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The PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME XIII

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NUMBER 1



DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS

C. D. BESADNY

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

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THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.

NEWS . . .

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and the Inland Bird Banding Association will meet jointly in Milwaukee from Friday, April 20, to Sunday, April 22. The convention will open with a reception in the auditorium of the Public Service Building at 7:30 on Friday evening. This auditorium will be our headquarters and the banquet will be held in the Sky Room of the Plankinton House, about one block away. The film, "The Tawny Pipit," will be the feature of the Friday evening reception and Dr. W. J. Breckenridge will present a film and speak at the annual banquet on Saturday evening.

On display will be the newest books, pamphlets, binoculars, feeders, pictures, stationery, bird song records, and other merchandise. The three men of the Supply Department have endeavored this year to bring together everything on the market that would be of interest to you.

The Education Committee is sponsoring jointly with the Wisconsin Photographic Dealers and Finishers a Girl and Boy Scout photo contest. Winning photos will be on exhibit.

The Milwaukee Audubon Society is sponsoring a showing of Audubon prints in the Alice Chapman Library and Gallery of the Milwaukee Downer College.

Laboratory tours of the Milwaukee Public Museum will be conducted.

On Sunday morning, field trips will be led by the John Muir Nature Club.

In case anyone is in doubt about the robin's ability to withstand our winters, we can refer them to our feature article of this issue by Alvin M. Peterson, and to the following statement by Paul C. Gatterdam of La Crosse: "This morning, with the temperature 35° below zero, at one of the drinking fountains in the city, I counted 118 robins and then stopped counting . . . most of them were in the hackberry trees and there were about 35 around the fountain getting water."

Results of May-Day bird counts will be published again this year as usual. It would be of considerable interest to the society if a few counts could be made in central and northern Wisconsin this year.

The giant California condor has a better chance to win its race against extinction, reports the National Audubon Society. About 35,200 acres of land in the Los Padres National Forest in California has been restricted.

New officers of the Green Bay Bird Club this year are: R. P. Hussong, president; Mrs. Robert Robinson, vice president; and Bernard Chartier, secretary-treasurer. The club has conducted programs recently designed to aid teachers, parents, and youth leaders in bird study.

A recent survey conducted among W. S. O. members and other bird students has shown that there is a great demand for our reprint of the Kumlien and Holister book, "The Birds of Wisconsin."

The kingbird has been selected by our Research Committee as the society's Range and Population Study for 1951. A list of suggestions of what to look for will be found on page 25 of this issue.

The Membership Committee is pleased to see that so many members are handing out our society's Bird Check List Card to prospective members. This card has an invitation to join on the back.

Please be on the look-out for nesting records of birds in the state this year. Maps on which to plot the nest records are maintained by our Field Notes Editor, and feature articles are written on them.

In commemoration of the death of John James Audubon on January 27, 1851, the National Audubon Society has published stamps of his paintings. These Centennial Stamps are being sold two sets for one dollar.

A new statewide organization, the Citizen's Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin, has been organized. It is dedicated to the cause of fighting for good conservation practices as related to all natural resources in the state. A constitution was approved on December 16, 1950, and officers were elected as follows: President, Wallace B. Grange; vice president, John Curtis; secretary, Albert Fuller; and treasurer, Frederick Ott. Albert Fuller, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, may be contacted in regard to membership and other details.

Mrs. R. A. Walker, of Madison, has been broadcasting bird programs on WHA (Continued on page 46)

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THE WINTER ROBIN POPULATION AT LA CROSSE

By ALVIN M. PETERSON

I've lived here at Onalaska for slightly more than 30 years and during that time have seen a good many robins in the winter. Mostly I've seen these birds in the City of La Crosse, though sometimes flocks and individuals have come nearer home.

Robins are able to stand a surprising amount of snow and cold provided they are able to find enough to eat. Here and at La Crosse they usually are able to find food in winter, in the form of berries found on the many hackberry trees in this vicinity. The hackberry tree is tall, straight, dark-gray, and much like the American elm in its general shape. The leaves remind one of the leaves of elms, and often one sees trees that are stocked with dense clusters of short, slender twigs, radiating from a common center and reminding one of birds' nests.

La Crosse has thousands of hackberry trees along its streets and in its parks. About 90 per cent of the trees in Burns Park are hackberries, while almost all of those in Cameron Park and the courthouse square are of this variety. On the South Side there are large numbers in the section bounded by West Avenue on the east, La Crosse Street on the north, Sixth on the west, and Main on the south. On the North Side there are hundreds between the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad on the South and East, Gillette Street on the North, and Rose Street on the West. On Charles Street, north of Gillette, there are many, as there also are on Wood and Loomis. I am sure there are other sections almost as well stocked, but the above are the areas where I have given special attention to the many hackberry trees.

There were no robins in La Crosse last winter (1949-1950), but now (December, 1950) there are hordes of them around. Referring briefly to my notebook, I find that on Dec. 21 I counted 75 during a one-mile walk in Onalaska, on the 22nd 50 during a two-mile walk, on the 23rd 96 during a two-mile walk, and on the 30th 30 during a two-and-a-half mile walk. At La Crosse on the 22nd I counted 45 while walking two miles, on the 23rd 149 while walking two miles, and on the 24th 319 while walking a half mile. On the 23rd most of the birds I saw were concentrated at the corner of Rublee and Loomis Streets on the North Side, where I counted 143 but missed many more, so many that I estimated there were from 150 to 200 birds in the flock observed, while on the 24th I counted 319 while walking around two blocks in the same vicinity, walking one block north on Wood Street from Rublee to Gohres, one block east on Gohres from Wood to Loomis, two blocks south on Loomis to Gillette, one block west on Gillette, and then one block north on Wood to the point of beginning.

There were robins everywhere, in small trees, medium-sized trees, large trees, on the ground in yards, on the sidewalk, in the street, on roof-tops and beside foundations. There were many birds on the wing, flying from tree to tree, from the ground to trees, or vice versa, and some arriving at the concentration area, others departing. On the side-

walk in front of one house, I found a dozen robins in plain view and frightened as many more from the ground beside a foundation. I did not see the latter until they took wing. On Gohres Street between Wood and Loomis, I found three young hackberry trees full of robins, estimating there were from 40 to 50 birds in each; at the corner of Wood and Rublee there were two trees equally full of birds; and at the corner of Rublee and Loomis at least three trees as well loaded. Also on Gohres I saw a bare spot south of a garage where someone was feeding the birds. There were many English sparrows and starlings on the bare spot and from 25 to 30 robins a few feet away, at the edge of some snow beside the foundation, where they were sipping water from the melting snow. While I counted 319 robins in this area on the 24th, I am quite sure I missed almost as many more, and think I am safe in saying there were at least 500 in the area. Counting birds in flocks is far from easy, counting them while walking along a street is still harder, especially when many of them are in motion, and counting them in the tops of tall trees is perhaps hardest of all. Then, too, there certainly were scores of birds in the alleys, backyards, and elsewhere that I did not see at all.

There were no robins in La Crosse last winter because there were no berries on the hackberry trees. This year there is a bumper crop and most of the trees one sees are loaded to capacity. Walk along the streets and you can see where robins have been feasting by the littered snow and sidewalks. Apparently, the birds like the berries on some trees better than those on others, perhaps because larger and more juicy or pulpy, and take the berries found on young trees first. The birds do not seem to eat the pits to any great extent and the snow and walks beneath favorite trees are littered with these and brown and purplish stains, no doubt from berries in some instances, but more often from the droppings. I suppose the birds are not very popular with tidy folks, nor with motorists who leave their cars parked beneath hackberry trees. The other day a filling station attendant told me that he sees many cars that have bluish stains on them, apparently the work of robins.

Strangely enough, robins drink a good deal of water even when feeding almost entirely upon hackberries, and, when there is a thaw, as on the 22nd and 23rd days of December this year, you will see many on the ground, in gutters, and on house-tops, sipping water from tiny trickles at the edge of the melting snow. When feasting in flocks, the birds often sing softly, a very pleasant "whisper song" but so low it is hard to hear. Sometimes you will see one bird chasing another as in the spring, or fighting it out on the ground, fluttering upward for two or three feet, indicating rivalry of some kind.

At present, the robins are by far the most numerous birds around here. Indeed, I believe there are more robins than all other birds combined, including English sparrows, starlings and tame pigeons. Second and third in numbers are the sparrows and starlings, and a poor fourth the jays.

With so many robins around you would think there would be many signs of interest in them. Just the opposite is true and most folks around here pay no attention to them whatever. I did not see another person watching that large flock I saw on the 23rd and 24th. Some people do not seem to know there are any robins around, and some who do notice



PHOTO BY HANS ZELL

the birds, do not realize that it is the many berries found on the hackberry trees that are attracting them. Other folks think that the birds are delaying their southward migration for some unexplained reason, and as might be expected, some people are quite certain that the presence of the birds is a sure sign of an open winter, whereas it really is but a sign that the hackberry crop last summer was a good one.

Onalaska, Wisconsin

Notes on Nesting of the Least Bittern

By ROBERT NERO

The variation in nesting habits of least bitterns (*Ixobrychus exilis*) and their adaptability to various conditions in different parts of their range has been pointed out by Bent (1926, p. 84). The following notes describe the existence of two different types of nests within a limited area on one lake, built in accordance with the habitat and available nest material.

Observations were made of five nests at Fish Lake, near Lodi, Dane County, Wisconsin on five days, from June 20 to July 16, 1950. These nests were found incidentally while fishing, little attempt being made

to locate others; two were located in and constructed of bulrushes, three were located in and constructed of cattails.¹

Nests in Bulrush

On June 20, a nest containing, or rather, supporting, four downy young less than four days old was found in an open stand of bulrush (*Scirpus* sp.). These plants were growing in 18 to 24 inches of water about 30 feet from the lakeshore which in this area supported mainly sedges (*Carex* sp.) and small willows (*Salix* sp.). The nest was built in a clump of bulrush and was composed entirely of pieces of this plant six to 18 inches long. The nest was shaped like a platform and held the young about two inches above the water. There was no overhead cover and very little side cover, the young being easily visible to us at 20 feet. A similar nest was found some 50 feet farther along the shore, in the same stand of bulrush. This nest contained five eggs which were only an inch above the water. An adult bittern which was flushed from this nest circled our boat about 10 feet away for 15 minutes, walking rapidly through the bulrushes, intermittently seizing and biting at the vertical stems. Once it paused to swell its throat and emit a single cough-like "kuk", but it was otherwise silent.

Nests of apparently this type have been described from Ohio by Bales (1911, p. 47) who wrote: "Occasionally a nest is found composed almost entirely of a tall round water grass, but nests so composed are always built in a clump of this variety of grass."

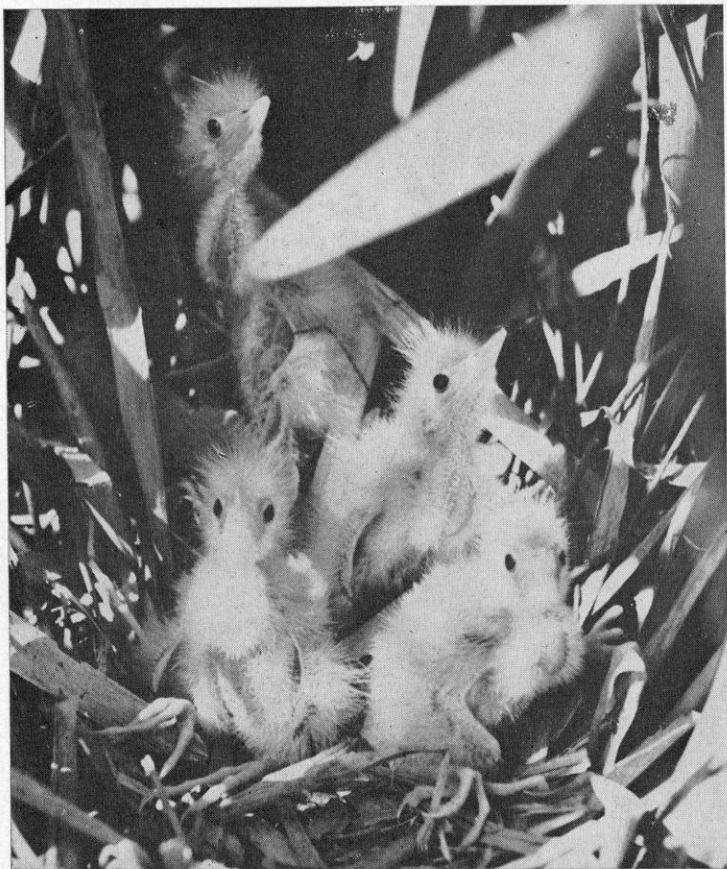
Outcome of These Nests

On June 22, following a heavy rainfall, the vicinity was visited again and it was found that due to the rise in water level the young in the first nest were practically standing in water, the nest material having loosened somewhat. At this time (7:00 A. M.) they were still wet below, though dry and fluffy on top. While these young were being banded an adult bittern carrying a piece of bulrush flew towards us and landed about 10 feet away. As long as we watched, it picked up and carried pieces of bulrush towards the nest. It appeared as though we had interrupted it in the process of rebuilding its nest. No adult was seen in the area of the second nest; although the five eggs were still there they were one-quarter of an inch under water.

On June 25, the two nests were again inspected. The four banded young were still in the nest which had been built up so that the young were safely above the water level. It looked as though considerable nest material had been added. Two of the young were in the upright concealment posture when we approached. When we splashed an oar near them the others likewise held their beaks stiffly upright and as we circled the nest all of them turned to face us.

¹A considerable population of least bitterns appeared to exist at Fish Lake during this period. They were seen flying or were heard calling throughout the days of these observations. In one afternoon, for example, 11 were seen at different places around the lake, flying by or overhead, some as high as 25 feet above the cattails. They were never observed to be molested by any of the large number of redwings (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) which co-inhabit the area.

Much to our surprise an adult was flushed from the other nest in which three days previously the eggs had been found partly immersed in water. Now the eggs were two inches above the water and the nest appeared more compact and with a higher edge. It had evidently been rebuilt. While this nest was being examined the adult circled us at about 40 feet.



NEST AND YOUNG

GEORGE PRINS

By the third of July the young had left the first nest, and one was found three feet away, again in the erect concealment pose. The second nest had disappeared, but a new nest, apparently belonging to the same pair, had been built about 20 feet away. The new nest contained five eggs and these too were held just a few inches above the water. These eggs were still being incubated on the 16th of July, and one which was opened then was found to contain a living and well developed embryo.

