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THE PASSENGER PIGEON
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Send all manuscripts and correspondence to the Editor; information for "Seasonal Field Notes" should be sent to the Associate Editor or the appropriate Field Note Compiler. Manuscripts that deal with information on birds in the State of Wisconsin, with ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, or with activities of the WSO will be considered for publication. All manuscripts submitted for possible publication should be typewritten, double-spaced, and on only one side of page-numbered typing paper. Illustrations should be submitted as photographs or good-quality drawings. Keep in mind that illustrations must remain legible when reduced to fit on a journal page. All English and scientific names of birds mentioned in manuscripts should follow *The A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds (7th Edition)*. Use issues after Vol. 50, No. 1, 1988, as a general guide to style.

Fond Farewell and Bright Beginnings

I've been spending a great deal of time on one of my favorite stumps in Langlade County. The birds flitting in the towering hemlocks temporarily distract my thoughts from an important capital campaign to raise funds for a new Science and Education addition at Mosquito Hill Nature Center. Tonight the woods are insect free. The cool weather has granted extra time, so I sit a bit longer. The ambiance is perfect and I find myself reflecting on my term as WSO President.

I readily admit that my main reason for hanging out more and more in the woods is for the birds and the peace they bring to life's hurried pace. Initially, I thought that birds were also the main reason for anyone accepting a four-year commitment (or more) to the WSO Board of Directors, but was I mistaken! Although the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is dedicated to our state's avifauna, I immediately realized that it was the people—their personalities and high level of enthusiasm for our organization—that makes service to the Board so gratifying and rewarding.

Each of you as a WSO member has been friendly, helpful, and complimentary during my tenure. Every person on the board was supportive, inspirational, and dedicated to helping me fulfill my duties as President. To all of you, I say thanks for offering of yourselves so that our Society could thrive for another 730 days under my reign. Because of you, not the birds, it was a wonderful experience.

That experience helped me to give an unequivocal "yes" when asked to coordinate the Midwest Birding Symposium in 2001 and 2003, should Wisconsin be chosen to host the next two sessions. So, I not only have the pleasure of working directly with WSO members for another few years, but also with the staffs at *Birder's World* magazine, Eagle Optics, and perhaps other sponsoring organizations. These folks will collectively put together a terrific set of bird symposia to attract birders from the entire Midwest. Mark your calendars now. Green Bay, Wisconsin, will be our symposium site for the weekend of August 30 to September 2, 2001.

With this exciting announcement, I'll turn over the page and the gavel to a person who will serve you well. He is a professional biologist who brings a new dimension to WSO. He is also a prolific writer as you have seen by his literary contributions to *The Passenger Pigeon*. Enjoy as you read his first President's Statement.

Please welcome Sumner Matteson, President of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Perhaps he'll be able to adjourn quarterly board meetings by 2:00 P.M. God knows I tried!

Jim Anderson

President

Carrying WSO's Legacy Into the New Millennium

I want to thank outgoing WSO president Jim Anderson not only for his efficient and gracious handling of WSO matters these past two years, but also for his calm and cheerful demeanor that set me at ease during my transition into the intriguing and wonderful world of WSO Board life. Over the past few decades, I have marveled at the accomplishments of WSO Board members, including many of those still active. To serve on the Board has been a distinct privilege and I am grateful for the present opportunity.

As we enter the new millennium, I think it important to stop for a moment and reflect on what WSO has accomplished. Each of us, particularly those that have been associated with the Society for many years (far longer than I have), can be proud of WSO's rich and diverse history. It is a history that has fostered the development and contagion of birding, while promoting and leading outstanding scientific and conservation efforts. There is no need to list the many accomplishments, for they have been summarized by Sam Robbins (see "WSO: The First Fifty Years" in *The Passenger Pigeon,* Vol. 51, No. 1, pp. 7–17). And that was before Sam's *Wisconsin Birdlife* had been published and the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project had been initiated.

If one were to peruse past issues of *The Passenger Pigeon,* beginning in 1939, and realize the vast array of projects undertaken during the past six decades, can there really be any doubt that WSO has amassed one of the most impressive conservation records of any state environmental organization in the nation? For it is not just ornithology for both amateur and professional alike that WSO has enhanced, but it is the leadership the organization has taken on such matters as banning DDT, endangered and threatened bird research and management, habitat conservation, and environmental education, to say nothing of enhancing our knowledge of a variety of wetland, forest, and grassland birds, that is particularly noteworthy.

