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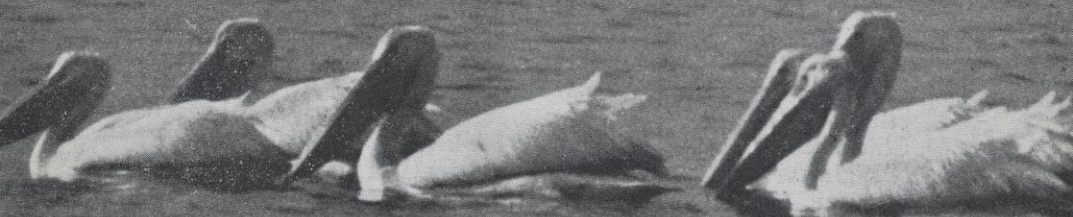
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WHITE PELICANS AT MADISON

PHOTO BY MARTHA LOUND



The PASSENGER PIGEON

A Magazine of Wisconsin Bird Study

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WINTER ISSUE
VOL. XX NO. 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

Count Your Robins This Year. Here is the announcement of the 1959 Cooperative Research Project, in which every W.S.O. member can participate	143
Wildlife Losses in Southern Fire Ant Program. Ralph Allen's story of the destruction of wildlife in Alabama shows not only the losses that can occur with insecticides more powerful than DDT, but also the differing viewpoints of governmental agencies involved in the use of insecticides	144
Insecticides and Birds. The changes in Robin populations on the campus of Michigan State University since the advent of DDT-spraying are related by George Wallace	147
Notes on the Summer Birds of the Apostle Islands. The bird life in summer of a little-known region of Wisconsin is described by Edward Beals	151
Another Glimpse of Superior-Land. A late-summer trip to northwestern Wisconsin by the editor was enlivened by sightings of Boreal Chickadees and Parasitic Jaegers, and listenings to a heavy flight of night migrants	162
Conservation Comments. Conservation Chairman Charles Kemper describes the new administrative code governing the use of insecticides, and offers comments on it	167
Extirpation of a Flock of Wild Turkeys in Adams County. A. W. Schorger relates how a remnant of a flock of released Wild Turkeys survived for 20 years in southern Adams County	170
Monitoring Nocturnal Chips. A report on last spring's cooperative project of listening to chips of night migrants is given by Charles Kemper, with suggestions for the continuing of the project this spring	172
At the Edge of Town. The fascinations of back yard birding are vividly described by Jo Strubing	174
Activities of the Green Bay Bird Club. Bernard Chartier lists some of the achievements of one of the state's oldest, largest, and most active local bird clubs—a goal for other clubs to match	176
Other Features. Elsewhere in this issue is story of the 1958 fall camp-out, news of other past and future field trips, convention news, other news items, "By the Wayside," "Dates to Remember," and advertisements.	

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COUNT YOUR ROBINS THIS YEAR

The new W.S.O. cooperative research project for 1959 is a timely one: a study of Robin population in sprayed and unsprayed areas. Articles such as those by Dr. Wallace and Dr. Allen in this issue point out that different types of insecticides have affected bird life in other states. Now that Dutch Elm disease is spreading in southern Wisconsin, and increased DDT-spraying is being carried on in many urban, suburban and rural areas, we need to know what effect this is having on Wisconsin birds.

The Robin is a "natural" for this study, being easily accessible to observers in all parts of the state, and being a bird that inhabits areas that are being heavily sprayed with DDT. What noticeable results follow spraying operations? Are Robins observed displaying symptoms of DDT-poisoning: loss of balance and muscular coordination, followed by convulsions? Are more than the usual number of dead birds being found? Or is there no noticeable effect of this kind? Is nesting activity affected in sprayed areas? Nesting success? Is there any noticeable change in populations of Robins in unsprayed areas. Any changes in nesting activity or success?

To participate in this project, one should choose a small area (two or three city blocks in a residential area, five or six acres in a rural area, of good Robin habitat) close enough to home so that it can be covered thoroughly on frequent occasions. Keep written data on the Robins you see, so that you can answer at least some of the following questions.

Type of Area. How large is the area? How many homes and other buildings are in the area? Have you known of Robins nesting in this area in previous years?

Spring Migration. When did the first male arrive within your study area? The first female? Keep dates of when the largest numbers were seen. Have your data showing that the Robin is more or less common in spring migration in 1959 than in other years?

Nesting. How many nests did you locate in your study area in 1959? How many eggs laid? How many eggs hatched? How many young fledged? How many juvenals seen being fed by parents? Have you data showing that juvenals are more or less common than in other years?

Spraying. Was spraying with DDT carried on in your vicinity in 1958? In your study area? Was spraying with DDT carried on in your vicinity in 1959? In your study area? Keep track of dates of all spraying.

Mortality. Did you find dead Robins in your study area? Give numbers and dates. Did you find Robins displaying symptoms of DDT poisoning in your study area? Have reports of other dead or dying Robins in your general vicinity come to your attention? Have you evidence of dead or dying birds of other species in your study area? In your vicinity?

The data you gather should be sent to the research chairman, Prof. Howard Young, Department of Biology, Wisconsin State College, La Crosse. Watch for a questionnaire in the next issue.

WILDLIFE LOSSES IN SOUTHERN FIRE ANT PROGRAM

By **RALPH H. ALLEN, JR.**

The Alabama Department of Conservation has long been aware of the imported fire ant in Alabama. During the summer of 1949 two entomologists were employed to make a study of this insect to determine its effect on plants and wildlife in this State. These entomologists in three months of field observation and study did not find a single instance where fire ants damaged wildlife. Several reports by farmers of wildlife and crop losses were investigated, but after thorough checks, these losses could not be substantiated. These studies convinced the Department that the fire ant was not a serious problem to wildlife.

In May of 1957, the Governor of Alabama sent Dr. Kirby Hays, an Auburn entomologist, to Argentina to make a brief study of the fire ant in its native habitat. Dr. Hays reported that this insect was considered beneficial in Argentina, where it feeds almost entirely on other insects, many of which are considered harmful.

The Alabama Department of Conservation was therefore caught by surprise when the fire ant eradication program was started. The Department was informed that well over one third of Alabama's total area would be treated with heptachlor and dieldrin. Representatives of U. S. and Alabama Departments of Agriculture assured the Conservation Department that the materials to be used were relatively safe and would be applied by means which would safeguard fish and wildlife. In the absence of research data on the effects of heptachlor and dieldrin and with the assurance of State and Federal Agricultural representatives that these chemicals would not constitute a hazard to fish and wildlife, the Alabama Department of Conservation did not oppose the fire ant treatment program at that time.

The Conservation Department was not informed of the possibility of a fire ant eradication program in time to include sufficient funds for personnel and equipment to make a comprehensive study of this pressing problem. The Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Auburn, Alabama, was called in along with representatives of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a pilot was set up in Wilcox County, Alabama, to study the immediate and long-range effects of heptachlor and dieldrin on wildlife.

Cards mailed by the Department to all residents on a 20,000-acre area in Montgomery County scheduled to receive the fire ant treatment asked landowners to report dead fish and wildlife found on their lands. In this way, even with limited personnel, the Department hoped to get an index of the kill resulting from application of insecticides.

Once this plan was made public, Agriculture officials immediately put out a news release to radio, television, and newspapers stating, in effect, that because of severe cold just experienced in this area, landowners should not be alarmed at finding dead birds, animals, and fish since in all probability the cold weather rather than heptachlor killed them. This release was successful in blocking the Department's objective.



MUTE EVIDENCE OF THE EFFECT OF HEPTACHLOR

Landowner cooperation was seriously impaired and wildlife losses were not reported.

Beginning three days after the chemical application, personnel of the Conservation Department began a check of Montgomery County areas treated and found a number of dead birds and animals. Specimens were sent to the Laboratory of the Illinois Natural History Survey for analysis. Laboratory analysis revealed the presence of heptachlor in every specimen in quantities several times the lethal volume. These were birds and animals presumed by the Department of Agriculture to have been killed by the cold weather.

Later a tract of 10,000 acres in Autauga County was treated with heptachlor at the rate of 20 pounds per acre of 10 per cent heptachlor. Under the direction of a trained wildlife biologist, Department of Conservation personnel checked approximately 10 acres in Autauga County seven days after the chemical application (two pounds of standard material per acre). On this check area of 10 acres, 6 rabbits, 3 opossums, 1 raccoon, 3 Bobwhites, 1 Barred Owl, 10 Cardinals, 20 Song Sparrows, 2 Blue Jays, 1 Mockingbird, 1 Brown Thrasher, 1 warbler, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2 cotton rats, and 1 white-footed mouse were found in a dead or dying condition. In a drainage ditch which traversed the area numerous dead or dying fish and frogs were observed.

Specimens which were still in good condition were photographed and then sent to the laboratory for analysis. Laboratory analyses of these birds and animals revealed that hydrocarbons were present in sufficient amounts to cause death.

The Director of Conservation, upon being informed of this carnage, notified Alabama's Commissioner of Agriculture that, as guardian of fish and wildlife resources in Alabama, he could wait no longer to inform the people of the destruction being wrought on fish and wildlife by the chemicals used in the fire ant treatment program. He also informed the Commissioner of Agriculture that he was requesting that State and Federal authorities and the Alabama Congressional Delegation halt the so-called fire ant "eradiction" treatments until methods could be devised to safeguard wildlife, song birds, fish, and human beings.

Since that time research studies and observations in other areas of Alabama substantiated Department of Conservation statements that up to 100 per cent kill of fish and wildlife resulted from the fire ant eradication program.

In Wilcox County, Alabama, pre-and post-treatment studies were made on approximately 4,000 acres by Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit personnel on a 1,200-acre tract treated with 20 pounds of 10 per cent granular dieldrin per acre and on a 2,400-acre tract treated with 20 pounds of 10 per cent granular heptachlor per acre. A 550-acre untreated tract was used as a check area. These studies revealed:

- 14 out of 16 coveys of Bobwhite on the treated area disappeared, and are presumed to have been killed. Range of the remaining 2 coveys included untreated land off the area. Bobwhite on an untreated control area nearby were unharmed.
- Heavy mortality of ground-dwelling species, such as Towhees, Meadowlarks, and rabbits.
- Two hawks, 1 Barred Owl, and 1 Crow found dead, 4 red fox cubs killed in the den.
- Newly killed specimens still being found 7 weeks after treatment. Thus far, 180 animals of 24 species have been recovered.
- Heavy losses of fish and frogs.
- Heavy losses of fish in pond $\frac{3}{8}$ mile from the area treated with dieldrin.
- 100 specimens from this area were analyzed, with heptachlor and heptachlor epoxide found in all but 6 specimens examined.

In the City of Monroeville, Alabama, the City Council passed an ordinance on July 22, 1958, authorizing the United States Department of Agriculture to carry out fire ant and white fringe beetle control within the city limits. On July 27, U. S. D. A. Plant Pest Control Division personnel began applying dieldrin in Monroeville at the rate of 30 pounds of 10 per cent material (three pounds standard chemical per acre). The following quotation from a news report, (Alabama Journal, [Montgomery], October 30, 1958), reveals the results.

"Today there is not a cricket in Monroeville. There are few earth worms and not too many beetles and bugs. Hundreds of chickens have been killed. Upwards of 50 dogs have been hauled off to the city dump. Many cats have met the same fate. An undetermined number of turkeys, ducks, and squirrels are dead. Birds of all kinds, which this time last year fluttered about the city in great numbers, have been alarmingly decreased. Strangely enough, the fire ant is still thriving in most places. In fact, one woman said the insecticide 'killed everything on my place except fire ants.'"

Similar destruction of wildlife and domestic birds and animals has also been recorded on treated areas in Georgia, Texas, and Louisiana.

Sufficient scientific studies and observations are now available to show that the destruction wrought by heptachlor and dieldrin spread on the land in the program for the so-called "eradication" of the imported fire ant is far more damaging than beneficial and the time has come for responsible people to re-evaluate this program and halt all insecticide broadcasting until methods can be devised that will safeguard fish, song birds, wildlife, beneficial insects, and human beings.

The Alabama Department of Conservation does not place the blame with any agency or even with Congress; the mere establishment of blame would not solve the problem. A stoppage of the program at this time will not bring back the fish and wildlife already killed but it will save those that are left, and will relieve the threat of further destruction in a program to control an insect which is not even among the 25 most damaging insects in the South today.

Game Management Section
Alabama Department of Conservation
Montgomery, Alabama

*Insecticides and Birds**

By GEORGE J. WALLACE

As might be expected, I approach this assignment with considerable apprehension. All of us feel the critical need for more complete data, but we also realize the urgency of making whatever data we have immediately available. Hence, at the risk of some possibly premature conclusions I am glad to present what factual evidence I have. For we need these data now. A few years hence, when information is more complete, will be too late. We are just beginning to learn of things we needed to know ten years ago.