On July 16, 27 days after the young were first found, one of the banded young was seen within 20 feet of its nest site. Inasmuch as the

bulrushes at this point offered little cover, it would seem that the young or their parents are much attached to the nest area. In a previous study (Nero, 1950, p. 7) an adult and a young were found in the vicinity of the nest 26 days after the last bird in the clutch had hatched.

Nests in Cattail and Their Outcome

Several hundred feet farther along the lake shore the edge is bordered with cattail (*Typha* sp.) in contrast to the willow and sedge opposite the nests in the bulrush. On June 22, three bittern nests were discovered in this area. Two of these contained three eggs apiece, and the third, four eggs. All were found near the outer edge of a dense cattail stand, and were of the more usual type, being built entirely of cattail leaves, live leaves of a clump being folded in to the center and covered with a platform of dead leaves. These nests were from three to 24 inches above the water. Careful approach to the nest which held four eggs allowed us to capture the brooding adult. While being handled for banding, this bird emitted a series of harsh squawks accompanied by quick stabs with its beak. Its surprising sounds can best be described as "angry growls". Upon being released it ran two feet through the cattails but then stopped and turned to face its nest and the intruders.

On July 3, the three nests were re-examined. This was following the heavy rain and high water levels already mentioned. A large clump of cattail which had held one nest was found to have been washed away. A new nest with one egg, possibly a renest, was found six feet away and back from the edge. The other two nests were intact. An adult was flushed from each of them; one held two young and one egg, the other, four eggs.

Summary

1. Least bittern nests found in bulrush (*Scirpus* sp.) and cattail (*Typha* sp.) were built respectively of these materials.
2. Nests in bulrushes were found to be subject to flooding by high waters. Some rebuilding of damaged nests was evident. One nest with young was successful, but one with eggs was finally abandoned. The apparent owners of the unsuccessful nest later renested about 20 feet away in the same area and habitat.
3. Nests in cattail were found to be subject to destruction by portions of cattail breaking loose and drifting away following a sudden increase in the water level. The apparent owners of one nest so destroyed renested in cattail in the same area six feet back from the edge of the remaining cattail stand. Two other nests in this habitat were successful during this period.
4. A banded young was found in its nest vicinity 27 days (at least) after hatching.

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- Department of Zoology,
University of Wisconsin

Outdoor Calendar . . .

By JAMES H. ZIMMERMAN

Early April: The unmistakable loud, metallic **chip** of the first myrtle warbler is almost sure to be heard among the unfolding buds in a grove of aspens. Though myrtles are abundant in mature hardwood timber during May warbler waves, some remain with the aspens until departure time, when the call note or the weak warble reveals their presence still amidst the enlarging foliage. Do the aphids or other small insects of "popples" emerge sooner than those of oaks, elms, and maples? Does this warbler with such un-warbler-like migration dates associate with quaking and large-toothed aspens in other sections of the state in spring?

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers likewise now frequent the aspen-tops and cottonwoods; but whether it is the sticky secretions of their buds and twigs, or the same insects that myrtles eat, that brings them here, is not certain. Less often are sapsuckers found at work near the ground, drilling in a tree-trunk or returning for a harvest of sap. The conspicuous evidence of many years' migrations indicates a preference for basswoods, but perhaps the regular horizontal rows of holes merely show up less clearly in the rougher bark of soft and hard maples which they also tap, along with planted conifers and apple trees. Farther north, other trees may be utilized. In Roberts' **Birds of Minnesota** is a remarkable photograph of a hummingbird feeding at sapsucker holes in a yellow birch. Sapsuckers usually have passed on when hummingbirds arrive at Madison, but their holes may bleed long enough to supply some food for the hummers until flowers are more abundant.

On the first evening that is relatively dry and warm, much can be seen and heard in the nearest lowland. Flocks of geese and ducks are almost lost high in the hazy sky. More and more redwings accumulate noisily in a distant tall cottonwood or willow. In the tall ragweed patches and red osier thickets, tree, song, and fox sparrows now pause to greet the day's end with a revival of song. As their lively melodies gradually die down, a bittern methodically begins "pounding stakes" somewhere in the growing stillness of the marsh. A group of night herons comes into view; after wavering indecisively over the nearby lake, they resume their course, lonely silhouettes resolutely flapping across the sunset. Now come the first emphatic **peents** of a woodcock near at hand. Another bird begins to the left, and, faintly, a third. Suddenly the loud **peenting** is replaced by a soft, even whickering of wings as the bird swings close overhead to start his slow spiraling ascent. The first few flights must not be missed if he is to be followed on his erratic path, for even now one has difficulty making out the tiny rising speck in the failing light. At the highest point the wing sounds begin to come in little groups, these spurts becoming faster and faster; and the next one knows, these series have been magically converted into groups of vocal bubble-pipe warbles, each longer and more elaborate than the last, as the bird plummets and somersaults in various unpredictable directions. Even when the wood-

cock can be seen, his song seems to drift down from everywhere and yet nowhere. Abruptly it stops, and within a second or two the bird flutters down to nearly the same spot as before; where soon the loud rasping **beezp** is resumed and repeated until the next ascent.

In the background a new sound has entered into competition for one's attention with woodcocks in the various stages of their sky-dances. Series after rising series of rapid windy whistles come from the sky, now far, now near. The flight of the jacksnipe is longer than the woodcock's; for ten or twenty minutes at a time the snipe flies about, ranging widely back and forth around and across the marsh. The winnowing sound, impossible to put into print, may be disappointing after reading its descriptions in books. Yet the sound has a remarkable haunting quality of wildness that cannot be forgotten. Occasionally the rush of air through the stiff wings carries so well that it seems as if the snipe must graze one's head. But one searches in vain in the deceptive expanse of twilight space reaching up to where moonlit puffs of cloud begin to stand out in the still light sky. That likely-looking dark form fluttering along is only an early bat silently skimming the marsh close at hand. Only when the Wilson's snipe flies on a cloudy day, does one learn that he remains high, so that the sound, made during slight dips, is not heard until he is rising again. When darkness becomes as complete as the moon will allow, the snipe sounds have ceased and the woodcocks ascend no more, though **peenting** may continue for a while. Now, one finds, the shrill frog chorus has reached its height, and the warmer the night, the more frantic the tempo of the swamp tree frogs and spring peepers.

Late April: The W. S. O. has undertaken distribution studies of several birds, the yellow-headed blackbird, for one. There is no reason why other aspects of ornithology should be denied this highly successful cooperative method which the growth of the Society has made possible. Song studies were suggested in the last issue, with the request for a description of each type of cardinal song and the date of first song in 1951. Opportunities for determining food habits and ecological relationships are presented by myrtle warbler, warbling vireo, and cerulean warbler, as described herewith. It is assumed that brief notes from **many** will be as useful as much information from a few observers; and in studying migration, only the former method is practicable. We could well begin with the white-throated sparrow, usually arriving at Madison after mid-April; for this species is a very abundant migrant, is familiar to everybody, does not avoid cities, and does not escape the ear if hidden in the bushes. If every reader will send in the date when he first notes white-throats in 1951, a map can be constructed for the fall issue showing the progress of the species northward, week by week or day by day. It should be emphasized that every report is valuable, even if the first birds were thought to be missed or if other members report from the same locality. Though main peaks of movement and dates of departure are valuable, such details are not asked for because more time afield is required to obtain them. Moreover, if enough first dates are received from each area, it will be possible to eliminate freak early stragglers without requiring the number of birds seen on that first date. If the project proves successful, weather effects can be studied, migration routes determined,

other species can be tried, and better ways of collecting telling data on migrations can be attempted and compared. Suggestions are welcome on aims, methods, and suitable species.

May starts with the coming of yellowthroat, bobolink, Baltimore oriole, warbling vireo, and rose-breasted grosbeak, whose arrival dates vary little from year to year. Thus, it may be that their advance is influenced more by the length of day than by the vagaries of the local weather, in contrast to the redwings, robins, killdeers, bluebirds, fox sparrows, gulls, and waterfowl that surge northward in every thaw between snowstorms and may arrive any time from early February to late March, depending on the winter's severity during these two months. The apparent preference of warbling vireos for cottonwoods is noteworthy. After transient birds have left Madison, none has been found far from this tree species in the past several years. Its nests are not confined to this tree, for Roberts mentions a nest built in a "poplar tree" (not cottonwood) and another in a burr oak in which an orchard oriole and a kingbird also were nesting. But cottonwoods might provide a preferred food item or some other requirement in the bird's life history. Is this correlation observed in other counties? As the frequent song is conspicuous, warbling vireos seldom go unnoticed. Even the whining scold is unmistakable and wholly reliable once the notes of other vireos have been learned for comparison.

Wildflowers, like warblers, are difficult because there are so many of them. But just as each spring adds to one's experience in distinguishing warblers, so it brings a greater familiarity with the plants, providing the effort to learn them is renewed each year. The woods in May, where downy and hairy woodpeckers are drumming their last, provide special opportunities; for the majority of wild plants that bloom in spring occur not on the marsh or prairie but in the forest where warbler waves are passing through. Few plants can be described here, and the reader is referred to Fassett's **Spring Flora of Wisconsin**, an inexpensive small book containing a wealth of information on the plants flowering before June fifteenth. A trillium is easily recognized by its whorl of three leaves atop the stem. It can be confused only with the single compound leaf of a young Jack-in-the-pulpit, the main veins of whose three leaflets branch pinnately from their midribs instead of originating at their bases. A mature trillium plant bears a single three-petaled flower, usually held above the leaves. The large white flowers of **T. grandiflorum** turn pink with age. The smaller waxy flowers of **T. cernuum**, the tall nodding trillium, are hidden below the broad leaves, for the flower stalk is recurved downward. In **T. flexipes** this stalk is also bent at its base but often remains horizontal. (Other distinguishing characteristics can be found in **Gray's Manual, 8th Ed.**) The first two species occur in woods throughout the state, while the last is confined to the southern four tiers of counties. In rocky woods and ledges in limestone areas grows the tiny snow trillium, **T. nivale**, whose flowers often open before all snow is gone; all one sees in May is the green fruit above the long-stalked leaves. It has been found from Manitowoc to Waukesha on the east and in St. Croix and Pepin counties on the west. Also rather early is the wake robin, **T. recurvatum**, whose leaves are mottled with pale blue-green. Unlike the white trilliums above, its flower faces upward and the stiff, erect, dark purplish-red petals glow with ruby tints when lit by a sunfleck. Wake-

robins occur only from Milwaukee and Monroe southward, in low moist woods, as far as present records show.

A return to the woodcock's grounds will find them still flying; in fact, the woodcock seldom fails to perform, every evening and every dawn, from soon after arrival in March to the beginning of June. The song flight has even been observed during an April snowstorm. Snipes are seldom heard as late as May at Madison, but new instruments have now been added to the amphibian accompaniment in the marsh. Most common is the continuous low trilling of American toads (**Bufo americanus**) on a warm evening. Though this sound carries farther through the night than that of any frog, it blends so well with the other manifestations of spring—the warm breeze and smell of moist earth and growing things—that it is scarcely noticed. If only a single isolated toad is heard, one's ears feel the silence when the trilling stops abruptly; but usually there are many in voice and their steady background music is incessant, day and night; though, as with the frogs, the best performance comes after dark. Now, when leopard and pickerel frogs snore no more and peepers are becoming scarce, emphatic **fitz-bews** come from alder flycatchers on every hand in the darkening meadow, and, after dark, high clear **peet-weets** from spotted sandpipers overhead. The first cricket frog (**Acris gryllus**) breaks in with a long series that slowly accelerates (**ka ka ka . . . ka . . ka . kakakaka**), continues rapidly for some time, then decelerates again, like a rusty motor coming to a stop. By June, this species, another of the tiny tree frogs, is present in such numbers that the marsh rattles with their sharp clacking, which has been described as resembling the sound of two pebbles rapidly struck together. The seventh amphibian to be heard waits for really warm weather before uttering its pleasing chuckle. This call, impossible to describe, varies considerably in quality, the effect depending on distance, temperature, and locality. Tree toads (**Hyla versicolor**) are not abundant at Madison, so that to hear a chorus of many, like the one in the recording, requires an extensive search of marshes and swamps in this area. Other counties probably have a different frog picture and a survey by ear is much to be desired.

Much attention is given to the earliest migrants in late winter—the hardy species mentioned earlier. Of interest at the other extreme are the latest birds to pass through. The following are among the last to arrive at Madison and are to be compared to the late species in other counties: indigo bunting, bay-breasted warbler, Tennessee warbler, Wilson's warbler, red-eyed vireo, Canada warbler, alder flycatcher, blackpoll warbler, ruby-throated hummingbird, mourning warbler, black-billed cuckoo, wood pewee, Florida gallinule, olive-sided flycatcher, yellow-bellied flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, Connecticut warbler, least bittern, and dickcissel. That their arrival dates seem rather variable may mean only that these are more difficult to detect than migrants that come before the leafing of trees and other vegetation. But while the weather does not change as violently as in March, factors like temperature, or its indirect cumulative effects through insect supply, may be important in their northward movement. Early in this group of species comes the seldom-seen cerulean warbler, most likely to be found in sugar maple woods. Since its buzzy song can be confused only with the transient parula's, a worthwhile project in June would be to visit a number of wooded areas to see if non-migrant ceruleans are ever heard far away

from hard maples. As with the warbling vireo and myrtle warbler, notes received on the tree associates of breeding cerulean warblers in 1951 will be reported in the fall calendar.



CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER AT NEST

GORDON ORIANIS

In June can be seen the pendulum-flight of the ruby-throated hummingbird, possibly given as a threat to an intruder as well as in courtship. Without warning comes a regular cadence of loud buzzing sounds ahead, beyond the next bush in the clearing, or on the forest edge, or in the meadow. There the male darts downward in an arc and up again, then back along exactly the same path, about two seconds per round trip, the zooming sound of the wings accompanied by various clicks and buzzes in perfect timing. Those who have described this metronome dance have all been greatly impressed by it; though it lasts but a minute or less, the performance is startling, to say the least, especially since one happens on it only rarely and unexpectedly.