As we begin the next millennium, WSO's legacy of advancing the study, enjoyment, and conservation of birdlife has provided the foundation for promoting a wider consideration of the roles of birds and their habitats in how we use the land. WSO, of course, is not alone in promoting the conservation of birds and bird habitats. In fact, what is distinctive about the current era is the broad-based partnerships that have developed as a result of an underlying concern about the future of land preservation.

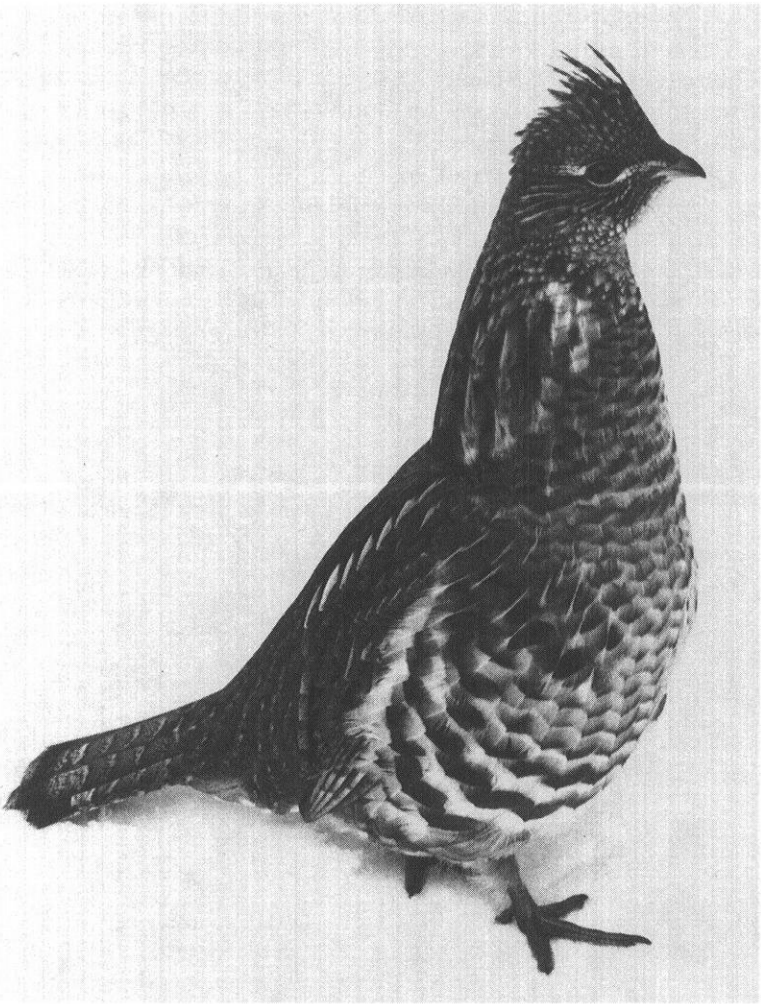
The challenge ahead for WSO is to integrate birdwatching activities and the celebration of birdlife with continued actions to help ensure that posterity will be able to enjoy the same or comparable bird diversity and richness. To that end, knowledge of the land, of the bird habitats that comprise landscapes, is important. If we know more ecologically about the areas that birds frequent, and

develop a concomitant personal investment in areas of interest to us, we will probably care more about ensuring their preservation. And commensurate actions will follow.

Speaking of the future, it has become quite apparent that we need to see more young people in WSO. (Jim Anderson addressed this issue two years ago in his "President's Statement" in Vol. 59, No. 4.) Alex Kailing, Membership Committee Chair, has informed me that WSO has very few members he knows of who are age 18 and younger. Conversely, the proportion of members 40 years old and older is quite likely greater than 50%. If WSO is to remain vibrant and a leader in ornithological and conservation efforts, we will have to redouble our efforts to reach out to young people. Youth Education Coordinator, Stephen Kupcho, is doing a marvelous job in carrying the flag about birds to young people, but each of us bears some responsibility to reach out to our youth and educate them about birds.

As a first, small, perhaps symbolic gesture, I am obtaining a WSO membership for my three-year-old son, Liam. He presently has a passion for bulldozers. Will he develop a passion for birds? Bulldozers and birds? Well, he's only three.