These initial data deal mainly with a carefully measured population decline of Robins over a five-year period on the Michigan State University campus, coincident with an intensive spraying program for Dutch Elm Disease and for mosquito control. East Lansing, including the MSU campus, had aerial applications of DDT for mosquitos over the entire community in 1955, 1956, and 1958. The Dutch Elm treatments started a year earlier and have been continued periodically ever since. During this period, quite by accident and not design, John Mehner, a graduate student, was studying Robin populations in two unsprayed residential areas in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and in two sprayed areas in East Lansing, including particularly the five-acre plot comprising the MSU Horticultural Gardens. His data on the population decline in East Lansing from 1954 through 1957, supplemented by my observations in 1958, tell a dramatic and disturbing story.

*Report given at the annual meeting of the National Audubon Society, Nov. 10, 1958 reprinted from **Audubon Magazine**, Jan.-Feb. 1959 issue, with the kind permission of editor and author.

We first noticed Robins dying on the campus in the spring of 1955, the year following the inauguration of the local Dutch Elm program. The die-off continued each spring, on a scale sufficient to attract the unsolicited attention of staff and students, until by the summer of 1958 the elimination of Robins from the main campus and some parts of East Lansing was virtually complete. At first I attributed the deaths to some disease affecting the nervous system, but it soon became evident that, in spite of the assurances of the insecticide people that their sprays were "harmless to birds," the Robins were really dying of insecticide poisoning; they invariably exhibited the well known symptoms of loss of balance, followed by tremors, convulsions, and death. It was also soon apparent that earthworms might be the toxic agent—among other things, campus earthworms inadvertently fed to crayfish in a research project brought almost immediate death to the crayfish, and also brought on tremoring in a caged snake. The full details of just how this cycle operates in Robins, however, was largely speculation until the publication of Dr. Barker's* thorough analysis of leaves, leaf litter, soil, earthworms and Robins in Illinois clarified the confused situation.

Briefly, for those not familiar with this cycle, Dr. Barker's studies show that earthworms accumulate and concentrate DDT in their bodies by feeding on leaf litter from sprayed trees. Earthworms analyzed had deposits of DDT throughout the digestive tract, especially in the crop and gizzard, but also in all parts of the body wall, the dorsal blood vessel, and even in the ventral nerve. When Robins eat the earthworms, chiefly in the spring following the year of spraying—since sprayed foliage is not available to the earthworms until fall and the infected earthworms not abundantly available to Robins until the following spring—they in turn accumulate deposits in their bodies. One Robin completely analyzed had 14 organs and tissues infected, with the greatest concentration lodged in the testes and intestines. Eventually the DDT reaches the brain cells (35 or 40 Robin brains analyzed had DDT), causing locomotor paralysis and convulsions, followed by death within a few hours. I have never known a Robin to recover after tremoring sets in, and Walter Nickell, at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, where dying specimens were received from the Detroit area, had nearly 200 afflicted birds "die on his hands" without saving a single one.

Nesting Failure

Our figures on the population decline on the MSU campus during the five-year period of study are dramatic, conclusive, and alarming. In 1954 the Horticultural Gardens, not optimum Robin habitat, had five pairs (five nests) on approximately five acres. Some campus areas had higher densities, but even using the lower figure of one pair per acre gives a total of 185 pairs (370 adults) on the 185-acre North Campus. On this same area in 1957 Dr. Mehner found only 15 adult Robins in three late June surveys. In 1958 my June to August records, including one fairly thorough survey each month, totalled three adults and one fully winged bird of the year. (Ten Robins seen crossing a corner of the campus

*Barker, Roy J., "Notes on Some Ecological Effects of DDT Sprayed on Elms," 1958 *Journal of Wildlife Management* 269-274.

in their early morning dispersal from an off-campus night roost on August 7 were not considered campus birds.)

Figures on nesting failures are even more startling. In 1954 Mehner's five study nests in the Horticultural Gardens were all successful in producing young. In 1957 the two remaining nests were unsuccessful, so an intensive search for nests was made over the entire North Campus. Of the six nests found, five produced no young and the fate of the sixth was not determined. On June 21, and again on June 22 and on June 24, Dr. Mehner searched the entire North Campus for young Robins but found only one—this on an area that in 1954 can be shown to have had at least 370 young. Detailed studies were not carried out in 1958, but at no time during the spring or summer did I see a fledgling Robin anywhere on the main campus and so far have failed to find anyone else who has seen one there.

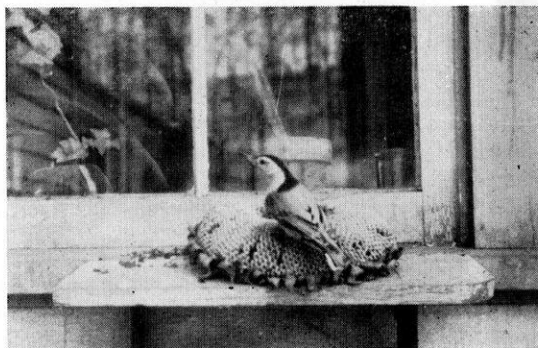
The distribution of Robins in other parts of East Lansing is very spotty, few or none in some areas, but apparently fairly numerous in some parts of the city sprayed only for mosquitoes but not for Dutch Elm. Understandably, these fringe Robins, including a dwindling late summer roost that has been in existence for many years, give me embarrassing moments—as long as a Robin or two can be found anywhere in the community I am an alarmist. In fact, the Robin, like the Passenger Pigeon, would have to be extinct about ten years before some people would admit that it was gone.

Incomplete data, still being assembled, reveal a similar situation in other sprayed communities, particularly those with an intensive Dutch Elm program, and little or no decline in unsprayed communities. Dr. Mehner's Pittsburgh study areas showed no decline in either nesting pairs or nesting success over this same four-year period. But some of the heavily sprayed suburbs of Detroit, Milwaukee and Chicago, according to the meagre but creditable reports I have, are virtually Robin-less.

Obviously this same cycle, or a similar cycle, must apply to all ground feeders utilizing earthworms, or perhaps other affected soil organisms, but only for the Robin are the full details known. Associated with the dead Robins, at East Lansing and in Detroit, however, have been smaller numbers of Flickers, Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, Starlings, House Sparrows, Grackles and Cowbirds, all primarily ground feeders that may or may not get their potion from earthworms. Examples of all these species have been observed dying of typical insecticide-poisoning symptoms, and specimens analyzed in other projects have been found positive for the insecticide involved.

Tree-top Feeders

Tree-top feeders (foliage gleaners) are affected in an entirely different way, by insect shortages, or actual consumption of poisoned insects in lethal quantities, or in sublethal quantities that may cause sterility in subsequent years. I have no data from dead or dying foliage gleaners at East Lansing, but all of the insectivorous species formerly associated with campus elms have disappeared. Walter Nickell, recipient of the several hundred specimens turned in to the Cranbrook Institute of Science from the Detroit sprayings, writes that nearly all species of warblers present in the area at that time were represented in the heavy kill



NO WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCHES VISITED THE HOME
FEEDING STATION LAST WINTER.

nuthatches appeared at my home feeding station last winter for the first time in many years, and several other feeding station operators have reported the same experience. Of three nuthatches I have seen since, one was found dead, another found dying of typical DDT symptoms, a third, pathetically, was feeding on an elm. It seems likely that the dormant sprays applied to elms, particularly in the fall, may be fatal to woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches and creepers.

Although, according to my local records which cover a span of 16 years, 49 of the 77 species that were formerly summer residents in East Lansing have disappeared entirely or have definitely decreased in numbers. Some of these losses are due primarily to habitat changes; a few others are of straggler species whose absence in recent years may have no significance, but the majority are insectivorous birds that are definitely known to have suffered from insecticides. In a cursory, incomplete survey of published literature, and from some correspondence, I find records for more than 100 species of birds known to have died from pesticides, and this is just a beginning; included are 21 cases of complete or nearly complete reproductive failure due to sterility or other causes.

This account leaves some doubt as to comparative effects of a Dutch Elm program versus the lighter but more widespread applications for mosquitoes. At East Lansing programs of both types have been intermingled so long that it is hardly possible to separate the effects. In general, however, it appears from this and other studies that one or two light applications for mosquitoes produces little or no **immediately noticeable** reductions in bird populations, but that a three or four year program produces precipitous declines in most insectivorous species. An intensive Dutch Elm program is much more severe over limited areas but affects fewer species; locally it has resulted in complete or nearly complete elimination of all species closely associated with elms, including foliage gleaners, bark foragers, and ground feeders. Our insectivorous birds are facing the greatest man-made threat they have ever experienced, and one of the inevitable results is their replacement by other birds (Starlings, House Sparrows, Pigeons, Grackles, etc.) which are not dependent on insects but can survive on the waste products of man's activities.

of birds. Curiously too, some predatory birds—a Red-tailed Hawk and several Screech Owls—must have obtained their fatal dose indirectly from their prey.

We have even less data on birds that forage on the trunks and branches of trees (12 campus species), but some of these have been severely reduced in numbers. No Black-capped Chickadees or White-breasted Nut-

Up to this point I have tried to present largely factual data. In conclusion I wish to express three somewhat more philosophical views resulting from my deliberations on this problem:

(1) The current wide-spread and expanding pesticide program poses the greatest threat that animal life in North America has ever faced—worse than deforestation, worse than market hunting and illegal shooting, worse than drainage, drought, oil pollution, and possible worse than all these decimating factors combined.

(2) The present ill-conceived and grossly mismanaged fire-ant eradication program will go down in history as the worst biological blunder that man has ever made.

(3) If this and other pest-eradication programs are carried out as now projected, we shall have been witnesses, within a single decade, to a greater extermination of animal life than in all the previous years of man's history on earth, if not since glaciation profoundly altered the life of the whole northern hemisphere.

Professor of Zoology
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NOTES ON THE SUMMER BIRDS OF THE APOSTLE ISLANDS

By **EDWARD BEALS**

During the summer of 1957 I spent nearly two months on the Apostle Islands, completing some vegetation research for the Wisconsin Conservation Department. In the course of my work I had ample opportunity to observe the bird life of the islands. In 1958 I received a grant from the Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History to continue a study of breeding bird populations, and so I was able to return for two weeks during the breeding season and extend my observations. This report contains my general observations of the summer bird life of the islands. A detailed population study of the forest breeding birds will be published elsewhere. I wish to express my appreciation to Prof. J. T. Emlen, Jr., for his helpful suggestions and for his reading of this manuscript.

Ecology of the Apostle Islands

The Apostle Islands are located in Lake Superior at the northernmost tip of Wisconsin (Figure 1). The climate is tempered by the surrounding water, and the summers are very cool, with many rainy days. The mean July temperature is 65°, and the average rainfall for June, July, and August totals over ten inches.

The vegetation of the islands is dominated by two important plant communities. Forests dominated by sugar maple, yellow birch, white cedar, and/or hemlock comprise the most widespread vegetation. Extensive aspen forests are also found, especially on Madeline, Oak, and Stockton, where fire has destroyed the original forests. Less common types of forest include small areas of pine on Stockton and Madeline Islands, and

red oak stands on Oak Island. Bogs are important habitats on Madeline and Stockton. There are small clearings on most of the islands, and extensive fields are found on Sand and especially on Madeline. These fields have been one of the most important factors affecting the avifauna since the coming of the white man. It is of considerable interest to find the open habitat occupied by several western species, such as Western Meadowlark, Leconte's Sparrow, and Brewer's Blackbird.

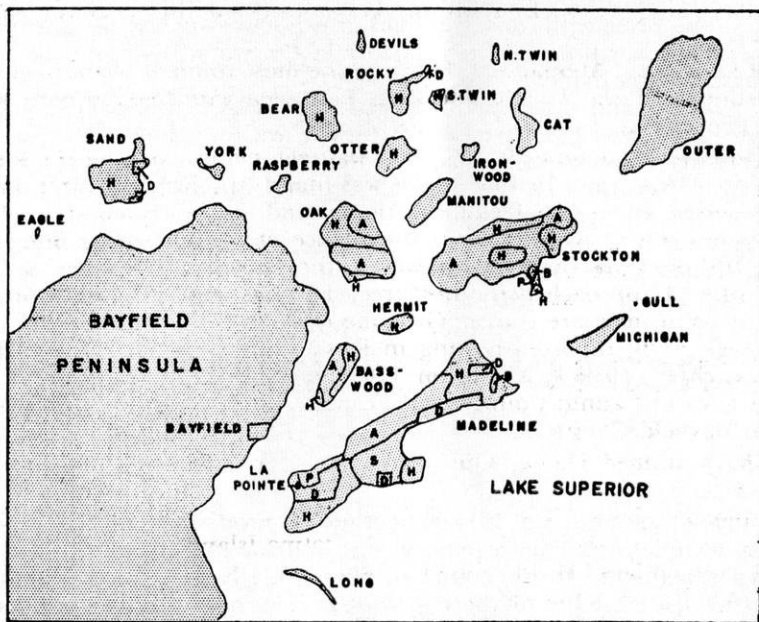


FIGURE 1. A MAP OF THE APOSTLE ISLANDS, WITH A VERY GENERALIZED OUTLINE OF THE VEGETATION IN THE AREAS STUDIED. LETTERS REPRESENT THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF VEGETATION: A, ASPEN FOREST; B, BOGS; D, DISTURBED AREAS (FIELDS AND CLEARINGS); H, HARDWOODS; P, PINE WOODS; S, SWAMP CONIFERS.