June is truly the month of voice, for only a few birds, like woodcock, have dropped out of the sound pattern. Not until the basswoods, the last trees to flower, begin attracting bees just before July, do the songs of birds begin to diminish noticeably. Even the American toad and swamp tree frog continue to call through the month, as each thundershower's flooding of the hollows in the fields stimulates anew the frenzied chorus for a few days and nights. And, from the cattail border of the lake, against the varied background of sounds from a redwing colony, or the insistent rapid chatter of young yellow-headed blackbirds,

comes the first call of a green frog, best described as a solitary pluck of a bass viol's string. Though these large frogs (*Rana clamitans*) are widely spaced in the marsh, an early morning or a moonlit night reveals an amazing number present, considering how infrequently a given frog is heard. Later in June begins the deep **mooring** of an occasional bullfrog (*Rana catesbiana*) to complete the list of our ten vocal amphibians. As this species is rare in Dane County, little is known yet of the length of its "song" period here.

MADISON PHENOLOGY TO COMPARE WITH OTHER AREAS

Species	Item	Earliest	Latest	For most years in the period:
Myrtle warbler	arrival	Mar. 31	c. Apr. 20	1913-50
Y. bel. sapsucker	present	Mar. 20	May 19	1913-50
Wilson's snipe	winnowing heard	Mar. 28	May 8	1944-50
White-throat. sparrow	arrival	Mar. 27	c. Apr. 24	1913-50
Warbling vireo	arrival	Apr. 26	c. May 12	1913-50
R. th. hummingbird	arrival (May 5)	May 10	c. May 16	1933-28, '44-50
Trillium nivale	flowers present	Mar. 25	May 8	1943-50
Trillium recurvatum	flowers present	Apr. 22	June 4	1937-50
Trillium grandiflorum	flowers present	Apr. 13	June 14	1937-50
Trillium flexipes	flowers present	Apr. 28	June 11	1944-50
Trillium cernuum	flowers present	May 3	June 17	1945-50
American toad	in voice	Apr. 23	July 12	1947-50
Pickereel and leopard frogs	in voice	Mar. 19	May 15	1946-50
Spring peeper	in voice	Mar. 20	June 11	1945-50
Cricket frog	in voice	May 15	July 26	1947-50
Tree toad	in voice	May 28	June 28	1949-50
Swamp tree frog	in voice	Mar. 14	July 16	1935-50
Green frog	in voice	May 19	Aug. 9	1947-50
Bull frog	in voice	May 22	?	1950

This table was compiled with the aid of: The papers by Schorger and Leopold cited in previous calendars; Anderson, et al., *Birds of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum*, Trans. Wis. Acad. Sci. Arts and Letters 34:5-22; and observations by several Madison observers in recent years.

James H. Zimmerman
2114 Van Hise Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin
March 19, 1951



THE ORIGIN OF THE COMMON NAMES OF WISCONSIN BIRDS

By H. W. SCHAARS

(Continued from last issue)

340. (679) Mourning Warbler

L. Nelson Nichols writes, "There is really nothing about this bird to suggest mourning, except the cowl. The cowl is a beautiful bluish-slate set off by a black scarf on the breast. The bird is quiet and retiring in his manners, never showy, but rather cheerful and self-contained."

341. (681) Northern Maryland Yellow-throat

Edwards in his "Gleanings" states, "J. Petiver has given the figure of bird *Avis Marylandica gutturo lutio*, for which reason I continue the name he has given it, 'Maryland Yellow-throat'." The underparts of the bird are distinctly yellow. There are four other species besides the "Northern".

342. (683) Yellow-breasted Chat

The name "Chat" refers to its chattering cries of which one bird writer says, "It laughs and cackles, whistles and mocks, part clown, largely a gossip and a meddler." The throat and breast are bright yellow.

343. (684) Hooded Warbler

The peculiar and conspicuous markings on the head have given this bird its name. There is a broad yellow mask over the forehead that is sharply set off by a solid black framework, forming a sort of cap or hood.

344. (685) Wilson's Warbler

Not only did Alexander Wilson give to many birds a name that has remained vernacular, various birds have been named in his honor; so this Warbler.

345. (686) Canada Warbler

This bird breeds from central Alberta and northern Quebec to central Minnesota and central New York; thus Canada is well represented in its breeding range. Prof. Eliot suggests the name "Neck-laced Warbler".

346. (687) American Redstart

Parkhurst explains the origin of this name, "The name is corrupted from 'redstart', meaning 'red tail', this portion of its plumage being doubly noticeable from the amount of reddish-yellow upon it, and from the bird's habit of keeping it partly spread as it moves from limb to limb." Europe has a Redstart, too, hence the attribute, "American".

347. (697) American Pipit

Walter B. Barrows in "Michigan Bird Life" writes, "When flushed they rise very quickly to a considerable height, mounting by great leaps with their powerful wings, and constantly uttering their sharp double-syllabled call which gives the bird its name 'Pipit'." "American" reminds us that England has the Meadow Pipit and the Tree Pipit.

348. (703) Eastern Mockingbird

The bird is well named; it is characterized by its habit of mocking or mimicking the notes of other birds or other sounds that it hears. The

Western Mockingbird is just a paler, larger, and more buffy edition of its eastern cousin.

349. (704) Catbird

This bird's cry of alarm does well mimick a cat.

350. (705) Brown Thrasher

There are two interpretations of the origin of the word "Thrasher". The one has it that the word is derived from "thrusher" or "thresher", an English dialect name for "thrush". The bird is often called the "brown thrush" because of its similarity to the Thrush. The other has it that the word refers to the bird's vigorous twitching about with his long tail, a movement suggesting the flail used in the primitive method of threshing grain. It might not be amiss to quote Herbert K. Job, who wrote humorously, "I used to wonder why the bird was called Thrasher. But after I received a real threshing from a pair of them, I thought I had some light on the subject."

351. (718) Carolina Wren

"Carolina" refers to the Carolinian Zone, designating an area including much of Eastern United States from Southern New England to Georgia and extending west to the 100th meridian. That is the breeding area of this Wren.

352. (719) Bewick's Wren

Named by Audubon for Thomas Bewick, English ornithologist, "the father of wood-engraving", who lived from 1753 to 1828.

353. (721) Eastern House Wren

Mabel Osgood Wright writes, "'Jenny' Wren has the proud distinction of having forced upon her entire species the popular name which was given her by the early English colonists in memory of the much milder mannered bird of the old country." "House", since its nesting site is usually a box erected by man about his house. "Eastern" in contrast to the Western House Wren.

354. (722) Eastern Winter Wren

For Wisconsin "Winter Wren" is a misnomer, since it is a migratory bird for this area. True, it appears early in spring and may linger till the middle of November, but it is not here in winter. A regional variety of our Wren is the Western Winter Wren.

355. (724) Short-billed Marsh Wren

As its name implies, its bill is shorter than that of its near relative, the Long-billed Marsh Wren, from whom it may also be distinguished by its striped head and upper back and by its lack of a white line over the eye. Its "marsh" may be a mere moist, grassy, or reedy meadow.

356. (725) Prairie Marsh Wren

Its "marsh" is really a deep, cozy marsh, near a slow-running stream or a dark, swampy pool, overgrown with rushes, reeds, cattails, where the nest of the bird is placed, woven with its slender, gently curved bill. It is at home on the Great Plains and prairie districts.

357. (726) Brown Creeper

A bird whose general color is sepia-brown, who, alighting near the base of a tree, creeps spirally upward, examining the crevices in the bark for minute insects and insects' eggs.

358. (727) White-breasted Nuthatch

It is well-known that these birds feed on nuts, such as acorns, beech-nuts, chestnuts. They also have the habit of wedging these nuts into a crevice that will hold them securely and then using their strong bill as a hatchet to "hatch" open the nuts. The underparts of the bird are plain white.

359. (728) Red-breasted Nuthatch

This bird is distinguished from its larger relative in having the white throat gradually deepening downward to a tawny-buff or reddish brown.

360. (731) Tufted Titmouse

"Tit" is something small. Norwegians call a little bird *tita*. The second part of the word is akin to the German word *Meise*, a chickadee-like bird. The English form has been influenced by the unrelated word "Mouse." "Tufted," its head has a conspicuous gray crest of top-knot.

361. (735) Black-capped Chickadee

The first choice of this name is found in the writings of Audubon. The bird calls its name rather accurately, repeating the final syllable several times. A black cap adorns the head.

362. (740) Hudsonian Chickadee

It is found in northern North America, breeding from Alaska and the tree-limit in central Mackenzie and central Keewatin south to southern British Columbia, central Alberta, northern Manitoba, and central Ontario. This area would well encircle the Hudson Bay Country.

363. (748) Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet

"Kinglet" suggests a "petty king," in recognition of the crown both species wear. Within a V-shaped mark of black, inclosing a narrower one of yellow, is a large patch of bright orange on the crown of the male, "Golden-crowned." The female has the orange-crown patch replaced by canary yellow. The Western Golden-crowned Kinglet has shorter wings and tail, and a more slender bill.

364. (749) Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Only the male "Ruby-crowned" wears the red-crown patch, a wedge-shaped patch a clear vermilion-red. Its western relative is the Sitka Ruby-crowned.

365. (751) Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

A bluish-gray is the general color of this bird, who, as its name implies, is insectivorous in its feeding habits, not only relishing gnats, but also "locusts, joint-worms, flies, caddice flies, ants, other *hymenoptera*, wood-boring beetles, weevils, and spiders," as Forbush advises.

366. (754) Townsend's Solitaire

This bird avoids civilization and makes his main habitation in the inaccessible mountain gorges of the West, a bird typical of the high mountain solitudes, well named "Solitaire." It was named for John K. Townsend, an American ornithologist.

367. (755) Wood Thrush

"Thrush" is an old English word used at the end of the 13th century by Walter de Bibbesworth for the "Song Thrush" (*Turdus musicus*).

"Wood" refers to the deep woods which are the natural and generally preferred abiding place of this Thrush. But the bird frequently has his home near human habitation.

368. (756) Veery

The note of this Thrush has been interpreted as "veero, veery, veery, veery," which has earned for it its name.

369. (756a) Willow Thrush

This is a form of the Veery. It is an inhabitant of low, damp woodlands, preferring the thickets of poplar, willow, and alder, bordering streams and lakes.

370. (757) Gray-checked Thrush

As its name indicates it is gray-checked, not buffy-checked like the Olive-backed Thrush.

371. (758) Olive-backed Thrush

Above there is a uniform grayish-olive brown.

372. (759) Eastern Hermit Thrush

This bird seems to be trying to elude notice, is modest and retiring in its manners, thus seems appropriately named, the "Hermit." There are five western species of the Hermit Thrush.

373. (761) Eastern Robin

In the *Nomina Avium*, an English vocabulary of the 15th century, the name appears "robynet redbreast," literally interpreted "little robin redbreast." It was a name of endearment to Old World bird lovers. Our American robin was known to early colonists as "Fieldfare," so termed by Mark Catesby (1679-1749), who in his "History of Carolina" was the first to give any substantial account of American birds. William Bartram speaks of it as "Fieldfare" or "Robin Redbreast." Kalm mentions it only under the latter name. Two variant forms of the Eastern Robin are the Southern Robin and the Western Robin.

374. (763) Varied Thrush*

One meaning of "varied" is to be marked conspicuously or contrastingly with several colors. This contrast is evident in the colors of the underparts of the Varied Thrush; the bright rusty brown is conspicuously crossed by a blackish necklace.

375. (763a) Northern Varied Thrush*

Most bird authors omit reference to this bird. Though one may conjecture why "Northern," nothing definite was ascertained.

376. (766) Eastern Bluebird

A bird whose upperparts are uniform bright blue. Pennant called it "Blue-backed Redbreast." The Western Bluebird strongly resembles its eastern cousin. Only a trained eye will distinguish the two.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

October 13, 1949

THE BIRDS OF WISCONSIN

By L. KUMLIEN and N. HOLLISTER

with Revisions by A. W. Schorger

(Continued from last issue)

FAMILY CERTHIIDAE: CREEPERS

Certhia familiaris americana (Bonap.). Brown Creeper.

In the southern counties the creeper is a migrant and winter resident only, and most common during April, but in the northern part of the state it is found throughout the summer, and breeds. From the records at our command it is evident that it summers regularly, though sparingly, from the central part of the state northward. Grundtvig was quite certain that a few bred in Outagamie County, and J. N. Clark observed a pair of creepers feeding a young cowbird, just from the nest, at Meridian in late June, 1897.

[Rare summer resident. The statement by A. J. Schoenebeck (Birds of Oconto County, 1902:49) that it is a common summer resident and breeds is not confirmed by C. A. Richter (*Pass. Pigeon* 1,1939:125). A. R. Cahn (*Wilson Bull.* 39,1927:34) saw it frequently in summer at Plum Lake, Vilas County. H. H. T. Jackson (*Pass. Pigeon* 4,1942:92) shot one near Mellen on June 8, 1919. He considered it a scarce summer resident in northwestern Wisconsin.]

FAMILY PARIDAE: NUTHATCHES AND TITS

Sitta carolinensis (Lath.). White-breasted Nuthatch.

Common. Resident in some numbers the entire year. Nests throughout the state, and becomes more common during fall, winter, and spring, at which time it is a regular city visitor, frequenting the larger trees along the streets.

Sitta canadensis (Linn.). Red-breasted Nuthatch.

A regular spring and fall migrant, but not so common as the white-breast. Mr. Clark has found it in winter in Dunn County, and it occurs as late sometimes as November in Walworth, Jefferson and Rock Counties, though usually found in April and September. It was found nesting at Pine Lake, near Hartland, July, 1888. The nest was about ten feet above the ground in a pine stub, and contained young (L. K.). Dr. Hoy states that a few nested near Racine, and as Nelson mentions it as a rare summer resident in northeastern Illinois, it may yet be found nesting in other parts of our state.

[A. J. Schoenebeck (Birds of Oconto County, 1902:48) considered this species a regular breeder but he found only one nest. H. H. T. Jackson (*Pass. Pigeon* 4,1942:92) found it rather common in the summer of 1919 in northwestern Wisconsin. A pair raised a brood at Mercer in 1947 (Mrs. Herbert Sell, *Ibid.* 9,1947:135).]

Parus bicolor (Linn.). Tufted Titmouse.

A straggler from the south. In the museum of the University of Wisconsin there is a single specimen of the tufted tit, shot by Mr. N. C. Gilbert, December 15, 1900, near Madison. The bird was alone, and this is doubtless the only record for the state.

[Individuals appeared at Whitewater and Lake Geneva in 1912 (I. N. Mitchell, **Bird-Lore** 15,1913:176), but this bird remained rare until 1921 when H. L. Stoddard (**Wilson Bull.** 34,1922:79) found several near Prairie du Sac. Since that date the records are numerous. A. W. Schorger (**Auk** 44,1927:240) collected a juvenile from a family of five young and two adults in the Mazomanie bottoms on June 28, 1925. It has been found as far north as Green Bay (**Pass. Pigeon**, 2,1940:4), Oconto (C. A. Richter, **Ibid.** 6,1944:70), and St. Croix Falls (J. Heinsohn, **Ibid.** 9,1947:32, 115).]