President



Ruffed Grouse *by Roy Lukes*

Catching Up, Color Photos, and Righting a Wrong

When I took on the job as editor of *The Passenger Pigeon* in the spring of 1998, one of my primary goals was to try to get the journal back on its regular publication schedule. Although I have managed to get my first six issues out at the proper pace of about one every three months, catching up on the several months that the journal lags behind has been extremely difficult. As a result, the seasonal field note articles that many of you look forward to reading at the beginning of each season are still arriving in your mailboxes late—typically well after the appropriate season has ended.

With the current issue, I am trying a new approach that should help to get the journal more back in line with the seasons (thanks to Associate Editor Daryl Tessen for the suggestion and for helping me to 'think outside the box'). Instead of just one set of seasonal report articles, the issue in your hands contains two complete sets, including the main seasonal report, "By the Wayside," and WSO Records Committee Report for both spring 1998 and winter 1998–99. If circumstances permit, I will double up the seasonal reports again in a future issue in order to improve their timeliness. The downside of this change is that it breaks (but only temporarily, I hope) the traditional correspondence between the color of the journal's cover and a particular seasonal report (green = summer field notes, pink = fall field notes, etc.), but this seems a small price to pay for getting these reports out when the reader can best use them.

Yet another major development comes to you in this issue, courtesy of a couple of WSO 'angels.' Two pages of color bird photographs—the first, to my knowledge, ever to appear in *The Passenger Pigeon*—accompany the articles documenting Wisconsin's first records of Streak-backed Oriole and Green Violet-ear. WSO's Board of Directors felt, as I did, that black-and-white photographs just didn't do justice to these two remarkable species, and approved the very substantial additional expense necessary to go with color. As it turns out, the pictures won't cost the organization a single penny! Independently, two longtime friends of WSO contacted me and offered to foot the entire bill for printing

the photos. I'm sure that all WSO members join me in offering their profound thanks for these thoughtful acts of generosity.

Finally, sharp-eyed readers may have noticed some problems on the cover of the Winter 1998 issue of the journal (Vol. 60, No. 4). Due to a printer's error, text was misaligned on the rear cover and the exceptional front cover photograph of a Ruffed Grouse by Roy Lukes was poorly reproduced. As a small apology to Roy, his photo is reprinted in the current issue on page 140.

R. Tod Highsmith, Editor

Spring Staging Chronology, Distribution, and Habitat Use by the Mississippi Valley Population of Canada Geese in Wisconsin

The authors compile and present recent study results and historical information outlining the critical importance of southeastern Wisconsin as a staging area for the Mississippi Valley population of Canada geese. It is here on the farms and wetlands that, during a short period each spring, the geese acquire needed fat and protein reserves to provide for migration, egg laying, and incubation.

by William E. Wheeler and Lawrence E. Vine

Each spring, large numbers of Interior Canada Geese (subspecies *Branta canadensis interior*) of the Mississippi Valley population use southeastern Wisconsin as a staging area during their northward migration to Canadian breeding grounds. Hunt and Hansen (1975) recognized the importance of southeastern Wisconsin as a valuable stopover area for these birds, and several studies have documented the importance of spring staging habitat, body condition dynamics, and food availability for geese in Wisconsin in spring (Caithamer 1989, Smith 1989, Gates 1989, Wheeler et al. 1998).

The Mississippi Valley population (MVP) was first described by Hanson and Smith (1950) as those Canada Geese breeding on the west coast of James Bay from the mouth of the Albany River northwest throughout the Hudson Bay coastal lowlands to York Factory at the mouth of the Nelson River. Using radio-marked birds, Bartelt et al. (1984) and Tacha et al. (1988) determined that breeding sites of this population extend as far inland as 150–200 miles (240–320 km) from the Hudson and James Bay coasts.

Beginning in late September, the MVP geese migrate south from their breeding grounds through Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois to wintering grounds in southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Although some of the geese may overwinter in Wisconsin, most spend the last half of December through February or March in the south, then head back to Wisconsin in mid–February to early March. The spring migration route of

MVP geese northward from southern Illinois to Wisconsin has recently been documented through radio-tracking work by Tacha et al. (1991). They found that the geese moved north from Illinois, through the Rock River valley and southeastern Wisconsin, to an area from the Wisconsin River near Portage eastward to Lake Winnebago.