Field Work

I was unable to reach all the islands during the study. It is especially unfortunate that I missed the outermost islands—Devil's, North Twin, and Outer. However, the rest of the region was fairly well covered, and most of the time was spent on the larger islands. The islands actually studied are given below, with the date of observation:

Madeline Island	July 14-27, 1957	June 13-16, 1958
Oak Island	June 28-July 7, 1957	June 21-25, 1958
Rocky Island	July 24-25, 1957	June 17-19, 1958
Sand Island	August 1-3, 1957	June 26-28, 1958
South Twin Island	July 25, 1957	June 18, 1958
Stockton Island	June 19-26, 1957	

Observations

Common Loon. This bird was regularly seen and heard on Lake Superior both summers, especially around Oak Island.

Great Blue Heron. One was seen regularly around the bog on the peninsula of Stockton Island during the summer of 1957.

Mallard. One was seen frequently on Bog Lake, Madeline Island, during the summer of 1957, but was not seen the following summer.

Gadwall. One was seen flying north June 20, 1957, on the east side of the Stockton Island peninsula.

Green-winged Teal. One male and one female were flushed June 19, 1957, along the rocky shore of the east side of the Stockton Island peninsula.

Red-breasted Merganser. This was the most common waterfowl species around the islands, and ducklings were seen with females both summers, five or six per duck.

Goshawk. On June 20, 1957, one was seen flying north on the south-east side of Stockton. In 1958 a nest was found in a hemlock-birch forest on Madeline, about fifty feet above the ground, in the crotch of a yellow birch tree. There was no positive evidence of young during mid-June when the nest was observed; however, the female dove at me several times when I approached the nest tree. Previous nesting records of this hawk in Wisconsin are scarce. Gromme (1935 Auk 15) and Zirrer (1947 Pass. Pigeon 79) reported nesting in Rusk County in the years 1934 to 1936; Richter (1939 Pass. Pigeon 116 and 1952 Pass. Pigeon 115) has found nests in Oconto County; and Feeney (1943 Pass. Pigeon 49) found one in Bayfield County.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. One was seen on Oak Island June 22, 1958, in a white birch stand.

Cooper's Hawk. One pair were seen during the summer of 1957 in a forest of tall, straight jack pines on Madeline Island.

Red-shouldered Hawk. One was observed June 23, 1957, on the south shore of Stockton. One was also seen on Madeline Island, in a red maple forest near the east end, on July 21, 1957.

Broad-winged Hawk. One was seen in a birch-aspen forest near the center of Stockton Island on June 24, 1957.

Swainson's (?) Hawk. On June 18, 1958, 36 birds were seen soaring high above South Twin, drifting northward. They were long-tailed, long-winged Buteos, mostly dark, with a whitish wing crescent at the base of the primaries and with tails lighter than the body of the birds. When soaring their wings were held above their bodies slightly. To all appearances they were of this species.

Bald Eagle. One was seen along the south shore of Stockton June 23, 1957. Two were seen frequently around the east end of Madeline Island, and on June 22, 1957, an immature was observed there. There was no sign of eagles in this vicinity during the short stay in 1958. On Oak Island at least two nests were found, only one of which was being used. An unused nest was in the maple woods on the north edge of the island, located in a large red oak tree, about 80 feet above the ground. The nest used was in a more open spot along the north edge of the island, in a dead pine about 50 feet above the steep sloping ground (Figure 2). Two adults and one immature were seen frequently in the vicinity.

Osprey. One bird was seen several times around the bog on Stockton Island during the summer of 1957.

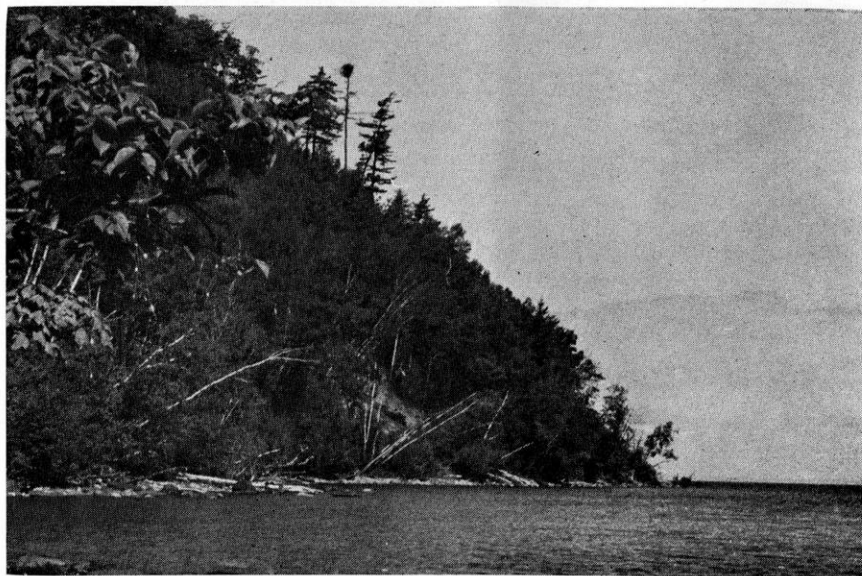


FIGURE 2. NORTH END OF OAK ISLAND, SHOWING BALD EAGLE NEST
IN TOP OF DEAD PINE.

Sparrow Hawk. One bird was seen frequently in fields near the east side of Madeline during both summers.

Ruffed Grouse. On June 25, 1957, two were flushed in the pines on the Stockton Island peninsula. During both summers a few birds were seen on Madeline, in the woods and the edge of the bog at the east end. Birds have been stocked on Madeline, but how they got on Stockton is not clear. The distance between the two islands is about 2.3 miles, and this is farther than the usual distances that ruffed grouse fly at one time.

Virginia Rail. This bird was observed several times on Stockton during the summer of 1957 around the bog.

Killdeer. Two nests with eggs were found on sparsely vegetated sand dunes on the east side of the Stockton Island peninsula.

Spotted Sandpiper. These birds were common along the shores of most of the islands.

Herring Gull. This was the most common bird of the islands, found along all the shores in abundance. Colonies of nesting birds were located at the west end of Manitou Island, on the north side of Otter Island, and on the southeast shore of Hermit, while individual nests were found scattered throughout the islands.

Ring-billed Gull. This species was rare compared with the preceding one, but several were seen during both summers.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Several birds were seen on Madeline on the edges of woods during 1957, and one in an aspen stand in 1958.

Great Horned Owl. One was seen flying over the water near a pine woods on Stockton Island in the evening of June 24, 1957.

Long-eared Owl. Five were located June 25, 1957, in the pine woods on the Stockton Island peninsula, and one was seen in a hemlock forest

on Madeline June 17, 1957. On June 18, 1958, one was observed on Rock Island, near the north end in a white birch-balsam fir forest.

Chimney Swift. This bird was seen in small numbers over both woods and open water on most islands, usually in pairs, often far from any chimneys. If they were nesting they must have used natural sites.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Two birds were seen during the 1958 season, one in a red maple-red oak woods on the east side of Madeline, and one near the north shore of Oak Island, at the edge of a sugar maple-white birch forest.

Belted Kingfisher. This bird was regularly seen along the shore lines of the islands.

Yellow-shafted Flicker. This bird was common in openings and edges of woods on Oak and Madeline Islands both summers, but was not found elsewhere.

Pileated Woodpecker. The evidence of the work of these birds was present in mature woods on Stockton and Oak Islands, and they were heard and seen several times on both islands. There was also a pair in a white cedar-yellow birch stand on Rocky Island both summers, and one bird was seen in a sugar maple forest on South Twin in 1958.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. This bird was seen on Oak and Madeline Islands only, most commonly in hemlock-yellow birch forests.

Hairy Woodpecker. This species was found commonly in many deciduous woods and occasionally in pine and hemlock forests. The distribution was spotty, however, and many other deciduous woods seemed to lack this woodpecker.

Downy Woodpecker. Only one bird was seen, in an aspen stand on Madeline Island, June 14, 1958.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker. One was heard and seen on the south side of Oak Island, in a white birch forest, June 22, 1958. There was evidence of debarking on old hemlocks and firs nearby.

Eastern Kingbird. This was a common bird in openings, fields, and bogs, on Stockton and Madeline. In 1958 one was seen at the north tip of Rocky Island in a clearing.

Crested Flycatcher. Single birds were heard in an aspen forest on the south side of Stockton, in a young red oak-red maple forest on Oak, in a white cedar-yellow birch forest on Rocky, in a hemlock stand and an aspen-spruce-fir stand on Madeline Island.

Phoebe. A nest with three young was found in an abandoned shack on a grassy opening at the south end of Oak Island in the summer of 1957. No birds were there during 1958.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. One bird was found in the Stockton bog on June 23, 1957; five were seen or heard in a very wet section of the hemlock forest at the east end of Madeline in 1957, and two were found in the same stand in 1958.

Traill's Flycatcher. Three were found in an aspen stand on June 14, 1958, in the central part of Madeline Island.

Least Flycatcher. This bird was most common in moist, wooded sites, especially on the edge of the bogs on Madeline and Stockton, with a few recorded in yellow birch-sugar maple stands on Stockton and Oak, and in hemlock and red oak-red maple stands on Madeline. The birds seemed to prefer the edges of these forests.

Wood Pewee. This bird was most prevalent in areas of large trees, especially common on Stockton at the southernmost tip of the peninsula in a yellow birch-sugar maple stand. It was found in lesser numbers among the pines and the aspens on Stockton, among the hemlocks on Madeline, and among the maples of Oak Island. A few were found also on Rocky and South Twin.

Tree Swallow. Several birds were seen along the south shore of Stockton and several in fields on Madeline in 1957. In 1958 a martin house near a farm on the southeast side of Madeline contained at least five tree swallow nests.

Bank Swallow. On June 23, 1957, two were seen along the south shore of Stockton. In 1958 several were recorded on the northeastern shore of Madeline and northwestern shore of South Twin. Ten were found at the north tip of Rocky, but in spite of the tall clay banks available no nests could be found.

Barn Swallow. Two solitary nests were found on Stockton in abandoned buildings on the west side of the peninsula and on the south shore. On the south side of Oak Island two birds were seen in 1957, and six were showing considerable activity there in 1958, carrying grasses into a horizontal crevice in the sandstone rock. The site of this nest building is shown in figure 3. There seem to be few records of such nesting in natural sites since the advent of barns, etc.

Cliff Swallow. The buildings on Madeline Island and the open fields or open lake afforded ideal habitat for this bird. Twenty-three colonies ranging from two to 185 successful nests were found throughout the island during the summers of 1957 and 1958. Detailed observations of these colonies were made for the cliff swallow survey being conducted by the University of Wisconsin. In addition a flock of 46 birds was seen on the Stockton peninsula in 1957, and 18 birds were observed on South Twin in 1958. In both cases the birds were hanging around abandoned buildings but nests were not found. The observations were both made in the middle of June. No nests in natural habitat were found.

Purple Martin. Several were seen on Stockton on the south shore line. On Madeline this bird was common around LaPointe and a few farms where martin houses were up.

Blue Jay. This bird was common everywhere.

Raven. This bird is a regular inhabitant, seen on all the islands visited except Sand. Its abundance seems to be inversely proportional to the human population.

Crow. Openings on all islands were haunts of this species, and it is more frequent around human habitations.

Black-capped Chickadee. This species occurred in limited numbers in most woods throughout the islands.

White-breasted Nuthatch. A few birds were seen on Madeline both summers, especially in pine and hemlock forests. A very few were recorded in aspen-dominated stands.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. This species was mostly restricted to pine forests on Stockton and Madeline, where they occurred in small numbers. One was heard in a hemlock stand on Oak Island July 4, 1957.

Brown Creeper. One was seen both summers at the north end of Oak Island in a maple forest; one was seen at the north end of Sand



FIGURE 3. ROCK LEDGE ON SOUTH SHORE OF OAK ISLAND; UPPER CREVICE WAS SITE OF NEST-BUILDING ACTIVITY BY SIX BARN SWALLOWS.

Island in a yellow birch-mountain ash stand on June 27, 1958. Two records of this species on Madeline were made, one in young spruces and firs south of Big Bay on July 20, 1957, and the other in hemlock trees at the east end on June 14, 1958.

House Wren. This bird was a frequent resident of openings, roadsides, and the edges of aspen forests on Madeline Island.