Parus atricapillus (Linn.). Chickadee.

Abundant. Found in all parts of the state, and resident wherever found. Nests early in May. In winter the chickadee becomes very tame and is often seen about the yards of city residences.

Parus atricapillus septentrionalis (Harris). Long-tailed Chickadee.

In late fall and winter typical specimens of this form are taken in Wisconsin, even in the southern part of the state, but more often in the northwestern portion. A number were taken near Hudson in November. We are unable to say whether these are resident in that district, or merely winter visitors.

[There is no specimen for the state. N. Hollister (**Auk**, 29,1912:398) withdrew this race.]

Parus hudsonicus (Forst.). Hudsonian Chickadee.

A rare winter visitant in southern Wisconsin. Dr. Hoy states that a few visited Racine during the unusually cold January of 1852. A single specimen was taken by Thure Kumlien in Jefferson County at this same time. It is recorded from the northern peninsula of Michigan (Nehrling) and Dr. H. V. Ogden, of Milwaukee, writes us that he saw several, and shot one, in Iron County, but unfortunately did not preserve a skin. He also writes: "I fancy a few could be found every fall in the northern tier of counties." A single individual was noted in Vilas County, at close range, while waiting on a deer runway, in November, 1902, but could not be collected as we were armed only with rifles at the time (N. H.).

[There are numerous recent winter records for northern Wisconsin. Not definitely known to nest. C. D. Klotz (**Auk** 44,1927:427) took an adult and a young from a flock near the state line at Mamie Lake, Vilas County, on July 12, 1926. L. W. Wing (**Pass. Pigeon** 1,1939:164) collected a specimen in Iron County in December, 1934. The sight record for Lake Geneva for September 12, 1906, given by C. B. Cory (**Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin**, 1909:701), is doubtful on account of the season. One was present at Madison from December 24, 1946 to March 18, 1947 (N. R. Barger, **Pass. Pigeon** 9,1947:52, 115). Another was photographed in Oconomowoc on February 2, 1947 (C. P. Fox, **Ibid.** 9,1947:73).]

FAMILY SYLVIIDAE: KINGLETS AND GNATCATCHERS

Regulus satrapa (Licht.). **Golden-crowned Kinglet.**

An abundant migrant in early spring and late fall. Dr. Ogden states that it is sometimes found in mid-winter in Milwaukee County, and the same is true of other sections of the state. The golden-crown breeds along the south shore of Lake Superior, in Ontonagon County, Michigan, and possibly to some extent therefore in the pine regions of northern Wisconsin.

[Locally a rather common summer resident in the northern part of the state but no nest has been found. H. H. T. Jackson (**Pass. Pigeon** 4,1942:94) saw young being fed by the parents on Madeline Island on July 4, 1919. W. E. Scott (**Ibid.** 4,1942:85) observed juveniles in Vilas County on July 25-26, 1942.]

Regulus calendula (Linn.). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet.**

An abundant migrant, somewhat later than the preceding, and more uniformly distributed. It seldom, if ever, remains through the winter.

[Occasionally winters. Very rare summer resident and no nest has been found. There are the following summer records: two at Green Bay on July 2, 1941 (J. Holterman, **Pass. Pigeon** 3,1941:74); seen in Forest County on June 11, Vilas County on July 7 and Oneida County on July 13, 1943 (Ralph A. Schmidt, **Ibid.** 5,1943:74); and at Mercer June 18-20, 1947 (Mrs. Herbert Sell, **Ibid.** 9,1947:150). A male in full song was found in a spruce swamp near Teal Lake, Sawyer County, on June 29, 1947, by A. W. Schorger.]

(Continued in next issue)

Walden West V . . .

By AUGUST DERLETH

Winter is the owls' season. It is only in winter that the screech owls which live in the hemlocks and arbor vitae around my house in the country seem to come into their own. Throughout the summer there is scarcely a sign of them, and their voices are seldom raised in keening; but in late autumn, on smoky evenings edged with crispness, they come out, they come up to the windows of the studio and look in, they sit just outside the perimeter of light from the windows and make their gently wailing songs with their strangely ventriloquial quality, so that they seem to emanate from some point at a greater distance than actually the birds are. Throughout the winter they are there, and throughout the winter, too, they play a little game among themselves.

I observed them by accident one night. Coming up the arbored walk to the house, I saw a dark body come hurtling down one side of the south gable of the house, tumbling, actually, come off the roof, take to wing and mount the north gable. Then a second, and another, and yet another. Four of them, screech owls, engaged in a game of tumbling down the three gables of the house. They went around in an endless

*Walden West is a work in progress.

circle, soundlessly, mounting one side of each gable, and literally tumbling down the other, in a hushed silence, broken at last only by a warning cry from a fifth screech owl, sitting past my notice quite nearby; he had detected me at watching, and sounded the alarm at last. Instantly all four of the tumbling birds vanished into the arbor vitae and were done with play.

But they were out again in a little while. I saw them come down the west gable from my own security in the studio, dark little bodies against the snow-held roof; they came winging up the gable from the north, and tumbled down the south. I could not tell how they did it; they did not touch the snow on the roof, yet they were not far above it; their wings were at least partly drawn in toward their bodies, their feathers puffed up, their claws retracted. In this manner they rolled, over and over, down the slope of the gable. From the edge of the roof, they spread wings and flew up past the window where I stood watching and vanished into the darkness out of range of my sight.

It gave me a sense of pleasure to reflect upon the events of the world next door, events which went on in every season, quite within mans' ken, but all too seldom made known to him. I had not hitherto understood that my roof could afford such delight to the screech owls who were, in a sense, older inhabitants of this plot of land than I, though I had become ruefully aware of the annoyance my thatched ridges afforded a flicker who set himself diligently to removing the thatch from the entire ridge, and succeeded without materially affecting the well-being of the house. He, like the owls, must somehow have realized that the owner of the premises was in his own way as resistant to certain aspects of civilization as they themselves were, a little wild still, as it were, and determined to remain so.

I suppose there will always remain human beings whose kinship is far closer to wild things than to fellow human-beings with guns and ponderous tomes of unhappy moralities and conventions. And if that is so, perhaps it can also be adduced that there is an instinct in wild creatures which enables them presently to separate the friendly from the inimical; certainly the flicker did not desist from his task for all that I had rather he had done so; nor did the owls presently object to my presence at their play; indeed, few of them ever stirred from their perches at my approach, though I walked less than three feet away, turning their round-eyed heads to observe my comings and goings uncomfortably like a group of human beings who have nothing better to do than to watch the small concerns of others and to speculate imaginatively on them thereafter. I suspect that to the owls, at least, I must have come to seem like something which "came with the property", and which they accepted with philosophic detachment quite possibly much cooler than my own regard for these feathered neighbors who seemed so much more indigenous to winter than to any other season.

* * * * *

The winter woods are alight with berries to brighten their leafless darkness—the coral fruit of black alder, the cerise and crimson berries of the wahoo or burning bush, the red and orange of bittersweet, the scarlet of spice-bush berries, the dark fruits of black haw, carrion berry, and greenbrier, the white snowberries—and the birds are never very far away:

tree sparrows, chickadees, reluctant robins, mourning doves, cedar waxwings, juncos, cardinals, quail, and all the birds indigenous to winter along the Wisconsin at Sac Prairie, as well as those usual migrants who have elected to remain — an occasional meadow-lark, chewink, swamp sparrow, song sparrow; and where the fruit hangs near to open water, where a brook flows by or a spring-fed slough refuses to freeze entirely, there the birds are almost certain to be. One has only to walk from bittersweet trees to groves of black alder, from snow-berry rows to the reeds among which the carrion-berry winds to startle aloft the foraging birds. It is almost as if nature intended that these little oases should remain for most of the winter, not alone to delight the eye, but to provide for those birds which did not go south with the turn of the year to the time of snow.

* * * * *

The little dramas of the meadows in winter are written in snow before the sun and its warmth comes to blur them.

Walking in the Lower Meadow one day, I came upon a mouse burrow under snow; from time to time the mouse had come out, breaking his burrow to look about him, sometimes to pause and draw down a seed-head nearby and feed upon the seeds of goldenrod or teasel or bouncing Bet. Hard upon the trail came the tracks of a fox, paralleling the burrow, pouncing now and again in a vain effort to capture his prey.

I followed the double trail to its far end up in mid-meadow, where the burrow was brushed on both sides by wingtips. The mouse burrow ended abruptly; the fox's tracks angled disconsolately away.

An owl had reached the mouse before him.

* * * * *

If there is one winter voice informed with wildness, it is the crow's. Temperature is a matter of no moment to him; he sends his challenge over the landscape wherever and whenever he pleases, but in winter he is more evident than in other seasons, not alone because his is one of the few voices to be heard, but because he extends his range in the season of snow and ice, deserting the hills and marshes adjacent to the Wisconsin to fly out over Sac Prairie to the fields beyond, passing over in the morning in a company of his fellows, and returning before dark, secure in his mastery of the heavens.

And, being the epitome of wildness, he is canny as well as arrogant, and in every attribute he has, his essential independence of man stands out. Whereas sparrows, robins, starlings, even nighthawks, and a host of lesser birds do not trouble themselves about and often elect the company of mankind, the crow shuns it, mocks it, derides and keeps his distance from even a lone walker in the woods at any season. But winter is peculiarly the crow's season; however more difficult may be his foraging, he seems in this season to come into his own, hurling his challenge from every corner of the grey winter sky, constantly about in all manner of weather.

He is good company, paradoxically better at a distance, for nearby his cries are harsh, forbidding, while at a diminishing range toward the horizon his calls are mellowed by distance and the quality of the air — its dryness or humidity; they are crisp or liquid, with an almost musical quality seldom heard at close quarters. One never doubts, hearing him,

that he is the wood's master, the admiral of the snowy wastes where he and his fellows command the heavens virtually alone, dark on the grey or sombre blue sky, dark on the white landscape below.

In the sound of his caw is the proof of his wildness. Here clearly is the voice of one who has resisted all the blandishments of civilization, who has defied the best efforts of man to either tame or slay him. It is curious to reflect that the crow's voice should comfort a man in his solitude, however much the crow's rascality be known; yet it is so. It is as if this proof of the essential wildness of this black scavenger were an immutable assurance of the persistence of the wilderness, of the continuity of life itself. There is never dearth of them; they survive from season to season; they escape the most intent gunman; they return as inevitably as the seasons themselves.

BOOK REVIEWS

MENABONI'S BIRDS. By Athos and Sara Menaboni. New York. 1950. 132 pp. \$10.00.

Considerable furor has arisen since the appearance of this book, not a little of which was stimulated by an intense pre-publication advertising campaign. Whether most of this interest has been created by the art critics or the ornithologists, both of whom seem to be acclaiming the volume, is a moot point. At any rate, the volume has a pleasing aspect. Its 32 color plates and 13 full-page black-and-white portraits, plus large page size and general excellence in format and ornithological accuracy make it a real production. Perhaps for the price this is only proper. However, the statement on the dust jacket that Athos Menaboni is "... the greatest living portrait painter of bird life" should be taken with a grain of salt. To the artistically untrained eye of this reviewer his works are no better than several of the contemporary bird artists.

Menaboni's works show positioning of subjects and selection of backgrounds that are highly reminiscent of Audubon. This is especially noticeable in the plates of the killdeer, wood duck, wild turkey, blue jay and several of the warblers. At the same time his style is distinctive, with a luminous quality that Audubon did not have.

Sara Menaboni has written the text accompanying her husband's paintings. She presents a narrative account of the highly personal relationship between the Menabonis and the birds at their Georgia home. Their experiences have included a wide range of adventures both in the field and in hand-rearing a great many young or injured birds and animals. Mrs. Menaboni displays an affectionate understanding of the nature of the wildlife about her, yet to one who does not particularly appreciate a sentimental approach to bird life, her writings become a little bit tiring.—James B. Hale.

WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN MINNESOTA. Compiled by Kenneth D. Morrison and Josephine Daneman Herz. St. Paul, Minn. 1950. 122 pp. \$2.00.

Forty-nine contributors have pooled their knowledge of Minnesota birds to produce this description of 62 birding areas, parks, refuges and sanctuaries. It is an attempt, and seemingly a good one, to produce under one cover a sort of ornithological Duncan Hines guide to the best bird-watching locations in Minnesota for those who are just traveling through the state and for those Minnesotans who are acquainted only in their own backyards.

Each birding area is described under similar headings. These include directions on how to reach it, terrain, vantage points for observations, the less common groups of birds that might be encountered, rarities that have been recorded, hazards and restrictions to travel and observations, and general comments on the nature and history of the area. One to two pages are devoted to each location.

The editors comment that although several good guides tell how to identify birds, nothing up to now has dealt with where they are. Their efforts to remedy this situation for Minnesota are interesting. A similar effort by Wisconsin ornithologists would seem to be a worthy project.—James B. Hale.

KINGBIRD SURVEY 1951

The kingbird has been selected as our field study project for 1951. Members are asked to assemble information as follows:

1. Date of first kingbird arrival? What weather conditions prevailed?
2. Date of resident birds arrival?
3. How long after arrival do they seem to be in pairs?
4. How does the arrival coincide with the development of vegetation?
5. On what date was the "tumbling" display first observed?
6. What date was nest building first observed?
7. Check occurrence of incomplete nests, or nests deserted before nesting is completed. How many unsuccessful attempts per pair? Give possible explanations.
8. Do kingbirds raise more than one brood per year in your area?
9. What date were young first observed in the nest?
10. Where are nests built? What species of trees? What percentage of nests are found near water? Describe any unusual nesting sites.
11. How long do young birds remain in a family flock?
12. Do adults remain in a territory after young are fledged? Do they leave the territory if the nesting attempt is a failure due to the destruction of young?
13. If possible, make a population count of kingbirds in your area by counting the birds seen along a measured stretch of road which you might travel at regular intervals. Mileage traveled? Average number of birds seen?
14. Have you observed kingbirds in flocks? When? How many?
15. Has the population of kingbirds increased or decreased in your area in recent years?
16. Date of departure of kingbirds? What weather conditions prevailed at the time?