Although the chronology of spring goose migration in Wisconsin is well documented from 1913 onward, it is very sketchy prior to this date. This is especially true for the area surrounding Horicon Marsh (Dodge, Fond du Lac, Columbia, and Green Lake Counties), which has been an important staging area for geese since the late 1940s (Hanson and Smith 1950). In the *History of Dodge County* (Western Historical Co. 1880), no mention of geese in the spring or fall occurs. Several thousand geese were observed on 20 April 1939 on Lake Maria in Green Lake County (Loyster 1940). Areas known for geese mentioned in a *Game Survey of Wisconsin* (Leopold 1929) were Sheboygan Marsh (drained in 1923), Buena Vista Marsh (drained in 1914), Big Foot Prairie, Rock Prairie, and Sauk Prairie, but no specific information on spring numbers was given. Geese used the Hope Lake area in Jefferson County during a spring census by Hawkins (1939). The Shioc River bottoms in Outagamie County were noted by Grundvig (1895) to be used by geese each spring, with usage peaking from 25–30 April in 1882–83. The field notes of W. E. Snyder (1902) mention only three to four flocks of geese per year in spring near Beaver Dam (Dodge County) between 1889 and 1895. A German market hunter who lived for 84 years near Mud Lake, south of Horicon on the Crawfish River, reported killing 1,000 ducks but only two or three Canada Geese in 1883 (spring goose hunting was allowed until 1908, Hawkins 1939).

These historical accounts indicate that in the past the upper Rock River valley region was not as important to the geese in spring as it is today. Prior to the establishment of the large goose refuges in the 1940s in southern Illinois (Horseshoe Lake Refuge, Union County Refuge, and Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge), the geese primarily wintered on the sand bars of the Mississippi River west and south of Horseshoe Lake toward the gulf coast. They also may have used the Mississippi River corridor in spring migration more to the west than present. The damming of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers during the period 1900–1940 also probably affected the spring migration route, as did the establishment of Horicon and Necedah National Wildlife Refuges in Wisconsin.

At the very least, in the early 1940s, spring goose populations in Wisconsin were much smaller and widespread than they are at present. The total number of geese in the MVP in all states was as low as 53,000 in 1946 (the year Horicon National Wildlife Refuge was completed), with only 22,000 located in Illinois (Reeves et al. 1968) and available to migrate north through Wisconsin in spring 1947. This compares to December MVP peak counts of over 850,000 in 1993–94 (Gamble and Peterson 1997).

This paper presents previously unpublished data from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources compiled by L. R. Jahn, R. A. Hunt, and W. E. Wheeler on MVP geese spring arrival and departure dates, as well as dis-

tribution and habitat use information from a study of spring geese in Wisconsin from 1986 to 1988.

Study Area and Methods

The study area, and the area to which the historical data pertain, is a 2,850 sq. mile (7,000 sq. km) section of east-central Wisconsin that includes portions of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, and Winnebago Counties (Figure 1). The Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, a major fall refuge for MVP geese, is located on the eastern edge of the study area. Dairy farming is the predominant land use, and corn, alfalfa, and small grains are the predominant crops. Numerous small woodlots, pastures, natural lakes, wetlands, and impoundments are present.

During 1986–88, biologists and field crews conducting field sampling for waste grain and green biomass availability collected daily records on the number of goose flocks, flock size, and habitat use while traveling to random sampling units throughout the study area. These data, along with data on arrival, departure, and major migration dates, were recorded from 1 January through 30 April each year. Similar data on arrival and departure dates were collected by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or Wisconsin Conservation Department employees at the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area