Short-billed Marsh Wren. One bird was seen July 17, 1957, in the bog on the eastern side of Madeline.

Catbird. A few were found in disturbed areas on Madeline, especially around LaPointe.

Brown Thrasher. One was recorded in LaPointe July 17, 1957.

Robin. This bird was common in openings of all islands and regular along edges of woods.

Hermit Thrush. This species was most frequent on Oak Island, usually in yellow birch-hemlock forests. In 1957 several were heard on Stockton in pines and firs, and one was heard at the east end of Madeline in a red maple-red oak woods. In 1958 one was heard on Rocky Island in a white cedar forest.

Swainson's Thrush. In general this thrush was more common than the hermit thrush. It was most abundant in white cedar, yellow birch, and hemlock stands, less so in pines and maples.

Veery. Oak Island was particularly favored by this bird. It was common in aspen, white birch, red oak-red maple, and yellow birch-sugar maple-hemlock forests there. Several were heard on Madeline in aspen stands and in a red maple-red oak stand.

Bluebird. In 1957 several were seen on the peninsula of Stockton in the open pines and around the bog, and a few were found in openings on Madeline. None were observed in 1958.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. One was seen near the center of Stockton Island on June 24, 1957, in a small spruce clump. Another was seen July 5, 1957, in a small-fir stand on the west side of Oak Island. In 1958 a few were recorded in the pine stands and aspen-spruce-fir of Madeline.

Cedar Waxwing. This is a common bird throughout the Apostle Islands.

Starling. On Madeline it is frequent around houses and buildings. One was seen on Stockton June 23, 1957, near some old cabins along the south shore. None were seen on other islands.

Solitary Vireo. This bird was found regularly, particularly in forests of large trees.

Red-eyed Vireo. This was a common bird in all woods, especially among deciduous trees.

Warbling Vireo. In 1957 one was heard along the edge of a young woods and the shoreline on the Stockton peninsula, and two were heard in a hemlock forest on Madeline.

Black-and-White Warbler. Most woods throughout the area contained a few of this species.

Golden-winged Warbler. One bird was heard and seen on Stockton Island, June 20, 1957, along the brushy edge of a bog.

Tennessee Warbler. Several of this species were observed on both Stockton and Oak Islands near the edge of aspen and white birch stands. This bird is seldom seen in Wisconsin during the summer.

Nashville Warbler. In 1957 this bird was frequent on Stockton around the edge of a yellow birch-sugar maple forest and even more common around the pine woods. In 1958 it was heard on several islands: On South Twin and Rocky, along the edge of white cedar-yellow birch stands; on Madeline, in a white pine stand; and on Oak in a north-facing ravine of sugar maples.

Parula Warbler. This was a frequent bird on most islands, inhabiting sugar maple, yellow birch, hemlock, and spruce-fir stands.

Magnolia Warbler. In 1957 several were seen on Stockton in the fir understory of a yellow birch-sugar maple forest. In 1958 one was seen near the north end of Rocky in a white birch-fir forest June 18.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. This species is a regular inhabitant of mature forests on Oak and Sand Islands.

Myrtle Warbler. In 1957 several were seen in the open pines near the bog on the Stockton peninsula. In 1958 several were observed on Madeline and Rocky Islands, along the edge of several types of woods.

Black-throated Green Warbler. This is probably the most common breeding bird of the Apostle Islands. It occurs in almost all forested areas but is least common in aspens and pines.

Blackburnian Warbler. In 1957 this bird was a regular inhabitant of pines, firs, and the birch-maple-hemlock woods on Stockton. In 1958 it was seen on Madeline, Rocky, and Sand Islands, in white pine, hemlock, white cedar-yellow birch, white birch-balsam fir forests.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. This species is occasional on all the islands, along the edges of forests, most common on Oak and Sand.

Pine Warbler. Several were observed in the pines on the Stockton peninsula in 1957.

Ovenbird. This is second only to the black-throated green warbler in abundance in the region. It is common in nearly all woods visited.

Connecticut Warbler. One was seen in the bog on the Stockton peninsula June 21, 1957, and another in the wet aspen-spruce-fir stand on Madeline on June 15, 1958.

Mourning Warbler. One was heard June 22, 1957, in the Stockton bog. It was common in the aspens on Madeline.

Yellowthroat. Regularly found where there were openings, such as the edge of bogs, the shorelines, fields, and roadsides on Madeline.

Canada Warbler. This species was common in ravines and on the south shore of Oak Island. It was also fairly common on Sand Island, especially at the north end.

Redstart. Fairly common in a variety of woods over the region.

House Sparrow. Several were seen around buildings on Madeline Island, especially around LaPointe. It was not seen elsewhere.

Bobolink. This is very common in the fields of Madeline Island.

Western Meadowlark. This is an example of a western species which is common in the fields of Madeline.

Red-winged Blackbird. This bird was common in bogs and wet fields on Stockton and Madeline.

Baltimore Oriole. The Stockton peninsula harbored several orioles, while single individuals were seen each summer on Oak (once in aspen, one in a clearing among white birch), and another one was heard in 1958 on the edge of a forest on the northeast shore of Madeline.

Brewer's Blackbird. During the summer of 1958 at least four of these birds were frequently seen at the eastern end of Madeline, along the shore and in the bog.

Cowbird. In 1957 several were seen around the Stockton bog, but none elsewhere. In 1958 they were regularly seen in all woods and quite common in fields on Madeline. These islands were the first visited in the respective summers, so it may be that these birds disappear from the islands after the beginning of the breeding season.

Scarlet Tanager. This is a regular inhabitant of white birch, red oak, and yellow birch-sugar maple-hemlock forests on Oak Island. One was seen on Madeline in 1958 in a jack pine stand, and two were seen on Rocky in a yellow birch woods.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Three birds were observed on Stockton, one in an aspen stand, the other two in the yellow birch-sugar maple forest at the tip of the peninsula. Also in 1957 several were seen in aspen and maple stands on Oak Island. Only one was seen in 1958, in a white birch-balsam fir stand on Sand Island.

Indigo Bunting. This bird was common in openings on Madeline Island, and an additional pair were seen on Oak Island in a small clearing on the west side.

Purple Finch. Several were seen on Madeline around openings, especially in LaPointe. In 1958 one was seen on the north side of Oak Island in a sugar maple-yellow birch stand, and several were observed on Sand Island in a white birch forest.

Goldfinch. This was a common bird wherever there were openings.

Towhee. One in an aspen stand on Madeline, June 14, 1958.

Leconte's Sparrow. One of this western species was seen on Madeline June 14, 1958, in a field along the south shore. Nesting has been recorded by Richter in Oconto and Marinette Counties (Pass. Pigeon 1:129, 1939; 2:83, 1940; 18:184, 1956).

Chipping Sparrow. This was a common bird in openings, forest edges, pine woods, and bogs, over most islands.

White-throated Sparrow. This bird was frequent on the edge of the Stockton bog. It was more common on Madeline, along the edge of the bog and in moist, aspen-dominated woods. One was heard on Sand in 1958 in a mountain ash-yellow birch forest.

Song Sparrow. This was a very common species in bogs, along forest edges, and other openings, on all islands.

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W. S. O. LEASES CAMPSITE

By **HAROLD KRUSE**

In January of this year the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology acquired a 2-year lease on a 30-acre wooded tract in the Upper Honey Creek Valley in central Sauk County, for use as a bird and wildflower sanctuary and a campsite for W.S.O. members. The land was leased with a view toward possible purchase, if it proves suitable for the Society's use, and agreement can be reached on a fair price. It is hoped that the action taken this year will lead to the realization of a long-standing dream for establishment of a permanent W.S.O. sanctuary and campsite.

The tract adjoins a town road and is located one-half mile west of County Highway PF, 14 miles northwest of the junction of PF and U. S. 12 near Prairie du Sac. It is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty, including such features as a natural bridge, a waterfall, numerous sandstone cliffs and rocky outcroppings, and extensive wooded hills offering excellent opportunities for hiking, birding, and wildflower study. The Leopold Memorial tract, owned by the Madison Kumlien Club, is about ten miles to the east.

The small village of Leland, two miles to the southeast, contains two general stores, a church, a millpond with good fishing, and an attractive park built by the local sportsmen's club. While there are no motels or restaurants nearby, arrangements could be made for meals and rooms for members wishing to spend some time birding in the area but not intending to camp out.

The W.S.O. tract itself, one-half mile long and about 500 feet wide, consists primarily of hardwoods, cut-over and grazed to some extent in recent years, but with excellent possibilities as a bird and wildflower sanctuary. A fern-covered cliff and a fine stand of hemlocks add to the beauty of the spot. The land is bordered on the south by a fascinating alder and tamarack bog, and on the north by a steep-walled, 2-mile long valley terminating at a picturesque waterfall. The stream originating above the waterfall extends past the WSO campsite and empties into the Leland millpond. An old logging road, usable in any but extremely wet

weather, extends the full length of the WSO land and provides a good hiking trail for about one-half mile further up the valley. Hikers will find it necessary to cross the stream a number of times, but easy passage is provided by stepping-stones at most times except early spring and after a heavy rainfall.

The valley has a wide range of ideal bird habitat, from ungrazed woodlands abounding in trilliums and numerous other wildflowers, through cut-over and lightly grazed woods with extensive brushy areas, to open grasslands, cat-tail marsh, and the alder bog mentioned above. Among the many birds known to have spent the summer in or near the valley in recent years are the following: Marsh Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned and Barred Owls, Pileated Woodpecker, Ruffed Grouse, Whippoorwill, 5 species of flycatchers, Tufted Titmouse, Bewick's and Carolina Wrens, Wood Thrush, Veery, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Scarlet Tanager, and 9 species of warblers including Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Yellow, Cerulean, and Kentucky Warblers, Ovenbird, Yellow-throat, Redstart, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Much of the surrounding area has not yet been explored by serious birders, and may produce a number of unusual records.

Marshlands in the Leland area are steadily disappearing, but some good spots still remain, particularly along the millpond and its backwaters. The millpond is a good stopping-off point for migrating grebes, herons, and ducks. Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Common Snipe and Woodcock have nested there, and Black Terns have been seen on the pond in past summers.

By agreement with the owners of the alder bog and most of the land in the valley north and east of the W.S.O. tract, we will be free to hike and bird pretty much where we please in this area. In order to maintain this privilege and gain the goodwill of the landowners, W.S.O. members and other hikers should be careful to observe the following rules: (1) Be sure to close all gates and leave fences in good repair. (2) Do not frighten cattle grazing in the area. No dogs allowed, except in winter. (3) Be extremely careful with fire, since the area is heavily wooded and many spots are difficult to reach with fire fighting equipment. A carelessly discarded match or untended campfire in a dry season could easily destroy much of the beauty we are interested in preserving, and would probably lead to our being excluded from the area in the future.

We hope to have a detailed map of the area ready for distribution by the time of the spring convention. Members wishing additional information or a guide should contact the author or your field trip chairman, Ed Peartree, 725 N. Lapham St., Oconomowoc. We would greatly appreciate it if members birding in the area would keep records of all observations, especially of the more unusual birds, for inclusion in a proposed article for the "Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts" series.

Since the 2-year lease will be a trial period to determine whether or not the land is suitable for a permanent W.S.O. campsite and wildlife sanctuary, comments will be welcomed from all members visiting the area during this time. Comments and suggestions may be directed to President Polacheck, or to any member of the board of directors.

Hickory Hill Farm
Loganville

ANOTHER GLIMPSE OF SUPERIOR-LAND

By SAM ROBBINS

With three more days of vacation remaining before the busy September season starts, and with memories of some interesting birding areas in northwestern Wisconsin lingering for the past three years (see **1956 Pass. Pigeon 66-73**), Mr. Green-jeans (our trusty Ford station wagon) and I took off for another glimpse of Superior-land on August 26, 1958. "Just where will you be going?", Shirley asked. I didn't know, exactly; I'd like another look at the Teal Lake area of spruce bogs in Sawyer County, I'd like to see what the marshy area just west of Ashland was like in late August, I'd like to investigate "Wisconsin Point"—that point of land jutting out into the western end of Lake Superior at Superior, I'd like to visit Crex Meadows, I'd like to look in on the Audubon Camp near Spooner. How much of this could be crammed into a short three days remained to be seen.

Some last-minute work meant a late start on the 26th, and an express drive to northern Wisconsin except for a brief stop at a shorebird spot along the Petenwell Flowage. The five Dowitchers sighted there a few days earlier were still present, and this time they were noisy enough to confirm suspicions that they were the Short-billed species.

