats, in the classroom and outdoors.



Tundra Swans *by Jack Bartholmai*

Belted Kingfisher *by Dennis Kuecherer*



Woman with Crows *by Judith Huf*

About the Artists

Jack R. Bartholmai is an amateur wildlife photographer and wood sculptor. His current focus is photographing the birds of Dodge County, his home territory since 1972. His works appears frequently in local newspapers, travel brochures, calendars, maps, bird publications, and in numerous talks and articles on birds. He is an active member of the Horicon Bird Club.

Janet Flynn interprets nature in watercolor as a full time endeavor. She finds the beautiful Baraboo Hills to be both a classroom and a source of inspiration for her vibrant, unique watercolors. Her work is marketed at the International Crane Foundation gift shop and numerous Wisconsin galleries and has been juried into numerous national and international exhibitions including the prestigious Birds in Art in Wausau, WI.

Judith Huf has worked as an artist in many fields, from painting to sculpture to technical and scientific illustration and creating exhibits for nature centers and museums. She has a lifelong interest in natural history, especially birds.

Gary Krogman, of Eau Claire, has been photographing birds for over two years with a digital camera attached to a spotting scope (digi-scoping). Most of his photos were taken within 100 miles of Eau Claire. Besides birds, butterflies are a favorite subject for Gary to photograph.

Major Dennis R. Kuecherer retired from the US Army in 1992 and then spent nine years doing breeding bird surveys for the Department of the Interior, WDNR, and the WSO. Dennis has been an avid birder for most of his life and has a U.S. Lower 48 total of 702 species. Besides drawing, his other hobby is woodcarving wild flowers. This life member of WSO currently lives in Salmon, Idaho.

Dennis Malueg is a serious amateur bird and wildlife photographer. He currently works from his backyard studio, prairie, and 80-acre forest to capture images of birds native to Waushara County.

Scott Schiller is a self-taught artist with a Bachelor's degree in biology from Ripon College whose colored pencil art has been featured in two solo exhibitions. Samples of his trademark realism can be seen at his web site at www.schillerstudios.com.

United States Postal Service

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
The Passenger Pigeon	4 2 _ 2 8 2 0	09/01/2004
4. Issue Frequency	**5. Number of Issues Published Annually**	**6. Annual Subscription Price**
Quarterly	4	$25 - $30

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication *(Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)*
2022 Sherryl Lane
Waukesha (Waukesha County), WI 53188-3142

Contact Person: Christine Reel
Telephone: 262-547-6128

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher *(Not printer)*
same as above

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor *(Do not leave blank)*

Publisher *(Name and complete mailing address)*
The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc.
2022 Sherryl Lane
Waukesha, WI 53188-3142

Editor *(Name and complete mailing address)*
Neil and Bettie Harriman
5188 Bittersweet Lane
Oshkosh (Winnebago County), WI 54901-9753

Managing Editor *(Name and complete mailing address)*
none

10. Owner *(Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)*

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc.	2022 Sherryl Lane Waukesha, WI 53188-3142

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box → ☒ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status *(For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)*
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months *(Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)*

PS Form **3526**, October 1999 *(See Instructions on Reverse)*

311

13. Publication Title: The Passenger Pigeon	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 06/29/2004 - Spring 2004	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	**Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months**	**No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date**
a. Total Number of Copies *(Net press run)*	1088	1120
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541. *(Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)*	1037	1076
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 *(Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)*	0	0
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution	0	0
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	7	7
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation *[Sum of 15b. (1), (2),(3),and (4)]* ▶	1044	1083
d. Free Distribution by Mail *(Samples, complimentary, and other free)* (1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541	1	1
d. Free Distribution by Mail *(Samples, complimentary, and other free)* (2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541	1	1
d. Free Distribution by Mail *(Samples, complimentary, and other free)* (3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	0	0
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail *(Carriers or other means)*	5	5
f. Total Free Distribution *(Sum of 15d. and 15e.)* ▶	7	7
g. Total Distribution *(Sum of 15c. and 15f)* ▶	1051	1090
h. Copies not Distributed	37	30
i. Total *(Sum of 15g. and h.)* ▶	1088	1120
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation *(15c. divided by 15g. times 100)*	96.0%	96.7%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☒ Publication required. Will be printed in the Fall 2004 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Christine A. Reel — Treasurer — Date: 09/01/2004