THE STUDENT'S PAGE

MY GREATEST THRILL

By **EMIL K. URBAN**

Whitefish Bay High School

December the third was a cold, bitter, winter day. Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Dan Berger, and I were out birding, expecting to see some winter finches and a few owls such as the long-eared, short-eared, or great horned. To our great surprise we saw a very rare species—the little Richardson's owl. It was the neatest little owl that I have ever seen with the exception of the saw-whet owl which I saw an hour before. It was perched in a cedar tree, on a branch about seven feet above the ground. This tree was one of a group of cedars which apparently was used as a roost, although this owl shows a preference for spruce trees.

When we looked at the Richardson's owl, we naturally cocked our heads to get a better view, and believe it or not, the owl cocked its head right back. Its head reminded me of a playful little kitten without ears. The little round head—forehead that is, was heavily spotted with white and its facial discs were framed with black. I couldn't see its bill, which is yellowish in color, because some branches were in the way. The Richardson's owl resembles the saw-whet owl closely except that it is a little larger and its bill is different. The saw-whet's bill is black and its face lacks the facial "frames".

The Richardson's owl is very seldom seen in the United States as its range is chiefly in Canada; but there have been a few previous records for Wisconsin. To see one here is a thrill not soon to be forgotten.

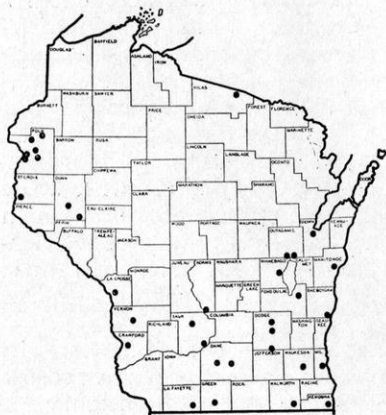
THE 1950 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By S. D. ROBBINS, JR.

The ornithological task force that engages in the Christmas bird count in Wisconsin continues to grow! Between December 23, 1950, and January 1, 1951, a total of 136 observers were afield; their efforts produced 34 counts in 31 areas. The accompanying map shows that the western, southern and eastern portions of the state received creditable coverage this year.

In spite of this coverage, the grand total of 90 species was not unduly large. This was no year for breaking records. The state had experienced cold weather most of the time since early November, leaving but a minimum of open water areas by Christmas-time; the absence of water birds in most areas was the result. Deep snows also blanketed the state, probably sending some birds further south in their search for food, and certainly making walking so difficult that some suitable bird areas could not be reached. Nor was this a good year for the irregular winter visitors from the north. Northern finches were almost completely lacking; no Bohemian waxwings were noted; only the goshawk at South Wayne, the snowy owls at Appleton, Green Bay, Horicon and Lake Geneva, and the shrikes at Menomonie, Oshkosh and Two Rivers, represented visitors from the north.

In view of the severe weather conditions during, and prior to, the Christmas bird count season, it is surprising to see so many southern birds still with us. The Franklin's gull in Milwaukee may constitute the first Wisconsin winter record. Most unusual, also, are the great blue heron and brown thrasher in Waukesha, the black-crowned night heron in Kenosha, the whistling swan at Green Bay, sapsuckers in Dane County and Milwaukee, winter wren at Lake Geneva, and the towhee at Milwaukee. The number of robins is amazing—not only near Onalaska where a good hackberry crop has attracted them by the hundreds, but generally in southern and eastern sections. It is interesting to note the number of flickers, including birds as far north as Appleton and Balsam Lake; snipe in four areas, mourning doves in seven counts, the wide-



spread presence of brown creepers, 35 meadowlarks in eight areas, red-wings, rusty blackbirds, and grackles found in three places each, three widely separated swamp sparrows, and some 69 song sparrows counted by nine census teams. In addition to the total of 90 species, two additional subspecies were reported: both Northern and prairie horned larks were identified in Milwaukee; in addition to the slate-colored junco, two Cassiar juncos were collected at Madison, and one junco thought to be one of the western forms was observed at Waukesha.

Encouraging as is the increased participation in the Christmas bird count program, we would like to point out areas in which the program may be improved further. Only half of the counts conformed to the standards set up by **Audubon Field Notes**; a few counts were taken over a two-day period, instead of being done all in one day; several counts did not last the full seven hours which is nationally recommended; in a couple of cases the 15-mile diameter limit was exceeded. The closer the counts conform to these standards in the future, the more valuable they will be for purposes of comparison.

Another area ripe for further improvement is state-wide coverage. The map plotting locations of the 1950 counts shows one huge gap in central and northern Wisconsin. Perhaps observers in the neglected areas can begin making plans now for the count we hope they will take next Christmas-time. What can be done was shown graphically by the observers in Polk County this year. The Heinsohns of St. Croix Falls conceived the idea of alerting all their bird friends in the county to count birds in their area during the Christmas bird count period. The observations of 33 people in seven communities were received and tabulated. Where observations for a one- or two-day period could be isolated, the information has been incorporated into this summary. Some has had to be left out, but it should be mentioned that the entire Polk County survey revealed a total of 31 species. Who says there are no birds up north at this time of year?

APPLETON (City parks, streets and cemeteries; river banks and swamps, woods, fields and roads near city)—Dec. 23; 7 a. m. to 4 p. m. Clear; temp. 21° to 26°; wind 9 m. p. h.; 14" snow; water frozen except small portions of river and Lake Winnebago. Seven observers together. Total hours, 9; total miles, 54 (7 on foot, 47 in car). Total, 20 species, 570 individuals.—Mrs. Frank Blick, Mrs. C. Defferding, Mrs. Fred Guenther, Mrs. Eli Jandrin, Bess Russell, Mrs. George Seeliger, Mrs. Fred Tessen (Appleton Bird Club).

APPLETON (7-mile radius centering in Appleton, east and south to Lake Winnebago, west through Neenah, north to Center Swamp; city park and streets 5%, river bank 5%, cemetery 5%, fields 15%, lake front 45%, hard woods 5%, swamp 20%)—Dec. 27; 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Cloudy; temp. -16° to 10°; wind W-SW 10-15 m. p. h.; 12-15" crusted snow. Seven observers in two parties. Total hours, 9 (2 on foot, 7 by car); total miles, 59 (5 on foot, 54 by car). Total, 16 species, 372 individuals.—Cora Harvey, Mrs. Carroll McEathron, Mrs. H. L. Playman, Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, Charles Scribner, Jim Strieby, Mrs. Dale Vawter.

BALSAM LAKE (areas around the village; woods 75%, field 5%, streets 5%; feeder 5%)—Dec. 28. Cloudy. One observer. Total hours, 3; total miles, 17 (2 on foot, 15 by car). Total, 10 species, 53 individuals.—Hallie H. Nordhagen.

BALSAM LAKE (surrounding countryside, woods, fields, yard feeders)—Jan. 1. Cloudy; temp. 5° to -15°. Total hours, 8. Total, 12 species, 65 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spencer.

CEDAR GROVE (lake shore areas between Port Washington and Cedar Grove)—Dec. 31; 11:30 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Clear; temp. 28° to 34°; wind SE, 18 m. p. h.; 6-10" snow. Two observers together. Total hours, 4½; total miles, 20 (2 on foot, 18 by car). Total, 2,752 individuals.—Dan Berger, Gordon Orians.

DANE COUNTY (West from Madison to Pine Bluff, Black Earth, and river bottoms near Sauk City)—Dec. 28; 10 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 15° to 20°; wind SSW, 20-30 m. p. h.; 15" snow. One observer. Total hours, 6½; total miles, 34 (4 on foot, 30 by car). Total, 25 species, 240+ individuals.—John Wilde.

GREEN BAY (area around De Pere and Green Bay, including West Bay Shore, Point Sauble and Town of Scott; upland woods 45%, swampy woods 15%, open fields 20%, river and bay shore 20%)—Dec. 24; 7 a. m. to 2 p. m. Clear; temp. 10° to 15°; wind NW, 12-15 m. p. h.; 6-10" snow; fresh water streams frozen. Six observers in

	Appleton	Appleton	Balsam Lake	Balsam Lake	Cedar Grove	Dane County	Green Bay	Horicon (North)	Horicon (South)	Hudson	Kenosha	Lake Geneva
SPARROW HAWK					1						1	
RUFFED GROUSE												
EUROPEAN PARTRIDGE	32				397		20					
BOB-WHITE						2						
PHEASANT	1	28			6	2	5	400	52			11
COOT											6	
WILSON'S SNIPE											5	
HERRING GULL	10	3			275		107				800	4
RING-BILLED GULL					6							
FRANKLIN'S GULL												
MOURNING DOVE								1	1			
SCREECH OWL												
GREAT HORNED OWL					1			1	2			
SNOWY OWL	1						1	1				1
BARRED OWL												
LONG-EARED OWL												
SHORT-EARED OWL												
BELTED KINGFISHER						1						
FLICKER	2		1			2						
PILEATED WOODPECKER				1								
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER		1				1						
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER			1			1						
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER						1						
HAIRY WOODPECKER	3			6	1	1	5		2	2	1	
DOWNY WOODPECKER	11	2	2	5	2	1	6	2	8	2	2	6
HORNED LARK					3	2		18				
BLUE JAY	16	4		3	7	14	21	4	4	2	2	1
RAVEN												
CROW	2	1			27	2	2	14	8		15	11
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	2	34	23	12	3	2	65	2	20		3	7
TUFTED TITMOUSE												

Land O' Lakes	Lewis	Luck	Madison	Menomonie	Milwaukee	Monroe	Mt. Calvary	Onalaska	Oshkosh	Reedsburg	Rock Creek Township	Sauk City	Seneca	South Wayne	St. Croix Falls	St. Croix Falls	Two Rivers	Viroqua	Watertown	Waukesha	Wisconsin Dells
			1		2	1			1												1
		1		23	1										1						1
					550	11	16		19								285		15	83	
								14		15	15	15		8							21
		1	113		200	172	10		2			1		12	5		11		46	45	3
			3																	1	
			3			2								1							
					700		2										1000		1		
					150																
					2																
			25			9						17								30	14
	1		1		1		1														
					1	1	3													1	
			1			1											1				
					27																
					5																
					1																
						1		1											5	6	1
				3														1			1
			2			2				1		2	3	1		2		5		2	
				2		5							1					2			10
					2																
4	2		6	2	3	7	4				1		1	5	5	4		1	11	6	4
1	1		21	1	26	11	4			4	1	6	2	6	4	2		6	5	29	4
				9	40	44								3							
13	7		80	35	16	19	17	19		6	20	12	9	7	6	6	9	8	3	36	80
5																	1				
			84	13	350	29			6	1		10	3	15				15	144	2871	25
9			25		37	22	11			5		2	9	7	5	9	8	3	22	77	22
						4					2	2						1			

	Appleton	Appleton	Balsam Lake	Balsam Lake	Cedar Grove	Dane County	Green Bay	Horicon (North)	Horicon (South)	Hudson	Kenosha	Lake Geneva
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	11	3	9	6		2	4		4	2		1
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH				1								
BROWN CREEPER		6	2				5		3	1		1
WINTER WREN												1
BROWN THRASHER												
ROBIN	1				7							2
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET							1		3			1
CEDAR WAXWING	8		3									
NORTHERN SHRIKE												
STARLING	85	31	5	3	67	35	48	2		13	X	8
ENGLISH SPARROW	230	156		10	264	75	360	150	129	20	X	50
EASTERN MEADOWLARK						6						
RED-WING								16				
RUSTY BLACKBIRD												1
BRONZED GRACKLE						1						
COWBIRD												
CARDINAL	12	2	2	1	2	12	1			1	1	6
PURPLE FINCH												
REDPOLL							1					
PINE SISKIN												
GOLDFINCH				15		1	5					
RED CROSSBILL												
TOWHEE												
JUNCO	16	9	2	2	16	65	31	15	8		20	15
TREE SPARROW					37	2	1	25	2			2
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	1											
SWAMP SPARROW					1							1
SONG SPARROW					4	1						3
LAPLAND LONGSPUR					265							
SNOW BUNTING					2							

Land O' Lakes	Lewis	Luck	Madison	Menomonie	Milwaukee	Monroe	Mt. Calvary	Onalaska	Oshkosh	Reedsburg	Rock Creek Township	Sauk City	Seneca	South Wayne	St. Croix Falls	St. Croix Falls	Two Rivers	Viroqua	Watertown	Waukesha	Wisconsin Dells
	2		14	4	6	17	6	2		9	3	5	7	5	4	4		6	12	21	8
			1													1					2
			19		4	1	1	1		2			1	1	1	1				1	3
																					1
			2		66		415			1		1								2	1
1			24		19	1													15		1
			16		26		6			1				8							1
				2					1								1				
		6	101		250	76	28	42	50	7		1	16	X	15	10	18	125	50	206	90
2		8	552		2000	1300	73		250	60		250	42	X		50	44	80	100	978	370
			1		1	9						6		2					6	4	
			21		1																
			1																		1
					1																1
					3												6				
			30	11	42	27	2	2		4	5	3	6	5	10	2			3	2	30
			10				2											1	15		2
												14									
5					1																
150			5	11	8	10	8			2		2	16				20	4		62	2
10																					
					1																
			38	33	180	81	6	2	2	25	9		9	15	2		17	15	28	203	280
			80		120	37	3	11	4			7	9	12			25		23	229	49
			1																		
			1																		
			15		12	23	1												1	9	
																					4
					50	4															1

three parties. Total hours, 9; total miles, 80 (6 on foot, 74 by car). Total, 24 species, 793 individuals.—Edwin Cleary, Mr. & Mrs. Myron Duquaine, Barbara Duquaine, Chester Krawczyk, Paul Romig (Green Bay Bird Club).

HORICON NORTH (approximately 35 miles around the perimeter of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge; fields and fence rows 35%, hilly hardwoods 20%, marsh 25%, willow and aspen 20%)—Dec. 27. Partly cloudy to clear; all water areas frozen. Total, 16 species, 655 individuals.—Lloyd F. Gunther.

HORICON SOUTH (Horicon to Miescke farm to islands north of Burnett ditch on snowshoes, south to Quick's Point by truck, around Quick's Point on snowshoes)—Dec. 28; 7 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 0° to 20°; wind S-SW, 20 m. p. h.; 15" snow. One observer. Total hours, 8½; total miles, 13 (8 on foot, 5 by car). Total, 17 species, 251 individuals.—Harold A. Mathiak.

HUDSON (observations at a feeding station in the city)—Dec. 27. One observer. Total, 8 species, 43 individuals.—Mrs. Stella P. Owen.