The Teal Lake Area

A comfortable night was spent in the back of the station wagon in southern Ashland County, and daylight found me driving slowly westward on Highway 77 toward the Clam Lake and Teal Lake area in southwestern Ashland County and northeastern Sawyer County. At this time of year, of course, the birds are rather quiet. The more I saw of this spruce and tamarack bog area, the more determined I became that some year I am going to visit that area in June while the song period is in full swing. There was a song fragment of a Northern Waterthrush at one stop, and a fragment of a Mourning Warbler song at another. At each stop I was secretly hoping for a repeat performance of an incident at Teal Lake in 1955, when some Gray Jays responded to some squeaking. Sure enough, at a point about five miles east of Clam Lake three of these handsome birds appeared, carrying on an interesting and lively conversation. The most persistent sound they made bore a striking resemblance to the chatter noise often made by Baltimore Orioles in late summer. Another stop west of Clam Lake revealed two more Gray Jays, and two miles further on still another was heard.

At Teal Lake I turned north on town and county roads, stopping frequently where the habitat looked good, and especially when Chickadees could be heard. One doesn't look for Boreal Chickadees here, I thought, for this is still summer time, and the records of this bird have all been coming from the northeastern—not the northwestern—part of the state (the last northwestern record published in **The Passenger Pigeon** was seen in February 1950). But one does investigate Chickadees because they are so often accompanied by warblers in fall migration. A few such warbler flocks were encountered this morning, with much the same composition as I had been seeing at home: Tennessees and Red-

starts predominating, and a smattering of Black-and-Whites, Black-throated Greens, Blackburnians, Chestnut-sides, Ovenbirds and Canadas. Only the Nashville seemed definitely more common here than at home. Those species that normally migrate much more in September than in August (Myrtle, Magnolia, Bay-breast, Blackpoll, Palm) were seen sparingly or not at all.



DOES THE BOREAL CHICKADEE NEST IN NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN?
TWO WERE SEEN IN SAWYER COUNTY ON AUGUST 27, 1958.

PHOTO BY C. P. FOX

At one such stop five miles north of Teal Lake, however, one of the Chickadee calls didn't sound quite "right," and sure enough, investigation revealed the presence of a pair of Boreal Chickadees in with four of the Black-caps. It was a fitting climax to an interesting morning.

By late morning a stiff breeze was blowing. Further investigation of small land birds seemed to be a dubious, frustrating prospect under the circumstances, so I headed for the Fish Creek area just west of Ashland which looked very promising three years ago. This time it looked less promising—at least for shorebirds. The marshy area south of Highway 2 produced a Mallard and two Wood Ducks, and at other seasons doubtless attracts more ducks and marsh birds. But north of the highway the water level of Lake Superior was high enough to cover all sand flats; the only shorebird noted was a Killdeer. In fact the only unusual bird detected at Ashland was the Pine Siskin that flew over the drive-in where I was eating lunch.

Wisconsin Point

Have you ever noticed on a map those long, narrow peninsulas of land that enclose the Duluth-Superior harbor area in giant pincers? Have you ever reflected upon the fact that some of the most famous birding areas in the northeastern United States and Canada are peninsulas jutting out into large water areas in a general north-south direction—places like Point Pelee in Ontario, Plum Island and Monomoy Point in Massachusetts, Cape May in New Jersey, Ocean City in Maryland? Such places act as funnels, channeling hordes of migrating birds into narrow paths. Could these pincer arms—the longer “Minnesota Point” to the north (in Minnesota), and the shorter “Wisconsin Point” to the south (in Wisconsin)—strategically located at the western tip of Lake Superior, form a similar funnel on a more modest scale? Late August should be a good time to find out, for this is part of the heavy migration period for shorebirds, warblers, thrushes and flycatchers.

When I arrived at Wisconsin Point in late afternoon, it was with the intention of spending a couple of hours there, then moving on elsewhere for the night in order to get to Crex Meadows by the next morning. But what I saw in the first hour on Wisconsin Point made me change my mind in a hurry; I determined to spend the night and the early morning hours right there at the point. The Meadows would just have to wait for another trip. What made me change my mind? Partly it was the display of water and shorebirds on the islands of Allouez Bay, on the inland side of the point; the light was bad so that I couldn't identify many of the interesting-looking shorebirds, but I could detect a Franklin's Gull, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Pintail and some Scaup Ducks. Partly it was the characteristics of the point, long and narrow, very reminiscent of some of the best areas in the East—even to the extent of having a Coast Guard station at the end of the point.

I listened expectantly for the chips of night migrants as darkness came. At first—around 9:30 to 10:00—there were only a very few chips; but it was such a clear night the majority of migrants that might be flying might be at an altitude too great for chip-detection. So for the next couple of hours I spent more time listening to a baseball game than to night migrants. By 11:00 the tempo had increased to about eight chips per minute, and to 11 chips per minute by 1:00. After four hours of sleep, counts were resumed at 5:00, and minute-by-minute counts ran like this: 11, 11, 12, 20, 29, 37, 21, 21, 29, 23, 51, 31, 28, 38, 28. The flight was apparently heaviest near 5:30, tailing off rapidly thereafter so that scarcely any overhead chips were heard after 5:50.

Listening to the chips of night migrants stirs one's curiosity along several directions. For one thing, how many migrating birds actually passed overhead within earshot this night? A very conservative projection of my figures would indicate that in the course of the night one would have heard over 6500 chips. Undoubtedly a bird is often heard more than once as it passes within earshot, but I doubt that the same individual bird is often heard more than twice. How many pass over without chipping? How many pass over at a greater altitude so that their chips are not audible from the ground? Is a flight of night migrants limited to a rather narrow channel, or is it so widespread that listeners

at various points along the Lake Superior shore would have heard as many chips as I heard?

For another thing, what kinds of birds passed overhead this night? That the chips of night migrants are of many different types will be obvious to even a casual listener. But I believe that years of careful observation of fall migrants can equip a person with sufficient knowledge of chips to differentiate many of the calls heard at night. I feel confident about shorebird notes, but heard very few of them this night: two Semipalmated Sandpipers, two Sanderlings and one Baird's. I feel confident about thrushes; the Veery was quite numerous, the Swainson's was heard fairly frequently but not as often as I have sometimes heard its note at night, and the Gray-cheek was detected only three times. I feel confident about tanagers and grosbeaks; the Scarlet Tanager seemed very numerous, and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak moderately so. A few sparrow notes were heard—some White-throat-ish, some Chipping-ish, some Savannah-ish; but I am not qualified to make definite identifications of these. Nor have I learned to do too well with warbler chips at night. Occasionally the distinctive note of the Ovenbird and the Redstart could be discerned; but the best I could do with the others was to lump them into general groupings. Most numerous were the "vermivora chips" (moderately high single chips, probably mostly Tennessees) and the "dendroica chips" (high, penetrating multiple chips that could be given by almost any of the genus "dendroica"). On a few occasions the lower pitched abrupt "opornis chip" was heard, probably designating the passage of a Mourning or Connecticut Warbler. The distinctive notes of the Myrtle and Palm Warblers were not heard at all this night.

I was anxious to see and identify some of these chipsters by daylight, but realized that this must wait, for warblers are usually very restless for the first half-hour of daylight before settling down to feeding. So first I tackled the ducks and shorebirds in Allouez Bay. Ducks are utterly baffling to me at this time of year unless they are flying; it was only in flight that I was sure of a flock of Scaups, a Pintail and two American Widgeons, as well as hundreds of Mallards. One puzzling water bird far across the bay taxed the 30x balscope to the limit, but finally proved to be a Horned Grebe already in winter plumage. The Franklin's Gull was spotted again, in company with a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. One of the most satisfying sights was the display put on by ten Stilt Sandpipers. I estimated about 70 other shorebirds on the islands within view, including the Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Spotted, both Yellowlegs, Pectoral, Baird's, Least, Dowitcher, and Semipalmated Sandpipers.

A few Black Terns were still present, probably getting their last taste of Lake Superior fish before heading south. Just as I finished with the shorebirds, a flock of Common Terns flew in from the lake into the bay, and of course had to be counted. "Twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five—no wait—that's a bigger bird. It's chasing one of the terns. Holy smoke! It's a jaeger!" A moment later the figures were revised: 35 Common Terns and three jaegers! Here was truly a sight. I had seen jaegers once in northern Indiana at the southern tip of Lake Michigan, and on several occasions in New England; others had seen jaegers in Wisconsin along Lake Michigan; but in twenty years of Wisconsin birding these



ALTHOUGH BLACK TERMS HAVE LARGELY MIGRATED SOUTH FROM THE ENTIRE STATE BY EARLY SEPTEMBER, SEVERAL WERE STILL PRESENT FAR NORTH AT SUPERIOR ON AUGUST 28.

PHOTO BY PAUL HOFFMANN

were my first for the state. As I watched through my binoculars, one frantic tern gave up a fish it was carrying, and the pursuing jaeger deftly swooped down in an arc and picked off the fish in mid-air. The terns finally landed on one of the islands in the bay, and the jaegers settled down on another island not far away. The birds must have been a quarter of a mile away from me, but through the telescope they could be seen well. Each was in a different plumage; one had the gaudy black cap and the pure white underparts of a mature bird in light plumage; one was similar, but with some dusky wash on the sides of the upper breast; one was in darker plumage, with the entire breast and belly dusky-colored. Because no projecting tail feathers could be noted through the telescope, either when the birds were resting or flying, and because the size was definitely smaller than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls, they were identified as Parasitic Paegers.

Back to the land birds. Had I expected one of those fabulous days when warblers, vireos, flycatchers and thrushes would be flitting on every branch of every tree or bush within sight, I would have been disappointed. I can well imagine that Wisconsin Point might have such days occasionally at the very peak of the migration, but late August is still a bit shy of the peak. One could not really say that Tennessees, Yellowthroats and Redstarts were "everywhere," but they were nearly so. The numbers of other warbler species, however, did not seem extraordinary. Except the Yellow Warbler. I saw at least ten of them—surprising because this is usually a week later than I see my last one at home. Some were remarkably pale, at least two were brilliantly bright. Would a taxonomist have found subspecific differences?

Time ran out long before the birds did. The inevitable 7:00 meeting was 280 miles away, and I did want to get at least a glimpse of the Wisconsin Audubon Camp on the way home. The camp was not hard to find, thanks to good signs. A friendly welcome was even easier to find, for

there just outside the office was the smiling face of director Nick Cuthbert. Everyone was busy, it being the day before the close of camp; but Nick was not too busy to talk over old times and show an appreciative stranger around several of the workshops. One room had a chart listing the bird records compiled during the summer, including many nesting observations; mounted bats and butterflies were on display in another room; in still another, an instructor and some students were analyzing and mounting a shrew.

A few minutes' glimpse of the camp certainly does not do it justice. But even a fleeting glance bespeaks a concern for the broader aspects of all of nature—of the interrelatedness of the whole ecological structure. To study birds without much acquaintance with their ecological surroundings is a little like looking at a picture that lacks a frame. The picture itself is lovely, but the right frame adds much to its beauty. This observer drove home thinking that his bird pictures needed better frames. Anybody want to volunteer to take over a busy parish for a couple of weeks next summer so that the writer can go to camp?

Adams, Wisconsin

Conservation Comments . . .

By CHARLES A. KEMPER

"Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no room, and ye be made to dwell alone in the midst of the land." Isaiah 5:8

So spoke the prophet 2500 years ago. Words of wisdom that come down to us today with striking impact and pointed meaning. To us, nature lovers, friends of wilderness, this could be our banner motto. I can think of no better introduction to a column on conservation.

To be a nature lover is indeed a wonderful thing. An ancient Greek philosopher said that the greatest pleasure in life is the contemplation of "*res naturae*"—the things of nature, or the nature of things. Yet we all know that to be a nature lover is not always an unmitigated pleasure. The same esthetic senses that appreciate the beauty and marvels of creation are equally sensitive to the wanton wastes and ignorant abuses of man. Too often it seems the causes we champion are lost. Protests are ignored or ridiculed and forgotten. Sometimes we are regarded as a bunch of "crackpots." Perhaps some of us are. Theodore Roosevelt said that every worth while cause has its lunatic fringe. This should not detract from the basic truth of our cause—the protection of wilderness areas, refuges, parks, the conservation of soil, water, plants and all the wild creatures that depend on each other and on us.

An article on the front page this week told about someone firing bullets at a Navy balloonist in Iowa. It points up one of the difficulties in conservation. If there are people who are crazy enough to use people in balloons for targets, how are we going to keep them from shooting Whooping Cranes, Bald Eagles, etc.? As a physician I am reminded daily that there are a surprising number of people outside the walls of institu-

tions who belong inside. Some of these same people surprisingly are quite successful and become very influential. So—if conservation begins with education, and it certainly does, it is obvious what a task we have at the start.

The long tedious hearings on the new Wisconsin Administrative Code for application of toxic insecticides on forest and non-crop lands is at an end. By the time you read this, they will become effective.

The code is as follows and must be read in entirety. A few comments are in order. First, my reactions are entirely my own. Some people will feel entirely different about this extremely controversial subject.