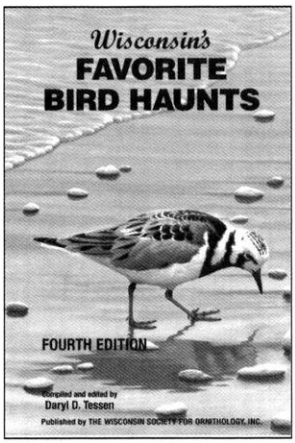
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Instructions to Publishers

1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
4. Item 15h., Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newsstand copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3), copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.
5. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
6. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
7. Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.

PS Form **3526**, October 1999 *(Reverse)*



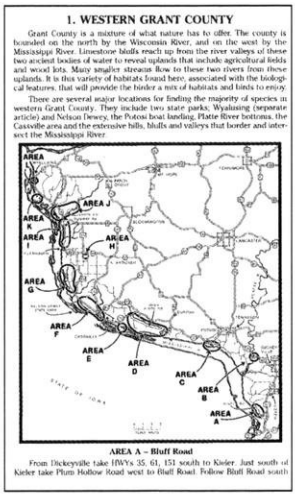
Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts,

Fourth Edition (2000)

Compiled and edited by Daryl Tessen with contributions from birders throughout the state. Features artwork by Thomas Schultz, David Kuecherer, Rockne Knuth, Judith Huf, and Jeannie Perry.

- Covers all 72 counties
- Contains 135 favorite haunts, detailing more than 1,000 areas
- Includes detailed directions as well as a map for each location
- Features some 45 bird illustrations, 15 of them in color
- Includes a list of 400 valid Wisconsin state species and 15 hypothetical species (current as of January 2000)

This book, designed for durability and functionality, is printed on heavy coated paper and has a spiral binding so it lies flat when open. 6″ by 9″. 544 pages.



1. WESTERN GRANT COUNTY

Grant County is a mixture of what nature has to offer. The county is bounded on the north by the Wisconsin River, and on the west by the Mississippi River. Limestone bluffs reach up from the river valleys of these two ancient bodies of water to reveal uplands that include agricultural fields and wood lots. Many smaller streams flow to these two rivers from these uplands. It is this variety of habitats found here, associated with the biological features, that will provide the birder a mix of habitats and birds to enjoy.

There are several major locations for finding the majority of species in western Grant County. They include two state parks, Wyalusing (separate article) and Nelson Dewey, the Potosi boat landing, Platte River bottoms, the Cassville area and the extensive hills, bluffs and valleys that border and intersect the Mississippi River.

AREA A – Bluff Road

From Dickeyville take HWYs 35, 61, 151 south to Kieler. Just south of Kieler take Plum Hollow Road west to Bluff Road. Follow Bluff Road south

---

Contact WSO Bookstore for price and ordering information.
262-692-6085 or jsommer2@wi.rr.com

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is an educational and scientific non-profit organization founded in 1939 "to encourage the study of Wisconsin birds." The Society achieves this goal through programs in research, education, conservation, and publication.