KENOSHA (along lake front at Kenosha harbor, and five miles SW of city by car)—Dec. 29 and 31. Partly cloudy both days; temp. 20°, 32°; wind SW, S. Two observers first day, four on second day. Total hours, 4. Total, 16 species, 1981 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. Howard Higgins, Mrs. Carl Namur, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomson.

LAKE GENEVA—Dec. 26; 7:15 a. m. to 4:15 p. m. Clear; wind N-NE, 5-10 m. p. h. Two observers together. Total hours, 9. Total, 34 species, 435 individuals.—Earl Anderson, C. Palmquist.

LAND O' LAKES (village and west for 15 miles along County Trunk B and side roads; town 5%, hardwood 20%, mixed hardwoods and evergreens 75%)—Dec. 29; 8 a. m. to 12 m., 1 p. m. to 4 p. m. Partly cloudy, clearing in p. m.; temp. 15° to 24°; wind NW, 8-12 m. p. h.; 30" snow; water areas frozen. One observer. Total hours, 7; total miles, 53 (1 on foot, 52 by car). Total, 10 species, 200 individuals.—Fred I. Babcock.

LEWIS (feeding station near village in northern Polk County)—Dec. 31; 7 a. m. to 5 p. m. Cloudy; temp. 20° to 30°; wind SE. Three observers together. Total hours, 10. Total, 5 species, 13 individuals.—Vitus Chell family.

LUCK (village of Luck in Polk County, and vicinity; woods 70% fields 10%, other 14%, feeder 1%)—Dec. 28; 10:30 a. m. to 1:30 p. m. Cloudy and snowing; temp. 15°; wind SE. Two observers together. Total hours, 3; total miles, 19 (5 on foot, 14 by car). Total, 4 species, 16 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jorgensen.

MADISON (arboretum, fish hatchery, Picnic Point, Eagle Heights, Yahara River, and Waubesa Marsh)—Dec. 29; 8 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 17° to 30°; no wind; 12" snow. Total, 37 species, 1545 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger, Fern Bell, Mrs. Catherine Crocker, Alice Fosse, Mrs. J. J. Hickey, Alan Keitt, Mrs. R. F. Luxford, Mrs. Phillip Miles, Audrey Ragatz, William Roark, Mrs. R. A. Walker, Mrs. William Williams, Bob Williams, and Jim Zimmerman.

MENOMONIE (Quail study area near city, and part of Otter Creek Township)—Dec. 31. Clear; temp. 10°. One observer. Total hours, 3; total miles, 65. Total, 15 species, 403 individuals.—Helmer M. Mattison.

MILWAUKEE (area the same as in previous counts)—Dec. 30; 6:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. Cloudy; temp. 15° to 27°; wind NW-W, 2-8 m. p. h.; 10-12" snow. Twenty observers in six parties. Total party hours, 60 (33 on foot, 27 by car); total party miles, 326 (31 on foot, 295 by car). Total, 57 species, 10,506 individuals.—Mrs. A. P. Balsom, D. D. Berger, Mrs. C. R. Decker, Mary Donald, Mrs. A. J. Erskine, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Frister, J. Hoogerheide, R. Jankowski, Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Kaiman, K. H. Kuhn, Mrs. F. L. Larkin, M. LeTillier, H. C. Mueller, G. Orians, J. Spears, Mr. and Mrs. A. Throne, E. Urban (John Muir Club).

MONROE (New Glarus woods, wooded bottomland along the Sugar and Pecatonica Rivers, select fields and woods in Green County; fields 75%, river bottoms 15%, woods 10%)—Dec. 28; 7:30 a. m. to 4:45 p. m. Mostly fair; temp. 8° to 22°; wind S-SW, 10-16 m. p. h.; 12-16" snow; all water frozen except a few spring-fed streams. Fourteen observers, one party in a. m., three in p. m. Total hours, 8; total miles, 129 (4 on foot, 125 by car). Total, 32 species, 1949 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Churchill, Keith Holloway, Rev. Ralph Kofoed, Virginia Krauss, Mrs. D. E. Mings, Gordon Orians, Rev. H. L. Orians, Mrs. Frank Pickett, Dr. John Schindler, John Schindler, Jr., Lois Speich, Dr. James Wier, James Wier, Jr.

MT. CALVARY (immediate vicinity of Holy Cross Monastery, Marshfield Township, Fond du Lac County)—Dec. 30 and 31. Total, 20 species, 204 individuals.—Rev. George Henseler.

ONALASKA (areas in Onalaska and La Crosse)—Dec. 23 and 24. First day: temp. 22° to 36°; wind W; second day: temp. 10° to 12°, wind NW. Total miles on foot,

6½. One observer. Total, 10 species, 508 individuals.—Alvin M. Peterson.

OSHKOSH (north along Lake shore from Oshkosh to Neenah, west for several miles, then south to Oshkosh)—Dec. 29; 1:30 p. m. to 5:15 p. m. Overcast; 15° to 20°; 12" snow; portion of river near Neenah open, open water areas frozen. Three observers together. Total hours, 3¾; total miles by car, about 50. Total, 15 species, 867 individuals.—J. H. Evans, Tom Hagene, Jack Kaspar.

REEDSBURG (Hay Creek road, swamp and meadow lands, country road, town streets and city park)—Dec. 23 and 24; 12 m. to 1:30 p. m., 11:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. Partly overcast; temp. 38°, 22° to 32°; wind S, slight; 12" snow. One observer. Total hours, 2; total miles on foot, 2½. Total, 15 species, 143 individuals.—Ethel Allis Nott.

ROCK CREEK TOWNSHIP (country roads around Rock Falls, Dunn County)—Dec. 28. Partly cloudy; temp. near 0°; wind slight; 15" snow. One observer. Total miles by car, 20. Total, 8 species, 56 individuals.—H. E. Clark.

SAUK CITY (areas in Sauk County west and north of Sauk City; river bottoms 5%, cultivated uplands 95%)—Dec. 29; 1 p. m. to 4:15 p. m. Clear; temp. 15° to 22°. Two observers together. Total hours, 3¼; total miles, 37 (two on foot, 35 by car). Total, 20 species, 367 individuals.—George Becker, LeRoy Lintereur.

SENECA (West-central Crawford County from Seneca northwest toward Mississippi River, along east side of river channel just south of Locks No. 9 below Lynxville; deciduous woodlands 40%, pasture and open farm land 10%, beaver ponds and small stream 20%, along Mississippi River channel 10%, selected river bottom areas 20%)—Dec. 24; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Temp. 10° to 11°; wind NW, 4-12 m. p. h.; 8" snow; most streams and water frozen. One observer. Total hours, 8; total miles, 42 (8 on foot, 34 by car). Total, 16 species, 136 individuals.—Clarence Paulson.

SOUTH WAYNE (country roads in and around village)—Dec. 24; 1:30 p. m. to 3 p. m. Two observers together. Total hours, 1½; total miles by car, 35. Total, 23 species, 122 individuals.—Mrs. Ethel Olson, Mrs. Lola Welch.

ST. CROIX FALLS (residential feeding stations 75%, roads 20%, river banks 5%)—Dec. 31; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Cloudy; temp. 5°; wind calm. Two observers together. Total hours, 4; total miles, 16 (1 on foot, 15 by car). Total, 12 species, 59 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. L. Heinsohn.

ST. CROIX FALLS (town and other areas along St. Croix River)—Dec. 23 and 25; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m., 1 p. m. to 3 p. m. First day: cloudy, 0°; second day: clear, 5°, wind NW. 3 observers together first day, one observer second day. Total hours, 11. Total, 14 species, 95 individuals.—W. D. Barnard, Dr. and Mrs. Riegel, Glen Riegel.

TWO RIVERS (woods at edge of city, Two Rivers harbor, Point Beach State Forest; woods 40%, fields 35%, harbor 25%)—Dec. 23; 8 a. m. to noon, 2 p. m. to 4 p. m. Cloudy, clearing in p. m.; temp. 24° to 33°; wind slight; 6" snow. Two observers together. Total hours, 6; total miles, 34 (4 on foot, 30 by car). Total, 14 species, 1,502 individuals.—John Kraupa, Norman Wood.

VIROQUA (wooded hills, open fields and pastures, and cemetery near city)—Dec. 31. Overcast; temp. 28° to 30°; wind 15 m. p. h.; deep snow on ground. One observer. Total hours, 3; total miles on foot, 8. Total, 16 species; 275 individuals.—Margarette E. Morse.

WATERTOWN (Faville Wildlife Grove, parts of Mud Lake, woodlots and fields in various places in Dodge and Jefferson Counties)—Dec. 29; 7:30 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 24°; wind NW; 24" snow. One observer. Total hours, 8; total miles, 62 (12 on foot, 50 by car). Total, 21 species, 510 individuals.—Philip Mallow.

WAUKESHA (three wooded areas in city, southwest to Kettle Moraine State Forest, along Fox River valley to Mukwonago Marsh, to Saylesville, south to Mukwonago and Big Bend; open farmlands 40%, deciduous farm woodlots 40%, tamarack swamp 4%, grassy marsh 11%, suburbs 5%)—Wind W, 3-15 m. p. h.; 24" snow; two large springs open but river partly frozen. Thirteen observers in four parties, five additional observers at feeding stations. Total party-hours, 35; total party-miles, 190 (18 on foot, 172 by car). Total, 38 species, 5,067 individuals.—Robert Adams, Clarence Anthes, Vincent Batha, Olive Compton, Rahn Cuthbert, Emma Hoffmann, Paul Hoffmann, S. Paul Jones, Dr. Melvin Johnson, C. E. Nelson, Jr., Mary Nelson, James Selle, Roger Sohr, Mary Sydow, T. G. Wilder, Elizabeth Williams, Larry Zimmerman, Robert Zimmerman (Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club).

WISCONSIN DELLS (Rocky Arbor Roadside Park, Lake Delton, to Baraboo, Devil's Lake, and Portage)—Dec. 30; 6 a. m. to 4 p. m. Cloudy, clearing; temp. 0°; wind N; 15" snow. Five observers in one party. Total hours, 10 total miles, 40 (5 on foot, 35 by car). Total, 27 species, 1,031 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger, Robert J. Magirl, Mrs. R. A. Walker, Dr. H. A. Winkler.

By The Wayside . . .

Edited by S. D. ROBBINS, JR.

Lazuli Bunting Found at Milton. When I arrived home on May 7, 1950, after attending the Two Rivers convention, my neighbor, Mrs. Mattie Anderson said they had been watching a lazuli bunting for two days. So of course I spent the next day looking for it, and as I returned to my own back yard I saw it fly from the lawn near the bath to a lilac bush at my back door, where it preened its feathers and sang for some minutes. I was within twenty feet of it, and had an excellent chance to see it—the blue, so different from the indigo bunting, the cinnamon band across its breast, and the white wing bars. I watched it fly from lilac to elm and followed it down the street as it rested and sang. Then I played the recordings of the bird songs, and it was the same. Mrs. Anderson and Miss Mabel West also saw it.—Melva Maxson, Milton.

(Editor's Note: We believe this to be the first Wisconsin record for the lazuli bunting. A bird of the West, whose normal range reaches eastward only to the western part of the great plains, this individual doubtless was blown here by the severe windstorm of May 5-6, along with the vermilion flycatcher, avocet, etc., reported in a previous issue. We regret that we did not learn of this record in time to deal with it more fully in that issue. What was written about the value of sight records (*Pass. Pigeon* 12,1950:154) would apply to this record.)

Hawk Attacked by Pigeons. While eating dinner on October 24, my boys noticed a neighboring flock of homing pigeons attacking a hawk in the sky. By the time I got my field glasses on the hawk, it was quite far away, but I believe that it was a sharp-shinned hawk. The organization of the pigeons was amazing. About 35 of them formed a tight or compact flock and repeatedly circled and dive-bombed the hawk. The hawk seemed helpless in the middle of the pigeon flock and did not seem to try to protect itself. The attacks came so rapidly that three occurred while I was going to my car for my field glasses. Besides the tight attacking flock there were several lone pigeons that seemed to act as observers to keep track of the hawk while the rest of the flock was circling. Once the flock seemed to lose the hawk for a few moments, and the lone birds followed it until the flock again caught up. At this same time there were other birds several blocks away circling their pigeon cote. Once when the hawk again started in that direction, they rose to meet it. In general the hawk kept rising and going away from the cote in order to get away from the attacking pigeons. The pigeons left the hawk when it was about one-quarter mile away from the cote. The cooperation of the pigeons was amazing. Watching this display, one really felt sorry for the "poor, defenseless" hawk.—Walter Sylvester, Stevens Point.

Coot Trapped By Clam. On October 14, 1950, I collected a coot (*Fulica americana*) at Mud Lake (Yahara River above Lake Kegonsa), Dane County, Wisconsin, which had a live mussel clamped upon its lower mandible and tongue tip. The coot when shot was standing on a clump of sedge close to the shore line. It had been twice flushed from this perch, and had flown far out over the lake, but each time it quickly

swam back and climbed out on the clump. It had flown close to the water with its head low and the clam nearly touching the surface, suggesting evidence of its burden. While standing on the clump it had swung its head sideways a few times but otherwise it had mostly remained still. The clam remained firmly attached to the beak for 48 hours after the bird had been shot. A clam equally persistent in clinging to a live bird might easily prove disastrous to its host. The specimen is preserved in alcohol in the Museum of the University of Wisconsin, Department of Zoology.

One other record of this phenomenon is available. In the museum of the Department of Zoology there is a preserved head of a coot (*Fulica americana*) with a clam attached to the mandible in the same fashion. This bird was found dead, lying on the shore of Lake Wingra, Madison, several years ago. The clam on this bird is somewhat larger, measuring 75 mm. by 45 mm. (3" by 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ "), as compared to the clam on the recent specimen which is 60 mm. by 40 mm. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ").

Scoter and eider ducks commonly feed on mollusks, including mussels or clams, and "a number of records are given of a clam closing on the tongue or mandible . . ." of these ducks causing their death by "strangulation". (Cottam, 1939. Food Habits of North American Diving Ducks. USDA Bull. #643:117). In this same paper Cottam shows a photograph (p. 99) of the head of a female American eider which had "either strangled or starved to death as a consequence of having the valves of a blue mussel clamp down on its tongue."

Bent (1926. Life histories of North American marsh birds. U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. #135:356) states that the European coot (*Fulica atra* L.) feeds, in part, on mollusks, but does not mention them forming any part of the diet of our coot.

Both of the clams on these coots are a common Wisconsin species, *Lampsilis siliquoidea*, a type which lives partly buried in the sand, the posterior end, bearing the siphons, being elevated. Since both coots had their beaks caught in the posterior end of the clams, it seems likely that they were trapped accidentally while probing the bottom of the lake or perhaps, and which seems more likely, while probing at the disturbance in the water which would be caused by the action of the siphons.—Robert Nero, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin.