Second, bear in mind that crop lands (farms) are not covered by this code. Nor are private homes, lawns, etc. Thus most all of the non-forest areas are under no control at all; nor are nurseries, orchards, or areas primarily occupied by cut and piled wood under control. One can see this last category is defined in somewhat general terms, and allows for a certain degree of leeway. All in all a tremendous part of the landscape is under no administrative control. Perhaps as a practical matter such would be impossible or very difficult. But I for one feel that some legal restrictions should be made here also.

Third, I am glad to see that there are some controls. For a while I feared that there would be none. I realize the dilemma faced by the Commission in considering this problem. The problem of making a dormant spray interval means finding a time when temperatures are above 32 degrees and wind conditions are low. Mr. L. F. Motl has declared that if the dormant spray interval were shortened another thirty days, as the WSO advocated, too few days would be provided in which to accomplish spraying—which would actually defeat the entire purpose of specifying a dormant spray interval and result in causing sprayers to spray on windy days—"the consequences for which action can be very severe." Well, we all certainly have some deep qualms about all this spraying. The umpire has made his decision and we're stuck with it. Let us hope for the best. Right now, on October 6, through northern Wisconsin, the peak of the Junco migration is approaching, while other fringillids—White-throats, Fox Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows, etc., are still passing by in the millions. The insectivorous birds, warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, etc. have pretty nearly disappeared by October 1—but not all. I shudder to think what a vigorous early October spraying would do to these birds. But April spraying—that's probably worse.

At least we do have some administrative control by the Conservation Department. I certainly wish the controls were greater. For one thing, I don't believe any insecticide such as DDT should be applied at a rate of more than one pound per acre **at any season**. I wish that specific instructions prohibiting hydraulic sprayers had been made. I wish that U. S. Fish and Wildlife recommendations that oil solutions or suitable powders of DDT instead of emulsions be adopted. The latter is more hazardous to fish and stream insects, necessary as fish food.

In the meantime everyone admits that our knowledge of the overall effects of toxic pesticides is fragmentary. No one denies the hazards. It behooves all of us to push a program of further research, to survey carefully the effects of spraying, and to press for as much restraint as possible on any unnecessary or ill conceived spraying programs. I think

our organization, and certain individuals especially, deserve a lot of credit for the work they have done in this regard.

733 Maple Street
Chippewa Falls

WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

USE OF TOXIC INSECTICIDES FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF INJURIOUS INSECTS ON FOREST AND NON-CROP AREAS

H 89.01 Definitions

H 89.02 Control of insect pests

H 89.03 Other insecticides

H 89.04 Untreated strips

H 89.05 Water areas

H 89.06 Toxic insecticide list

Note: Adopted jointly by the Conservation Department, the State Board of Health and the State Department of Agriculture.

H 89.01 DEFINITIONS. As used in these rules, the following terms mean:

- (1) **FOREST AREAS.** Any area, urban or rural, principally devoted to the growing of trees for wood products or ornamental purposes, but excluding nurseries, fruit growing trees, or areas primarily occupied by cut and piled wood.
- (2) **NON-CROP AREAS.** Non-crop areas are deemed to be either urban or rural areas not normally used for growing agricultural produce, lawns, shrubbery or flowers. All areas within buildings and their exterior surfaces are excluded.
- (3) **RATE OF APPLICATION.** The total amount of actual toxicant uniformly applied per unit area and ordinarily expressed in pounds per acre.

H. 89.02 CONTROL OF INSECT PESTS. Any person desiring to treat a forest or non-crop area with any toxic insecticide for the control of obnoxious and injurious insect pests shall send notification of intention to treat, in triplicate, to the conservation director. In this notification shall be included: description of area to be treated; the interval or calendar period when such treatment shall be made; intent of treatment; and, material to be used, method, and rate of application. This notification shall be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance of the proposed treatment interval. Where circumstances surrounding the toxic insecticide applications to be made render the 2 weeks advance notice impractical, notice may be given the conservation director by telegraph or special delivery mail. If any emergency permit is required and justified, such may be issued by telephone or telegraph and subsequently confirmed in writing. If desired, notification-application forms may be obtained from the conservation department.

- (1) If the treatment is made with any of the insecticides listed in section H 89.06 at a rate in excess of one pound per acre, a permit issued by the state conservation commission upon approval of the state board of health and the state department of agriculture shall be obtained except for treatments made during the dormant plant growing season. For purposes of these rules, the state shall be divided into two zones. The north shall include all areas lying north of Highways 54, 10, and 35 between Algoma and Hudson. All areas south of such highways and all cities bisected by such highways shall be the southern zone. In the northern zone, the dormant season shall be from October 1 to April 30. In the southern zone, the dormant season shall be from October 15 to April 15.
- (2) If the treatment is made during the growing season with any of the insecticides listed in section H 89.06 at a rate of one pound or less per acre, no permit is necessary; however, notification must be submitted as provided heretofore and the state reserves the right to inspect and supervise any or all such treatment.

H 89.03 OTHER INSECTICIDES. If any insecticide other than those listed in section 89.06 is to be used on forest and non-crop areas **at any time of the year**, a permit for such use shall be obtained from the state conservation commission.

H 89.04 UNTREATED STRIPS. Wherever feasible, strips shall be left untreated at the first application to serve as undisturbed sanctuary for wildlife; such strips to be treated at a later date.

H 89.05 WATER AREAS. In treating marshy areas or fish-bearing waters where there is danger of damage to fish, a proper permit from the state committee on water pollution shall be obtained.

H 89.06 TOXIC INSECTICIDE LIST: (1) Arsenate of Lead; (2) Chlordane; (3) DDT; (4) Lime Sulphur; (5) Malathion; (6) Methoxychlor.

NEWS . . .

Most members will find a renewal blank enclosed with this issue. Please take care of it promptly. If you lay it aside, it may be forgotten; and we must reluctantly remove your name from **The Passenger Pigeon** mailing list. Renew your membership now!

Along with your own renewal, how about sending in a gift membership for a friend? This is a great opportunity, in the twentieth anniversary year, to boost our membership to 1000. In the face of rising prices, the Society Board of Directors has steadfastly held the line in keeping membership dues constant for the past ten years. This policy can only be maintained as the membership keeps growing, and as various members step up from "active" to "sustaining" classification.

The fall campout has been scheduled for September 12-13, at Governor Dodge Park near Dodgeville.

W.S.O. is beginning to make its own set of slides of Wisconsin birds that will be available for loan or rent to various groups in the state. Mr. Alfred O. Holz, 125 East Kolb St., Green Bay, will be making up the slides, making three identical sets, and recording on tape an explanatory script. If you have a colored slide of a representative Wisconsin bird which you think might be good enough for a set, communicate with Mr. Holz, or bring your slide to show him at the Green Bay convention.

The W.S.O. Supply Department now has in stock several new recordings of bird songs, issued by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Included are: "Warblers," recording the songs of 38 species of warblers; "A Day in Algonquin Park," a symphony of nature from the Land of the Loon; and "Birds of the Forest," a skillful blending of narration and songs of 22 birds. Each record costs \$5.95, and can be ordered from Mr. Edward Peartree, 725 N. Lapham St., Oconomowoc.

(more news on page 173)

EXTIRPATION OF A FLOCK OF WILD TURKEYS IN ADAMS COUNTY, WISCONSIN

By A. W. SCHORGER

Many attempts have been made by the Wisconsin Conservation Department to restore the Wild Turkey by stocking birds reared at game farms. The first recorded release was of 39 turkeys in 1929. This was followed by other plantings until, through 1939, the total number planted was 2,942. The liberations were made mainly in Grant and Sauk Counties in ostensibly suitable areas. The following releases were made in Sauk County: 91 birds in 1937, 38 in 1938, and 378 in 1939. Since the trait of wandering is highly developed in this species, there is little doubt that the flock to be discussed came from the Sauk County plantings.

The turkeys were first noticed by Miss Nora Lynn in 1936 or 1937 when they appeared in the Hickey Bluff area. Miss Lynn, aged 67, has lived all of her life on a farm three and one-half miles south of Grand Marsh, in the area where the birds roamed. She recalls that Mike Hickey died in 1939 and that the turkeys appeared two or three years before his death. There were five birds at the time of arrival, three females and two males. No domestic turkeys were being raised in the vicinity at this time.

The arrivals differed from tame turkeys in being smaller, trimmer, more wary, and "colored much less brightly." Though they remained shy in the presence of strangers, all wariness towards Miss Lynn and Mike Hickey was soon lost. In fact one gobbler was so pugnacious as on occasion to jump on this gentleman's back, nearly upsetting him. During the day the turkeys roamed the oak ridges but always returned to roost high in the trees in the Lynn farmyard. During spring, summer

and fall they returned to the farm for water. Most of the winter was spent at the farm where food was provided.

Reproduction was poor in most seasons. In one year the flock had 32 or 33 birds, the maximum attained. Nesting began in May but the first nestings were seldom successful. Occasionally a brood of 15 young would be found in June, July, or August. One hen was known to renest in August after an earlier failure. Young no larger than quails were seen with a hen as late as November. It is apparent that the young in most cases were unable to attain sufficient development to withstand the rigors of winter.

Poaching was a factor in the decline. During the hunting season, when shots were heard, the turkeys would soon be seen in flight seeking the protection of the Lynn farmyard. There would be a turkey or so missing, and occasionally, a day or so later, a winged or otherwise crippled bird would appear. During the years 1954-1956, the flock remained at nine. During the fall of 1956 one male was killed by an automobile. Four birds died of disease, diagnosed as "blackhead" by Miss Lynn. About 1945 a farmer in the area began raising domestic turkeys. A large gobbler stayed at the farm until the following spring, then joined the wild birds and did not return to its owner until the beginning of winter. The wild birds were not only subject to crossbreeding with the domestic stock but to disease as well. Four of the nine birds, according to Mr. Edward C. Thomsen, appeared to be lighter in color than the others, and kept apart from them in feeding and roosting, always resting at night on the highest branches of the trees.

The flock has ceased to exist. Several young birds and about four adults that were noted in the fall of 1957, were practically exterminated by hunters. Rev. Samuel D. Robbins saw a lone adult on January 14, 1958, and learned from Miss Lynn that this bird, the last to be found, died on February 1, 1958.

The difficulties in restoring the wild turkeys are many. All game farm Eastern Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*) necessarily contain some domestic blood as the pure race was inherently too wild to be raised in captivity in satisfactory numbers. Any admixture of wild and domestic stock results in reduced wariness and ability to cope with the hazards of living under natural conditions. If there are domestic turkeys in the same area further crossing is bound to occur. The persistent long nesting season of the Sauk County birds is a strong indication of increased domesticity. Diseases acquired from the domestic fowls are particularly destructive. Then we have poaching, which in spite of all efforts in conservation, remains a perennial evil.

I am indebted to Rev. Samuel D. Robbins for the information on the final disappearance of the turkeys, and especially to Conservation Warden Edward C. Thomsen for the history of the flock after its appearance at the Lynn farm. Mr. Thomsen's untiring efforts to protect the turkeys deserve a better ending. That this flock survived for twenty years in southern Adams County is due largely to the winter feeding program carried on by Miss Lynn, and by the untiring efforts of Mr. Thomsen and other game wardens.

Dept. of Wildlife Management
University of Wisconsin

MONITORING NOCTURNAL CHIPS

By CHARLES A. KEMPER

I would like to submit an analysis of our night listening project for May 1958. This project was conceived on an impulse, to try to determine how broad a front is involved on migration nights.

The occurrence of massive mortalities at the television tower at Eau Claire in the fall of 1957, combined with similar accidents in other places, had raised a number of questions. Are the migrations along a great wide front, or do they proceed as salients up relatively narrow flyways? Do movements occur simultaneously all over the state? Would a tall television tower in one part of the state be just as apt to cause a

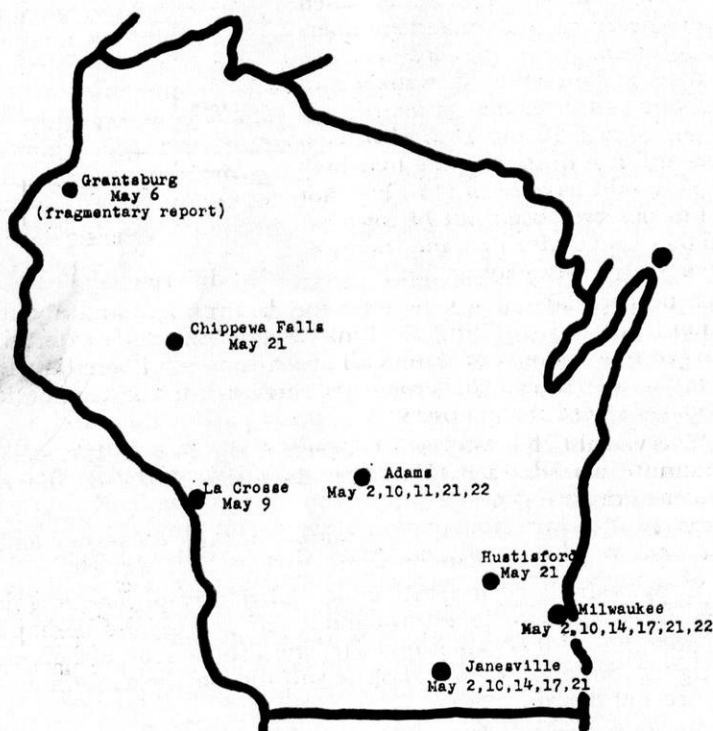


FIGURE 1

tremendous mortality as any other? Is the movement so vast—millions of birds from horizon to horizon—that 20,000 casualties at one location on one night is a relatively inconsequential total?