OFFICERS (2003–2004)

President* Jeffrey L. Baughman, W2640 Middle Road, Campbellsport, WI 53010; 920. 477. 2442; jbaughman@csd.k12.wi.us

Vice President* David W. Sample, 1816 Vilas Avenue, Madison, WI 53711; 608. 257. 1011; djsample@chorus.net

Secretary* Jane A. Dennis, 138 S. Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-5248; 608. 231. 1741; jadennis@facstaff.wisc.edu

Treasurer* Christine Reel, 2022 Sherryl Lane, Waukesha, WI 53188-3142; 262. 547. 6128; dcreel@execpc.com

Editors* Bettie and Neil Harriman, 5188 Bittersweet Lane, Oshkosh, WI 54901-9753; 920. 233. 1973; bettie@vbe.com; harriman@uwosh.edu

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (2003-2004)

Annual Convention (2005) Scott Baughman, 3043 Rolling Meadows Drive, Sheboygan, WI 53083-8107; 920. 457. 5574; baughman@milwpc.com

Awards* Daryl D. Tessen, 3118 N. Oneida Street, Appleton, WI 54911; 920. 735. 9903; bhaunts@core.com

Bird Reports Coordinator* Wayne Rohde, W6488 Beloit Road, Walworth, WI 53184; 262. 275. 5548; wsrohde@genevaonline.com

Badger Birder* Mary Uttech, 4305 Hwy. O, Saukville, WI 53080; 262. 675. 6482; muttech@asq.org

Book Store* Joan Sommer, 114 S. Milwaukee Street, Fredonia, WI 53021; 262. 692. 6085; jsommer2@wi.rr.com

Conservation* William P. Mueller, 1242 S. 45th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53214; 414. 643. 7279; iltlawas@earthlink.net

Education* Mariette Nowak, N9053 Swift Lake Road, East Troy, WI 53120; 262. 642. 2352; mnowak@wi.rr.com

Field Trips* Thomas R. Schultz, N6104 Honeysuckle Lane, Green Lake, WI 54941-9609; 920. 294. 3021; trschultz@vbe.com; and Jeffrey L. Baughman, W2640 Middle Road, Campbellsport, WI 53010; 920. 477. 2442; jbaughman@csd.k12.wi.us

File Keeper Thomas C. Erdman, Richter Museum of Natural History, MAC 212, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54911-7001

Historian* Noel J. Cutright, 3352 Knollwood Road, West Bend, WI 53095-9414; h. 262. 675. 2443, w. 414. 221. 2179; Noel.Cutright@we-energies.com

Honey Creek

Hotline (414-352-3857) Mark Korducki, 16290 W. Crescent Drive, New Berlin, 53151; 262. 784. 2712; korducki@earthlink.net

Legal Counsel David L. Kinnamon, 9507 N. Wakefield Court, Bayside, WI 53217-1245; 414. 277. 5000

Loan of Slides Stephen J. Lang, 5613 Commanche Way, Madison, WI 53704-1027; 608. 249. 5684

Membership* Jesse Peterson, 810 Ganser Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597-1930; 608. 849. 3108; peterson.jesse@tds.net

Publicity* Ursula C. Petersen, 3112 Sunnyside Street, Madison, WI 53589; 608. 224. 4538; ursula.petersen@datcp.state.wi.us

Records* Jim Frank, 10524 N. O'Connell Lane, Mequon, WI 53097-3314; 262. 242. 2443; jcfbirddr@yahoo.com

Records Committee Archivists John Idzikowski, 2558 S. Delaware Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207-1908; 414. 744. 4818; idzikoj@uwm.edu; and Brian Boldt, 1126 E. Pleasant Street #201, Milwaukee, WI 53202; 414. 225. 2543; bboldt@excelcomm.com

Research* Robert W. Howe, Department of Natural and Applied Sciences, UW-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54311-7001; 920. 465. 8263/2272; hower@uwgb.edu

Scholarships and Grants* Janine Polk, 1407 Frederic, Eau Claire, WI 54701-4902; 715. 839. 9265; j_1_polk@yahoo.com

Webmaster* Jennifer Davis, UW-Green Bay, Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, Green Bay, WI 54311-7001; 920. 465. 2545; wso@uwgb.edu

Youth Education Coordinator* Barbara Duerksen, 17494 Merry Hill Road, Richland Center, WI 53581; 608. 538. 3820; bduerksen@mwt.net

---

*Members of the Board of Directors

CONTENTS FALL 2004

Volume 66, Number 3