The Autumn Season . . .

By S. D. ROBBINS, JR.

As we contemplated the effect of the famous windstorm of May 5-6 on bird life, we wondered if a sufficient number of May migrants were blown off course to upset the breeding and fall migration patterns of small land birds. Unfortunately too few observers made detailed notes on the fall migration in their areas; we can but hazard a conjecture on the basis of data at hand.

Weather during most of August was surprisingly cool—so cool that normally we would have expected an early return of the first waves of migrating warblers, flycatchers, *et cetera*. This did not materialize; it was not until August 25 that migrants of any consequence appeared in

southern Wisconsin, while data for other sections of the state are too fragmentary to establish a definite start of the fall migration. During the last week in August the flight was quite good along Lake Michigan and in the Madison region. Favorable weather for further migration continued throughout September—with neither unusually marked warm and cold spells, but sufficient variation to induce periodic waves. The number of birds coming through, however, was small, and thrushes were especially conspicuous by their absence. A real cold wave then moved over the state on October 2, and from then through the following week, another good flight of warblers occurred, especially in the Cedar Grove area. The remainder of October was warmer than usual; those birds that normally depart by early October left for the south about on schedule; and those that normally depart near the middle or latter part of October lingered longer than usual. Was the slow start in the fall migration, in spite of suitable weather, due to a late start in the breeding season? Is there a correlation between the scarcity of thrushes in fall and below normal numbers last spring? Why was there such a gap between the migration of late August and that of early October? The answers to these questions we shall never know; but if more observers in more areas can be enlisted in this program, and if more detailed observations can be made and reported by our present contributors, we shall come closer to answering similar questions that may arise in the future.

The waterfowl migration was generally good. Ducks moving in from the north were somewhat later than usual, but by the end of October sizable peaks of most species had been reported. The redhead was a notable exception; numbers of this species were down. Canada geese showed up very well—even better than the good 1949 flight in some areas. Flocks totaling 3500 geese were seen flying over Green Bay on October 23 by Harold Shine.

The presence of southern herons in August and September was not so pronounced and widespread as in the past two years, but there was at least one large concentration in Dodge County, including the largest single group of little blue herons to be seen in Wisconsin in recent years.

High water levels occasioned by plentiful rainfall most of the summer made suitable shorebird habitat hard to find. A flooded field west of Middleton in Dane County was productive in August until it dried up late in the month. An area near Kaukauna showed up well during September and October. For the second straight year, stilt sandpipers were reported on several occasions; Hudsonian curlews were noted at Milwaukee twice; otherwise rarities were lacking.

Again information about hawk flights is largely lacking. Following the cold front that moved over the state on October 2, a most interesting early morning flight was watched at Cedar Grove on October 3 by Sam Robbins: sharp-shins began flying by at 5:45 a. m., and by 8:45 a. m. some 110 birds of this species were seen, along with 15 hawks of six other species. Continued observation throughout the day would probably have indicated a flight of major proportions on that day. At the same area on October 12, nearly 350 hawks of 12 species were counted by Mary Donald and Mrs. F. L. Larkin.

The season as a whole was not as exciting as many we have experienced. Outstanding rarities were scanty, and phenomenal flights of any

sort were lacking. Arrival and departure dates ran pretty close to schedule, providing very few surprises for field observers.

Loon: A surprised fisherman found a bird of this species on the end of his fish line in Polk County on Sept 6 (Don Nichols).

Red-throated Loon: Milwaukee, Oct. 29 (Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kaiman).

Horned Grebe: Migrating near Land O' Lakes by Sept. 12 (Philip Miles); first near Madison noted on Oct. 2 (John Wilde).

Eared Grebe: Bird in typical winter plumage seen in Madison on Oct. 19; distinctive shape, color of head and neck noted (Sam Robbins).

Western Grebe: Two in Milwaukee, Oct. 22 (C. P. Frister, Mrs. A. P. Balsom, et al.).

Double-crested Cormorant: Migrants seen in Columbia County by Sept. 6 (Alan Keitt); fewer than usual in most areas.

American Egret: The largest concentration reported was near Hubbleton, where on Aug. 24 the N. R. Bangers and Sam Robbins counted 225 in a flock that may have been twice that size. Smaller flocks of 55 birds were noted near South Wayne on Aug. 18 (Mrs. Lola Welch, Mrs. Ethel Olson, et al.), and in Vernon County on Sept. 26 (Alvin Peterson). Most northerly reports were of birds in Chippewa County on Aug. 27 (Mary Donald), and in Oconto County, Sept. 3-23 (Carl Richter). Last seen near Fort Atkinson on Oct. 17 (Mrs. Main), and in Columbia County on Oct. 8 (Arlene Cors).

Snowy Egret: Two near Milwaukee, Aug. 4-5 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom et al.).

Little Blue Heron: One adult near Hubbleton on Aug. 10, and 13 immatures there on Aug. 24 (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins); two in Kenosha County, Sept 7-10 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Green Heron: One still in Columbia County on Oct. 6 (Sam Robbins).

American Bittern: Last seen in Green Bay Oct. 15 (William Fisk).

Least Bittern: Still in Appleton on Sept. 5 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers), and at Cedar Grove on Sept. 30 (Helmuth Mueller).

Whistling Swan: Fall arrivals noted on Oct. 23 at Oconto (Carl Richter), and at Appleton (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

Canada Goose: 15 seen near Portage must have spent the summer somewhere in the area (Arlene Cors). Early fall arrivals noted at Cedar Grove on Sept. 16 (Helmuth Mueller), in Rock County on Sept. 21 (L. F. Smith), and in Burnett County on Sept. 25 (N. R. Stone).

Snow Goose: First seen on Oct. 7 at Oconto (Carl Richter), and at Cedar Grove (Gordon Orians).

Gadwall: Small flock present in Madison from Sept. 25 through October (Gordon Orians et al.); arrived in Milwaukee on Sept. 29 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom), and in Cedar Grove on Sept. 30 (Helmuth Mueller).

Baldpate: Migrating in Columbia County by Sept. 6 (Alan Keitt).

Shoveller: First fall migrants seen in Madison on Sept. 12 (Sam Robbins).

American Golden-eye: Arrived in Appleton, Oct. 1 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

White-winged Scoter: Three seen in Minocqua in October, one of which was wounded and captured (Spud DeByle); three in Milwaukee, Oct. 25 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

Ruddy Duck: Dane County, Aug. 23 (Sam Robbins).

American Merganser: Arrived in Milwaukee by Oct. 4 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

Turkey Vulture: Single birds migrating past Cedar Grove on Oct. 3 (Sam Robbins), and Oct. 12 (Mary Donald-Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

Goshawk: Single birds seen at Babcock on Oct. 22, 26, and 29 (Wallace Grange); noted also on Outer Island, Ashland County (J. M. Keener).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Birds in Lincoln County on Aug. 13 (F. C. Seymour), and in Vilas County on Aug. 27 (Mrs. P. E. Miles), were probable summer residents. Migrants were noted in Cedar Grove by Aug. 30, and in Monroe by Sept. 3 (Gordon Orians). This species predominated in the early October flights at Cedar Grove.

Red-tailed Hawk: 57 counted migrating past Cedar Grove on Oct. 12 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Mary Donald).

Red-shouldered Hawk: One far north in Heafford Junction, Lincoln County, on Aug. 3 (Mrs. Braden).

Broad-winged Hawk: Very early migrant at Mazomanie, Aug. 14 (Sam Robbins); last seen at Cedar Grove, Oct. 12 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Mary Donald).

Rough-legged Hawk: The summering bird north of Milwaukee was noted several times in August and September (many observers); first migrants noted in Chippewa County on Sept. 25 (F. H. King), and at Cedar Grove on Oct. 3 (Sam Robbins).

Bald Eagle: Migrants at Appleton on Sept. 4 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers), and at Babcock on Oct. 22 and 24 (Wallace Grange).

Osprey: Several early records: Green Bay, Aug. 2 and 12 (Ed Paulson); Oconto County, Aug. 13 (Carl Richter); and Dodge County, Aug. 24 (N. R. Barger et al.). Noted at Cedar Grove from Sept. 5 through Oct. 8 (Gordon Orians et al.).

Duck Hawk: Migrants seen at Cedar Grove between Sept. 7 (Gordon Orians) and Oct. 12 (Mary Donald-Mrs. F. L. Larkin); Milwaukee, Sept. 16 (Helmuth Mueller-Dan Berger); seen on Outer Island in September (J. M. Keener); one in Green Lake County, Oct. 6 (Sam Robbins).

Pigeon Hawk: Early migrant at Mazomanie, Aug. 31 (Sam Robbins); seen at Cedar Grove between Sept. 2 and Oct. 29 (Dan Berger-Helmuth Mueller); one in Iowa County, Sept. 18 (Sam Robbins); Outer Island during September (J. M. Keener); one at Babcock, Oct. 8 (Wallace Grange et al.).

Ruffed Grouse: Decrease of 25% estimated at Babcock (Wallace Grange).

Hungarian Partridge: The continued spread of this species is indicated by the observation of nine birds in Oconto County on Oct. 15 (Carl Richter).

Sandhill Crane: The fall flocking in Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara Counties is fast becoming an ornithological spectacle drawing bird watchers from quite a distance. Flocks were observed there between Sept. 12 and Oct. 8 by many observers. Migrants noted in Jefferson County, Oct. 4-19 (Paul Kennedy). Still present in Babcock at the end of October (Wallace Grange).

King Rail: Last seen in Milwaukee, Sept. 20 (Mrs. Martin Paulson).

Virginia Rail: Still at Cedar Grove, Oct. 14 (Helmuth Mueller).

Semipalmated Plover: Noted along the Lake Superior shore in Bayfield County on Aug. 24 (Mrs. A. A. Axley); last seen in Kaukauna, Oct. 22 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

Killdeer: Still to be seen in Green Bay on Oct. 25 (William Fisk), and at various southern Wisconsin points through the month.

Golden Plover: Cedar Grove, Sept. 9 (Helmuth Mueller et al.), Oct. 3 (Sam Robbins), and Oct. 22 (Gordon Orians); Milwaukee, Sept. 15 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and Sept. 23 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); Mazomanie, Sept. 12 (Sam Robbins); Madison, Sept. 23 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Columbia County, Oct. 2 (Sam Robbins).

Black-bellied Plover: Milwaukee, Aug. 19 through Oct. 22 (C. P. Frister et al.); Kaukauna, Sept. 24 through Oct. 23 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers et al.); other scattered records at Appleton, Cedar Grove, Kenosha, Madison, and Middleton.

Ruddy Turnstone: Noted only at Milwaukee, Aug. 11 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin) to Aug. 20 (C. P. Frister et al.); and at Cedar Grove, Sept. 6-7 (Gordon Orians).

Hudsonian Curlew: One in Milwaukee on Aug. 11, and two in another section of the city on Aug. 27 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.).

Upland Plover: Two migrating overhead near Middleton on Aug. 26 (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins); last seen in Milwaukee, Sept. 16 (Helmuth Mueller-Dan Berger).

Spotted Sandpiper: Still in Milwaukee, Oct. 22 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Greater Yellow-legs: Twelve in Kenosha County, Oct. 29 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); still present on Oct. 22 at Kiel (Myron Reichwaldt) and at Madison (John Wilde).

Lesser Yellow-legs: Last seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 29 (Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kaiman).

Knot: Three at Cedar Grove, Aug. 28 (Gordon Orians); nine at Milwaukee, Aug. 27 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin), still present on Sept. 22 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Pectoral Sandpiper: The remarkably late departures of 1949 were not duplicated, but the following late dates were reported: Kaukauna, Oct. 31 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); Vernon County, Oct. 22 (Margarette Morse); Dane County, Oct. 17 (Sam Robbins).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Kaukauna, Sept. 23 (Mrs. H. L. Playman-Mrs. W. E. Rogers). Only fall record.

Baird's Sandpiper: Milwaukee, July 23 through Sept. 3 (C. P. Frister et al.); Mazomanie, Aug. 19 (Sam Robbins); Middleton, Aug. 23 (Sam Robbins) through Sept. 2 (Gordon Orians); Cedar Grove, Aug. 30 (Gordon Orians).

Least Sandpiper: Bayfield County, Aug. 24 (Mrs. A. A. Axley); Kaukauna, Sept. 13-23 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

Dowitcher: Middleton, Aug. 24 (Sam Robbins); Kaukauna, Sept. 23 (Mrs. H. L. Playman-Mrs. W. E. Rogers); two in Kenosha County on Oct. 16 and seven there on Oct. 29 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Stilt Sandpiper: One at Monticello, Aug. 18 (Gordon Orians-Sam Robbins); one at Mazomanie, Aug. 19 (Sam Robbins); one at Middleton on Aug. 20 and three there on Aug. 22 (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins); one in Dane County on Sept. 2 (Gordon Orians).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Still at Cedar Grove on Oct. 12 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Mary Donald), and at Kaukauna on Oct. 5 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

Wilson's Phalarope: Middleton, Aug. 20-27 (Sam Robbins et al.). Only fall record!

Northern Phalarope: One in Dane County, Sept. 17 (Mrs. R. A. Walker et al.).

Franklin's Gull: Seen along the Lake Michigan shore from Milwaukee to Sheboygan from Aug. 7 on (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.).

Bonaparte's Gull: One at Hudson, Oct. 5 (Mrs. Hugh H. Owen). Rare in that area.

Common Tern: Remained in Milwaukee until Oct. 22 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Caspian Tern: Last seen in Green Bay on Aug. 31 (William Fisk), in Appleton on Sept. 16 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers), in Cedar Grove on Sept. 23 (Helmuth Mueller-Dan Berger), and in Ozaukee County on Sept. 24 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

Black Tern: Late stragglers in Land O' Lakes on Sept. 12 (Philip Miles), and at Cedar Grove on Sept. 16 (Dan Berger-Helmuth Mueller).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Last in Appleton, Sept. 29 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

Barn Owl: Nest with young seen in Ozaukee County on Sept. 24 (C. P. Frister et al.).

Great Horned Owl: One caught on a fish line in Greenwood, Clark County, Sept. 4 (George Hare).

Long-eared Owl: Heafford Junction, Aug. 3 (Mrs. Braden).

Short-eared Owl: Dodge County, Aug. 10 (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins); Walworth County, Aug. 23 (Mrs. Leta McMaster); Milwaukee, Sept. 30 (S. Paul Jones).