It was thought that a state-wide system of simultaneous monitoring of nocturnal bird chips might shed valuable light, not only on these questions, but also on the whole mysterious and appealing phenomenon of migration. No such project had previously been attempted in Wisconsin, to my knowledge. And not many projects lend themselves so well to an

organization like W.S.O., for beginner and expert can all make contributions.

Our initial attempt in 1958 attracted just a handful of cooperators: Harold Bauers, Alan Dunwiddie, Howard Young, Charles Wiese, N. R. Stone, Mary Donald, Sam Robbins, and the author. Fragmentary as the data is, it demonstrates the practicality of the system. Three independent reports from Milwaukee came up with the same basic information.

Figure 1 shows the locations where monitoring was carried on at some time during May 1958, and lists dates when chips were heard in the greatest numbers at each location. Note the close correlation of dates at Janesville, Milwaukee and Adams, where the steadiest listening was carried on. May 2, 10 and 21 are listed on all three; and it is quite possible that May 14 and 17 would have been also, had not the Adams observer been out of town on those nights. Note also that the fragmentary reports from Grantsburg and La Crosse list different nights.

Such limited data cannot be used for drawing any kind of definite conclusions; but it is exciting to think what could be learned from a much larger network of cooperators all over the state. Therefore I would like to invite all readers to become cooperators for the coming spring migration. We need many observers in every part of the state.

(1) Every night that you can, between April 15 and May 30, listen for five-minute periods each hour after dark that you can, and record the number of chips you hear.

(2) Make a simple table, like the sample in Figure 2 but extended to include a column for each date between April 15 and May 30.

(3) Copy your data onto this table. Obviously no one is going to be able to listen all night long throughout this period, and perhaps only a few cooperators will be able to get in one listening period on each of the 45 nights. Simply put in a dash if you did not listen, and a "O" if you listened but heard nothing.

(4) Please return the data tables, together with explanatory remarks, to me—by June 15, if possible. Yours will be a worthwhile contribution.

733 Maple Street
Chippewa Falls

MORE NEWS . . .

Spring is nearly here, and the season at Melody Waves Resort opens the first of April. Any who might wish to spend a weekend at the resort during the first three weeks in April might have the extra treat of seeing some of the wintering con-

centration of Bald Eagles below Petenwell Bridge. The resort is less than three miles south of the bridge, and in early April the eagles are still numerous along this stretch of the Wisconsin River. Mr. Tuttle will welcome inquiries for any time between April and November.

(more news on page 182)

Observer:	Location:					
	April					
	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30						
10:30						
11:30						
12:30						
1:30						
2:30						
3:30						
4:30						
Weather						
Temperature						
Wind						
Velocity						
Wind						
Direction						
Precip'n						
Barometer						
Ceiling						
Remarks						

FIGURE 2

At The Edge of Town . . .

By JO STRUBING

While I have just recently joined the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, I have been reading **The Passenger Pigeon** for quite some time. Because the effort put forth to encourage birds to come to my back yard has been so rewarding, I thought perhaps other W.S.O. members might be interested in knowing about the variety of birds that have been my guests.

About six years ago my interest in birds was aroused through watching a Myrtle Warbler from my window. I could not identify it; in fact, I could identify but very few birds at this time. Through books borrowed from the library, I began to memorize as much as I could about birds which I thought might possibly come to my back yard, though at the time I did not set my hopes too high. Now in the six years I have been feeding winter birds, my visitors include Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Cardinals, Juncos, Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Starlings, House Sparrows, and an occasional Grackle. Last winter I added a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches who made themselves very much at home at the feeders, and for a brief period a Brown Creeper stayed to check over the apple tree. It has not been unusual to see Blue Jays, Cardinals and Juncos in the tree at the same time, while Starlings and House Sparrows filled the yard. I only wish I could record such a picture on film.

We live on what we like to call "the last street," or edge of town, although a new street is being built below our garden and three new homes have gone up in the past year. Two houses down the street is the end of our block, and below this stretches a field which continues to the edge of what we have always called "the first woods." Two other woods succeed this, bringing one to the open territory around Pike Lake.

In addition, the neighbor at the end of the lot has a nice grove of trees, and last fall I often walked into the grove very early in the morning, sat on a box she had provided, and waited for the birds to come. The Veery was seen here, but it did not come to my garden, nor did the Towhee. But I alternated my time between this spot and my garden, so that I could enjoy as many birds as possible.

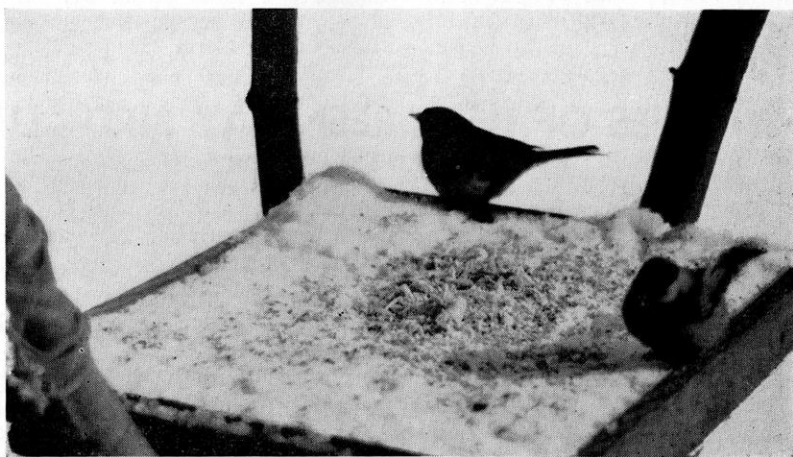
When my interest in birds was first developing, I didn't know there was a W.S.O., nor did I know of anyone else in town who was interested in birds as much as I was. But this did not keep me from going out all on my own. One winter I used about 200 pounds of cracked corn, 15 pounds of sunflower seeds, many bags of peanuts, sometimes walnuts too, peanut butter, suet, bread, raisins, etc. My sisters used to suggest that we could always mortgage the home as a last resort—but the birds would be fed. Water was also provided when it didn't freeze before it could be poured into the basin. It was a most common sight to see the snow trampled from the back porch steps to the end of the garden.

This was also the year that I asked the Wisconsin Conservation Department to help me out, as things were getting out of hand—money,

particularly. They sent grain—coarse food—which I put along the fence at the edge of the garden. This brought the Pheasants. It frankly was an amazing experience.

During that same winter I housed many, many birds in the garage on a day when a blizzard came up. It was just an old-fashioned frame building; no car had been in it for years, so it was used for garden tools. In the door at the bottom was an opening which my father had cut so that Harriet—the cat we used to have—could make use of it in inclement weather. I got the birds into the garage by the simple expedient of putting grain up to the opening, and they made the most of it. Suffice it to say I had a two-week cleaning job, and my sisters still delight in ribbing me about my thoughtfulness to our visitors during that particularly vicious storm.

In subsequent years I haven't lost my head to quite that extent, but the birds are fed well.



THE JUNCO AND CHICKADEE ARE REGULAR PATRONS OF WINDOW RESTAURANTS.

PHOTO BY ALVIN PETERSON

Bird Visitors at Other Seasons

At other seasons of the year I have made the acquaintance of many other birds. During spring, summer or fall, the following birds have been in my garden: Baltimore Oriole, House Wren, Indigo Bunting, Common Grackle, Goldfinch, Meadowlark, Redwing, Crow, Flicker, Cowbird, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Robin, Catbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Purple Martin, Phoebe, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Tree Swallow, and a number of different warblers.

I suppose my prize observation—from the standpoint of the rarity of the bird, and the unusual time of year in which it was seen—was an Orchard Oriole. It was seen late in the fall of 1954—in November. I watched it for a long time, and had perfect views as it was sometimes on the ground about five feet from the window. Although I had no one with whom to share this pleasant surprise, I am absolutely sure my identification is correct.

Most of the other birds have come every year, some for short stays in migration, others for the entire summer. Besides providing food for birds in winter, I have added each year various plantings to attract birds at all seasons. I have put in evergreens for cover, dogwood trees and shrubs (the Cedar Waxwings love the dogwood berries), amur honeysuckles, American cranberry, shadblows, mulberries and viburnums. There are, of course, flowers and vines to attract the Hummingbirds.

Consequently, I feel that with a little extra effort anyone can have the same gratifying results. When the first Chickadee alights on your head to take a peanut, you feel you have merited their confidence, and the satisfaction and pleasure the birds give in return in beauty and song can never be measured by regular standards.

I sincerely hope that the foregoing experiences will encourage more and more people to go all out to encourage our lovely feathered folk to find food and refuge in their own back yards.

503 Linden Avenue
Hartford

ACTIVITIES OF THE GREEN BAY BIRD CLUB

By BERNARD CHARTIER

The Green Bay Bird Club was organized in 1936, and has been developing a strong program of activities throughout the 22 years of its existence. Accomplishments of the past year, listed below, give an idea of the kind of projects our club has undertaken.

This year the Green Bay Bird Club purchased a beautifully illustrated book—**The Warblers of North America**, edited by Ludlow Griscom and Alexander Sprunt, Jr.—and presented it to the Kellogg Public Library in Green Bay. We also donated \$20 to the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, and purchased a pair of Wood Ducks for them. Eighteen Wood Duck nesting houses were built and distributed: eleven to the Sanctuary, and seven to Barkhausen's Game Preserve. The project was the work of boy scout troops under the direction of one of our members, Ed Paulson.

Other contributions of the club in past years include: \$100 paid toward the purchase of a deluxe volume of artist-author Owen Gromme's forthcoming book on Wisconsin birds, to be given to the Green Bay Neville Public Museum; \$25 annual donations to the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (one year a pair of Blue Geese was purchased); several \$25 donations to the Prairie Chicken Survival Fund; a \$10 check to the "Nature Conservancy" fund; several contributions to the Ridges Sanctuary. There was a donation toward a memorial for Jens Jensen. We are particularly proud of a donation, early in the club history, that helped to get **The Passenger Pigeon** established.

Present officers of the Green Bay Bird Club are Miss Margaret Olson, president; Chester Krawczyk, vice-president; and Bernard Chartier, secretary-treasurer.

236 Oxford Avenue
Green Bay

THE 1958 FALL CAMPOUT

The third annual fall campout was held at Roche a Cri State Park just north of Friendship on September 6 and 7. It was planned to study fall warblers. Charles Kemper and the writer were to set up mist nets in the hopes of trapping some warblers so that they could be studied in the hand. Sam Robbins prepared charts to show how fall warblers can be distinguished by plumage and by call note.

Campers began arriving Thursday evening, but birding on Friday was frustrating because of a pelting all-day rain. Other campers came floating in late Friday as the rain gradually subsided, and still more arrived early Saturday morning. To quote Dr. Kemper, this was the campout that "separated the sheep from the goats."

Rain or no rain, the show went on as scheduled Saturday morning. While Dr. Kemper and the writer set up their mist nets in pre-arranged locations, Sam Robbins gave out his charts showing which fall warblers have wing bars, streaked breasts, bright yellow underparts, etc.; and he pointed out differences between "single" and "multiple" chips that are often helpful in identification. Observers then divided into three groups, spending part of the morning at Dr. Kemper's nets, part of the time at my nets, and part of the time with Sam observing warblers in the field.

But birds were not plentiful and cooperative that morning. Had there been a wave, Dr. Kemper's nets might have been loaded; his groups did see a few warblers, but netted nothing. One consolation, however, was the sighting of a Bald Eagle along Castle Rock Lake. My nets did little better—trapping only a Catbird and a Towhee. At Sams' location observers did better; even though there was no wave, there was movement among the warblers—and it was a different group of warblers present for different groups of birders. Thus the first group saw the Cape May and the Black-poll; the second group had the Black-throated Green and the Blackburnian; and the third group found the rare Black-throated Blue.

The groups came together for lunch, and then made a caravan trip to the Petenwell and Castle Rock flowages in the afternoon, where Gadwalls, Ruddy Ducks and a few of the more common ducks were seen.

Early risers on Sunday morning went looking for Sandhill Cranes. They were led to a buckwheat field where "the cranes feed every morning" (quote from landowner). But the cranes must have taken that morning to feed elsewhere, for none could be seen or heard.

Those who remained at the park had the opportunity to see the mist nets in operation. My nets were set up near the creek in the park, and it was not long before they had trapped a few Ovenbirds, a Northern Waterthrush and a Wood Thrush.

Even without the cranes, 84 species were observed on the campout, and 44 hardy souls took part—coming from Adams, Westfield, Loganville, Madison, Beloit, Oconomowoc, Hartford, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Kiel, Green Bay and Chippewa Falls. Many thanks are due Sam, who managed somehow to preach, perform a wedding, take part in the county fair, run an institute for Sunday School leaders, and lead field trips—all on the same weekend.—Ed Peartree.

Convention News . . .

The dates for the twentieth annual convention are Friday-Sunday, May 8-10, 1959. For the third time in the 20-year history of W.S.O., the Green Bay Bird Club will be hosts for the convention, and headquarters will be at the Beaumont Hotel at Green Bay.

It is fitting that something special should be planned for our twentieth anniversary. At the time of the tenth anniversary, W.S.O. met in joint session with the Wilson Ornithological Club. This year joint sessions are planned with the Inland Bird Banding Association.

Vice-President Ray Hussong reports that preparations are going ahead smoothly. Interesting field trips are being planned. A very good series of papers is being lined up, some by W.S.O. members, and some by the banding experts. The Supply Department will have a large exhibit of books, stationery, houses and feeders, and some of the latest ornithological records. There will be other displays of bird photographs, paintings, and maps.

Guest speaker for the Saturday evening banquet will be Mr. William A. Dyer of Union City, Michigan. Mr. Dyer is superintendent of schools at Union City, and is widely known for his bird photography—particularly of the warblers in northern Michigan.

Before long you will be receiving further convention publicity. Fill out your reservation blanks promptly, and plan now to attend.

FIELD TRIP NEWS

Past Trips

October 5, Cedar Grove. People far outnumbered the hawks this day. The weather was fine for good fellowship among ornithologists, but it did not have the right pattern to induce any kind of hawk flight. 88 persons were on hand, but only eight hawks of five species were sighted during the day. In fact, birding in general was not up to par. Nevertheless the trip had several valuable assets. One was an informative talk given by J. Lester Diedrich of the Milwaukee Public Museum, illustrated with a display of hawk and vulture skins. Another was the display put on by Helmut Mueller's hand-reared shrike. One of these years, weather conditions will be just right for a major hawk flight on the day we schedule this trip.

Future Trips

March 8, Milwaukee. McKinley Beach, Milwaukee, is the starting point for an all-day trip, and 8:00 a. m. is the starting time. During the coldest of the winter weather, much of the Milwaukee harbor has been frozen, and the waterfowl population depleted; but by March the ducks and gulls should be much more plentiful. Areas along the lake shore both north and south of the city will be covered, as well as parks and other wooded areas. Bring warm clothing, and lunch.

April 12, Milton. The spring flight of swans, ducks and geese should be near its peak in the Lake Koshkonong-Milton area on this date. The trip will start at 8:00 a. m. on the main street opposite the school building and park in downtown Milton. Chester Skelly will be trip leader, assisted by Melva Maxson.

April 25-26, Plainfield. Participation in this trip must be by reservation only, due to limited blind space. Headquarters will be the Fred Hamerstrom home, two miles northwest of Plainfield. Because observers must get a very early morning start and be in the blinds before daylight, they should plan to report to the Hamerstroms by 7:00 Friday evening for advance briefing and blind assignment for Saturday morning, or by the same hour Saturday evening for Sunday morning blind assignment. The close-up observation of the Prairie Chicken booming and dancing is something every ornithologist should experience. Reservations must be made by April 15 with Edward Peartree, 725 N. Lapham St., Oconomowoc.

By The Wayside . . .

A Cinnamon Teal on Crex Meadows. April 21, 1958 on the Crex Meadows Conservation Area was a cold, heavily overcast afternoon with light rains, and a gusty northwest wind. The late afternoon hours had been spent observing activities of some Mallards which we had released on the area in early April. Migrant waterfowl were still numerous on the area although many of the resident birds were paired and on their established territories.

At 5:30 p. m. our attention was attracted to a reddish-colored, teal-sized bird swimming with a group of five Blue-winged Teal on a small pothole about 60 yards from the road. Our immediate response, even under the extremely poor light condition, was "Cinnamon Teal!" If such were the case, this was our first such specimen seen alive in Wisconsin even though we work the year around on waterfowl studies.

With the aid of 7X50 binoculars the group of teal were observed for about 15 minutes. Besides the reddish-colored bird, the group was composed of two established pairs and an unattached male, all of which were Blue-winged Teal. The birds had been loafing on the shoreline but entered the water as we stopped our car. One pair of teal and the unattached male flushed and left the area. The remaining pair returned to shore and settled down in the grass. The reddish-colored bird remained on the water swimming about for several minutes and then joined the pair on shore.

In observing the reddish-colored bird, the only other identifying mark besides the reddish color was a buffy or light colored group of feathers in the posterior scapular region. At no time was the blue of the wing-patch visible; however, the wings were never lifted or extended.

Satisfied that we had identified the reddish-colored bird as a probable Cinnamon Teal we returned to Grantsburg to contact Norman Stone, the game manager on the area, and ask if previous observation

had been made of the bird. We returned to the site of our observation since Mr. Stone was unaware of our find. Unfortunately, darkness was closing in and we were unable to locate the bird. Nor were we able to observe the bird again the following day. However, Mr. Stone received two reliable reports in the following two weeks of a reddish-colored duck on the Crex Meadows area.

It may be of interest to mention that the State of Florida and possibly others have, in recent years, color-dyed ducks, including teal, for the purpose of tracing migratory flight lanes. Some of these color-dyed ducks have been observed in Wisconsin. The possibility existed that the bird we identified as a Cinnamon Teal might be a color-dyed bird. As a precaution, we contacted the federal banding office and were informed that no experimental color-dying had been carried out on teal during the past two years. Therefore, we feel certain that the reddish-colored bird we observed was a bona fide adult male Cinnamon Teal in full breeding plumage.—Richard Hunt, Laurence Jahn, Horicon.

(Ed. note: There have been a handful of indefinite records of this species since the time of Kumlien and Hollister, but the only known specimen for Wisconsin in the 20th century is a male collected in Madison by John Main on May 7, 1939.)

Is This "Duck Hunting?" While assisting local game wardens on the second day of the waterfowl season, I took a few notes on what "duck hunting" apparently means to some people. In addition to the legitimate shooting that took place, I noted that a Wood Duck was shot at 18 times, a Sandhill Crane drew five shots, a Loon was shot at 11 times, and single shots were directed at a Ring-billed Gull and a Pileated Woodpecker. Apprehending such violators is very difficult, especially on opening days when so many hunters are afield. Unless one is located very close to a hunter and can watch him take aim at a moving bird and fire, the hunter can usually claim he was shooting at something else. One wonders how much of this illegal shooting by trigger-happy "sportsmen" goes on all the time.—Bernard Klugow, Friendship.

Banded Evening Grosbeaks. On May 12, 1958, an injured male Evening Grosbeak was brought to me by a school boy. Noting that the bird was banded, I read the band number and forwarded the information to the banding office at Laurel, Maryland, and was interested to learn a few days later that this bird had been banded at Bloomfield, Connecticut, in February of 1956. A year ago, while stationed at Wautoma, I recovered another Evening Grosbeak, and learned that it had been banded in New Jersey two years previously. This is significant evidence of an East-West migratory pattern for this species.—Bernard Klugow, Friendship.

Killdeer Stands Up to Shrike. One March 26 I observed a Loggerhead Shrike chasing a Killdeer vigorously for about five minutes. The Killdeer finally landed and when the Shrike hit at it the Killdeer jumped at the Shrike and chased it off. The Shrike then sat in a bush on the edge of the area while the Killdeer fed near by.—Ed Peartree, Oconomowoc.

CORRECTION

In Richard Wills' article on "The Dowitcher Problem" (1958 *Pass. Pigeon* 95-105), inference is made (pp. 96, 97, 102) that the eastern form of the Short-billed Dowitcher, *L. g. griseus*, had been suppressed in the

most recent revision of the A. O. U. "Checklist." A clarifying letter received from Dr. Eugene Eisenmann, editor of **The Auk**, indicates that **L. g. griseus** continues to be recognized as a valid race. "What the A.O.U. Committee did in 1954 (confirmed in 1957) was to recognize two subspecies **additional** to the nominate subspecies **L. g. griseus**."

The observation of a Little Blue Heron in Sauk Co. on April 11, 1958 by Harold and Carla Kruse (1958 **Pass. Pigeon** 124) was erroneously reported. The bird in question was a Green Heron—not the rarity that the Little Blue Heron would be, but still remarkable as one of the earliest dates this species has ever been recorded for Wisconsin.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1-10, 1959 (State-wide)—Field notes for December, January and February should be sent to the Associate Editor.

March 8, 1959 (Milwaukee)—W.S.O. field trip along the Lake Michigan shore meeting at McKinley Beach at 8:00 a. m.

March 16, 1959 (Madison)—Wildlife Research Seminar, with Sergius A. Wilde speaking on "Russian Game Animals," at the University Forestry & Wildlife Building, 424 University Farm Place at 7:45 p. m.

March 24, 1959 (Manitowoc)—Audubon Screen Tour, with Bartram Cadbury speaking on "Pastures of the Sea," at Washington J. H. S. Auditorium at 8:00 p. m.

March 25, 1959 (Milwaukee)—Audubon Screen Tour, with Bartram Cadbury speaking on "Pastures of the Sea," at Shorewood Auditorium at 8:00 p. m.

March 31, 1959 (State-wide)—Field notes for December through March should be sent to Mrs. Anne Dodge, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota, for inclusion in "Audubon Field Notes."

April 12, 1959 (Milton)—W.S.O. field trip, meeting at 8:00 a. m. on the main street opposite school and park.

April 12, 1959 (Green Bay)—Green Bay Bird Club waterfowl breakfast trip along West Bay Shore.

April 13, 1959 (Madison)—Wildlife Research Seminar, with C. D. Besadny speaking on "Evaluation of Pheasant Hen Stocking in Wisconsin," at the University Forestry & Wildlife Building, 424 University Farm Place (third floor), at 7:45 p. m.

April 18, 1959 (Milwaukee)—Audubon Screen Tour, with Robert C. Hermes speaking on "Animals at Home and Afield," at Shorewood Auditorium at 8:00 p. m.

April 21, 1959 (Manitowoc)—Audubon Screen Tour, with Robert C. Hermes speaking on "Ranch of the Purple Flowers," at Washington J. H. S. Auditorium at 8:00 p. m.

April 23, 1959 (Madison)—Audubon Screen Tour, with Robert C. Hermes speaking on "Animals at Home and Afield," at West High School Auditorium at 7:30 p. m.

April 25-26, 1959 (Plainfield)—W.S.O. field trip to observe Prairie Chicken booming; advance reservations necessary.

May 8-10, 1959 (Green Bay)—W.S.O. annual convention, combined with annual meeting of Inland Bird Banding Association.



FIELD NOTES

Field notes for the summer 1958 season will appear in the next issue, in order that field notes for one season may hereafter be read and studied just prior to the corresponding season of the following year. As you read future field note summaries, perhaps it will stimulate you to do additional field work during the season ahead, and give added meaning to the observations you make.

MORE NEWS . . .

It is welcome news that W.S.O. has obtained a two-year lease on an attractive piece of land that could become a sanctuary. Part of the purpose of securing a site suitable for a sanctuary is to preserve an area of usually good habitat that might otherwise be destroyed by other land use. The area in question was in real danger of being overgrazed in spots, and a stand

of lovely hemlock trees was in danger of being cut. The question of a sanctuary for W.S.O. was raised by N. R. Barger in 1951 (see 1951 Pass. Pigeon 124-6), and occasional thought has been given to the matter by many others ever since. Stanley Polacheck deserves much credit for activating concrete efforts to obtain a suitable location, and Harold Kruse has been instrumental in locating an excellent site and carrying on negotiations.

(more news on page 183)

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MORE NEWS . . .

There is a strong likelihood that the Sister Islands in Green Bay off Door County will be saved for birds. Long a favored site for nesting gulls and cormorants, and the scene of major banding operations for many years, these islands were on the point of being sold to private interests until protests were sent in by state and national conservation groups, including the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. The contemplated sale to private interests has now been stopped by court action, and the Wisconsin Conservation Department is now negotiating for the purchase of these

islands. At the last WSO Board of Directors meeting, a resolution was passed and sent to the Department to urge prompt purchase.

Judge J. Allan Simpson has been named chairman of the nominating committee, to act between now and the May convention to select a slate of candidates for the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and editor. Any W.S.O. member is invited to communicate with the nominating committee, and suggest any names for consideration. Since Judge Simpson will be out of the state when this issue is published, communications might be sent to another committee member: Mr. Roy H. Lound, 2520 Balden St., Route 3, Madison.

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