Nighthawk: Last seen on Oct. 1 in Milwaukee (C. P. Frister) and in Monroe (Gordon Orians).

Chimney Swift: The migration at Hudson was over by Sept. 7 (Mrs. Hugh H. Owen), but individuals were still to be seen in Milwaukee on Oct. 7 (Helmuth Mueller), and in Madison on Oct. 8 (Gordon Orians).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Still in Superior on Sept. 18 (Mrs. Mabelle Gates); last seen at Cedar Grove on Sept. 30 (Helmuth Mueller-Dan Berger), and at Monroe on Oct. 1 (Gordon Orians).

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker: Land O' Lakes, Sept. 12 (Philip Miles).

Eastern Kingbird: Still at Tomahawk on Aug. 27 (F. C. Seymour), but the species seems to have been entirely gone from the state two weeks later.

Crested Flycatcher: Late migrants at Cedar Grove on Oct. 30 (Helmuth Mueller), at Appleton on Sept. 29 (Mrs. Jandrin et al.), and at Milwaukee on Sept. 27 (Helene Stoll-Mrs. Kroetz).

Phoebe: Last in Milwaukee, Oct. 30 (Mrs. Martin Paulsen).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Cedar Grove, Aug. 30 (Gordon Orians).

Wood Pewee: Last at Cedar Grove, Oct. 8 (Gordon Orians et al.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Mazomanie, Aug. 29 (Sam Robbins); Cedar Grove, Aug. 29-Sept. 2 (Gordon Orians); six at Monroe, Sept. 3, (Gordon Orians).

Bank Swallow: Last seen at Cedar Grove on Sept. 30 (Dan Berger-Helmuth Mueller); other late dates in Winnebago County on Sept. 15 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers), and in Dane County on Sept. 17 (Gordon Orians).

Rough-winged Swallow: Remained in Winnebago County until Sept. 15 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers), and at Green Bay until Sept. 17 (William

Fisk), and at Cedar Grove through Sept. 30 (Helmuth Mueller-Dan Berger).

Barn Swallow: One remarkably late straggler still to be seen near Appleton through Oct. 31 (Mrs. H. L. Playman-Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

Purple Martin: Noticeable flocking was under way in Onalaska by Aug. 6 (Alvin Peterson); still in Tomahawk on Sept. 3 (F. C. Seymour); flock of 32 still present at Mt. Calvary on Sept. 15 (George Henseler); last seen in Milwaukee on Oct. 3 (K. E. Kuhn), and in Appleton on Oct. 2 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

Canada Jay: Present near Land O' Lakes by mid-September (Philip Miles); seen in Sawyer County, Oct. 17-25 (F. H. King); Lincoln County, Oct. 21 (F. C. Seymour).

Raven: Unusual southern record from Juneau County, Aug. 31 (Alan Keitt). One seen at Oconto, Oct. 2 (Carl Richter).

Hudsonian Chickadee: Land O' Lakes, Sept. 6 (Mrs. P. E. Miles).

Tufted Titmouse: Two at Cedar Grove on Oct. 3 (Sam Robbins). Rare near Lake Michigan.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Several records, but nothing approximating the fall migration of 1949. Reports between Aug. 5 and Oct. 11 came from Fond du Lac, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Vilas Counties.

Brown Creeper: Early arrival at Arena, Sept. 8 (Sam Robbins).

Carolina Wren: One singing in Madison, Aug. 12 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

Prairie Marsh Wren: Last, Milwaukee, Oct. 15 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.).

Short-billed Marsh Wren: Lingered at Mazomanie until Oct. 18 (Sam Robbins).

Catbird: Late departures at Tomahawk on Oct. 15 (Archie Mock), at Milwaukee on Oct. 17 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom), and at Cedar Grove on Oct. 30 (Helmuth Mueller).

Bluebird: Still present in Washburn on Oct. 30 (Betty Leino).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Last seen at Mazomanie on Aug. 31 (Sam Robbins).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First in Milwaukee on Sept. 4 (C. P. Frister); last in Kiel, Oct. 31 (Myron Reichwaldt).

Pipit: Present in Outagamie County from Oct. 8 through the month (W. E. Rogers et al.); numerous reports from Oct. 2-18 in Iowa, Dane, Columbia, and Sheboygan Counties (Sam Robbins).

Migrant Shrike: Still present in Oconto County on Sept. 4 (Carl Richter).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Last reported on Sept. 24 from Milwaukee (C. P. Frister), and Monroe (Gordon Orians).

Blue-headed Vireo: First at Land O' Lakes, Sept. 4 (Mrs. P. E. Miles); last at Cedar Grove, Oct. 22 (Helmuth Mueller-Gordon Orians).

Red-eyed Vireo: Cedar Grove, Oct. 22 (Gordon Orians-Helmuth Mueller). Latest date on record.

Philadelphia Vireo: Madison, Sept. 2 (Gordon Orians); two in Mazomanie, Sept. 15 (Sam Robbins); Milwaukee, Sept. 16 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); Cedar Grove, Oct. 8 (Gordon Orians).

Warbling Vireo: Last in Milwaukee, Oct. 1 (C. P. Frister).

Black and White Warbler: Migrants appeared by August 20 in Appleton (Bess Russell et al.), Aug. 21 in Madison (Sam Robbins), and Aug. 22 in Milwaukee (Mrs. Martin Paulsen); last seen in Cedar Grove on Oct. 22 (Gordon Orians et al.). Latest date on record.

Golden-winged Warbler: Early migrant in Milwaukee, Aug. 17 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); late one in Kiel, Sept. 19 (Myron Reichwaldt).

Blue-winged Warbler: Last in Viroqua, Sept. 10 (Margarette Morse).

Tennessee Warbler: Arrived by Aug. 25 in Milwaukee (Mrs. F. L. Larkin) and in Columbia County (Sam Robbins-N. R. Barger); last at Cedar Grove, Oct. 15 (Helmuth Mueller).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Early birds at Cedar Grove on Aug. 28 (Gordon Orians), and at Viroqua on Sept. 10 (Margarette Morse); last seen at Cedar Grove on Oct. 22 (Gordon Orians et al.).

Parula Warbler: Milwaukee, Aug. 31 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); Land O' Lakes, Sept. 4-7 (Mrs. P. E. Miles); Cedar Grove, Oct. 8 (Gordon Orians et al.).

Yellow Warbler: Lingered at Viroqua until Sept. 14 (Margarette Morse).

Magnolia Warbler: First in Columbia County, Aug. 25 (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins); last seen on Oct. 15 in Madison (Eleanor Peterson) and Cedar Grove (Helmuth Mueller). One at Oshkosh on Oct. 2 (Mrs. Glen Fisher) is also late.

Cape May Warbler: Arrived in Columbia County by Aug. 25 (N. R. Barger), and in Milwaukee by Aug. 26 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); still to be seen in Milwaukee on Oct. 1 (C. P. Frister).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: In addition to records from the Lake Michigan area where this species is more common, birds were reported from Land O' Lakes, Sept. 4-15 (Philip Miles); Mazomanie, Sept. 3 (Sam Robbins); and Madison; Oct. 8 (John Wilde).

Myrtle Warbler: Present in Lincoln County by Aug. 8 (F. C. Seymour), and in Cedar Grove by Aug. 30 (Gordon Orians).

Blackburnian Warbler: More fall reports than usual; last noted at Cedar Grove on Oct. 8 (Helmuth Mueller et al.). Latest date on record.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Present from Aug. 25 in Columbia County (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins) until Oct. 6 at Cedar Grove (Sam Robbins). Other records from Kiel, Monroe, Madison, Green Bay and Mazomanie.

Black-poll Warbler: Land O' Lakes, Aug. 27 (Mrs. P. E. Miles); Cedar Grove, Aug. 29-Oct. 8 (Gordon Orians et al.). Latest date on record. Others noted in Green Bay on Sept. 17 (William Fisk), and in Kiel on Sept. 7 (Myron Reichwaldt).

Pine Warbler: Last at Milwaukee on Oct. 1 (C. P. Frister), and at Mt. Calvary on Sept. 12 (George Henseler).

Palm Warbler: First seen at Kiel, Sept. 5 (Myron Reichwaldt); good migration reported in Land O' Lakes on Oct. 14 (Fred Babcock).

Ovenbird: Last seen at Cedar Grove, Oct. 8 (many observers).

Grinnell's Water-thrush: First in Madison, Aug. 25 (Sam Robbins); last in Cedar Grove, Oct. 8 (many observers).

Connecticut Warbler: Cedar Grove, Aug. 30 (Gordon Orians); Milwaukee, Aug. 31 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); Mazomanie, Sept. 12 (Sam Robbins).

Mourning Warbler: Two near Land O' Lakes, Aug. 26 (Mrs. P. E. Miles); Cedar Grove, Aug. 30 (Gordon Orians); Mazomanie, Sept. 3 (Sam

Robbins); Brown County, Sept. 14 (Bess Russell et al.); Milwaukee, Oct. 14 (C. P. Frister). Latest date on record.

Northern Yellow-throat: Two late birds: Cedar Grove, Oct. 22 (Helmuth Mueller), and Mazomanie, Oct. 18 (Sam Robbins); both later than the previous state record.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Arena, Aug. 14 (Sam Robbins).

Wilson's Warbler: First in Columbia County on Aug. 25 (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins); last in Cedar Grove on Oct. 1 (Helmuth Mueller). Other records from Brown, Dane, Milwaukee, Vernon and Winnebago Counties.

Canada Warbler: Early migrant in Milwaukee on Aug. 17 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); other August reports from Madison, Milton and Cedar Grove; last seen in Viroqua on Sept. 14 (Margarette Morse).

Redstart: Late migrants at Oshkosh on Oct. 3 (Mrs. Glen Fisher), and at Milwaukee on Oct. 12 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Bobolink: Flock of over 50 still present near Mazomanie on Sept. 18 (Sam Robbins).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Last seen in Winnebago County on Sept. 5 (Bess Russell et al.), and in Brown County on Sept. 7 (Ed Cleary).

Baltimore Oriole: Still present in Washburn on Aug. 31 (Miss Jacobs), and in Reedsburg on Sept. 17 (Ethel A. Nott).

Rusty Blackbird: First noted at Tomahawk, Sept. 19 (F. C. Seymour).

Brewer's Blackbird: Tomahawk, Aug. 7 (F. C. Seymour); Oshkosh, Sept. 5 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); Sauk City, Sept. 11 (Sam Robbins); Mazomanie, Sept. 14 (Sam Robbins).

Cowbird: Late dates in Tomahawk on Oct. 13 (F. C. Seymour), Oshkosh on Oct. 16 (Mrs. Glen Fisher), and Appleton on Oct. 20 (Bess Russell et al.).

Scarlet Tanager: Late departures noted all along the line: Tomahawk, Sept. 19 (F. C. Seymour); Oshkosh, Sept. 22 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); Cedar Grove, Oct. 6 (Sam Robbins); Columbia County, Oct. 6 (Sam Robbins); Mazomanie, Oct. 7 (Sam Robbins); Milwaukee, Oct. 13 (Hoogerheide-Spears). Latest date on record.

Dickcissel: Last seen in Green County, Sept. 3 (Gordon Orians); also noted on Aug. 31 in Juneau County (Alan Keitt) and at Mazomanie (Sam Robbins).

Evening Grosbeak: Only one report: Cedar Grove, Oct. 5 (Helmuth Mueller).

Pine Siskin: Cedar Grove, Oct. 8 (Gordon Orians); Mazomanie, Oct. 13-18 (Sam Robbins).

Towhee: Still in Green Bay on Oct. 19 (Mrs. Andrew Weber), and in Cedar Grove on Oct. 22 (Helmuth Mueller-Gordon Orians).

LeConte's Sparrow: Iowa County, Oct. 13 (Sam Robbins).

Henslow's Sparrow: Last in Milwaukee, Sept. 17 (Mary Donald).

Vesper Sparrow: Still in Kiel, Oct. 31 (Myron Reichwaldt).

Lark Sparrow: Arena, Aug. 14 (Sam Robbins).

Junco: First noted at Milwaukee on Sept. 13 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); seen within the next week at numerous other locations. Heavy flight reported from Land O' Lakes on Oct. 15 (Fred Babcock).

Chipping Sparrow: Late birds noted in Door County on Sept. 29 (Helene Stoll); Tomahawk, Oct. 1 (F. C. Seymour); Madison, Oct. 15 (John Wilde); and Kiel, Oct. 23 (Myron Reichwaldt).

Field Sparrow: Still present in Mazomanie on Oct. 19 (Sam Robbins).

Harris' Sparrow: Only two reports: Madison, Oct. 13-16 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Milwaukee, Oct. 30 (Mrs. Martin Paulsen). Latest date on record.

White-crowned Sparrow: First noted in Milwaukee, Sept. 15 (Mary Donald); Kiel, Sept. 21 (Myron Reichwaldt); Appleton, Sept. 23 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers). Others noted in Dane, Green, Jefferson and Vernon Counties.

Gambel's Sparrow: Madison, Oct. 31 (Alan Keitt et al.).

Fox Sparrow: First observed at Monroe, Sept. 23 (Gordon Orians); still present at Babcock on Oct. 27 (Wallace Grange), and at Oshkosh on Oct. 29 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Earliest report: Milwaukee, Sept. 12 (Helmuth Mueller); latest: Mazomanie, Oct. 18 (Sam Robbins).

Swamp Sparrow: Still in Green Bay, Oct. 29 (Mrs. Andrew Weber).

Lapland Longspur: First appeared in Oshkosh on Sept. 13 (Mrs. Glen Fisher). October records come from Cedar Grove, Milwaukee and Mazomanie.

Snow Bunting: During the last half of October, small flocks were observed in Burnett, Sheboygan, Winnebago and Wood Counties.

NEWS . . .

(Continued from page 2)

this year. Future talks are scheduled for 10 a. m. on April 10 and May 8.

Jim Zimmerman, who writes our Outdoor Calendar, has requested that members from different parts of the state send him ecological and phenological data

such as he has been writing on. Such notes can be used in future articles to give them better state-wide coverage. Please send direct to J. H. Zimmerman, 2114 Van Hise Avenue, Madison.

The N. R. Bargers are grateful indeed to those members of the Society who recently made them a Christmas gift of a binocular.

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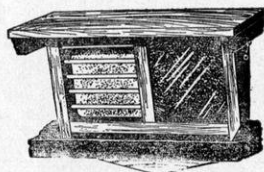
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