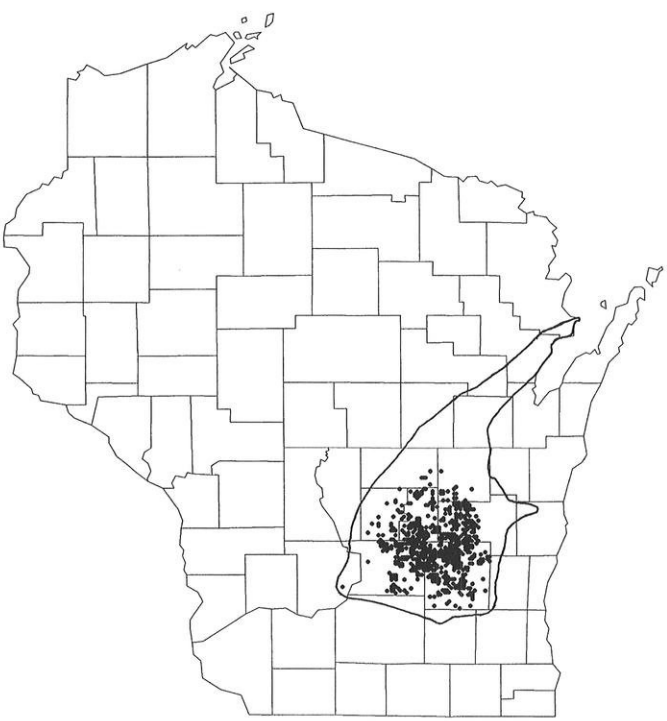


Figure 1. Major spring staging distribution of the Mississippi Valley population of Canada Geese in Wisconsin, 1986–1988 (2,050 direct flock observations plotted).

office from 1942 to 1998 (L. R. Jahn, R. A. Hunt, and W. E. Wheeler, unpublished data). The distribution of flocks using east-central Wisconsin was plotted using Map-Viewer software (Golden Software 1994). Flock size changes over time were examined using a one-way ANOVA on log transformed data using Microsoft Excel for Windows 95, Version 7 (Microsoft Corporation 1996).

Results and Discussion

Spring Staging Chronology—The MVP geese arrive in spring with favorable winds from the south. Peak migrations can occur from mid–February through most of March (Table 1).

Spring staging activities of migrant geese in southeastern Wisconsin have been recorded since the early 1900s. The average spring arrival date for geese in Dane County from 1913–29 was 16 March (Schorger 1931), and from 1935–45 was 11 March (range = 2 February to 25 March, Leopold and Jones 1947). More recently (1946–1999), geese have first arrived in the Horicon area between 7 February and 24 March (Table 1). The earliest arrival noted was 7 February 1990 and the latest was 25 March 1937.

Departure dates from east-central Wisconsin (recorded at the Horicon DNR office) occur over a much shorter time span than do arrivals, with first departures for the breeding grounds occurring from 15–27 April, with the average of 20 April during 1962–99 (Table 1). In all years on record, the migrant geese were virtually gone from southern Wisconsin by 30 April. The time between when the first migrants were observed leaving until the last had departed averaged 5 days. The northward migration from Wisconsin is very abrupt compared to the leisurely pace of the southward migration in fall.

The northward spring migration occurs even though the breeding grounds are still covered by ice and snow, and the geese arrive there 23 to 30 days before nest initiation (Bruggink et al. 1994). The maximum time geese are in Wisconsin in spring ranges from 43 to 74 days, with a mean of 60 days.

Distribution of Staging Geese in Spring—The major MVP spring goose use area of Wisconsin was identified by recording the locations of 2,050 flocks observed during February through April, 1986–88 (Figure 1). This area stretches from Dodge County and the western half of Fond du Lac County westward through Marquette County and the western two-thirds of Columbia County. It extends from Dodge and Columbia Counties in the south to mid-Waushara and Winnebago Counties in the north. Although some geese roost on the 47 sq. mile (32,000 acre) Horicon Marsh in spring, the vast majority roost and feed in the 2,850 sq. mile (1.8 million acre) area of private lands to the west. Horicon Marsh represents only 1.6% of this total area. Most geese are found in these seven counties, but smaller numbers are scattered over a much wider area of southeastern Wisconsin, from the west shore of Green Bay to the Illinois state line (Tacha et al. 1991). As spring progresses, the larger flocks break up and the geese disperse across a much larger area. The average flock size in early March is 700–1,500 birds, but by departure the flocks average only 200–300 birds each (Figure 2).

Overwintering Areas—In mild winters (and even during quite severe ones),

some geese have been known to remain late into January or February, with some remaining all winter. This occurred during the winters of 1980–81, 1986–87, 1990–91, 1991–92, 1996–97, and 1997–98. Over-wintering areas include Green Lake; the Rock, Wisconsin, Beaver Dam, and Puchyan Rivers; and Silver and Neenah Creeks. The largest number remaining all winter was 30,000 geese on Beaver Dam Lake, Dodge County, in 1990–91; this flock kept a hole in the ice open by their presence at the same time that other areas of the lake were covered by 15 inches of ice.

The availability of food most often determines whether geese remain late or over-winter; a snow cover of 5 inches or more makes waste grain and forage too hard to uncover. In the case of Beaver Dam Lake in 1990–91, wintering birds fed heavily on undigested corn in freshly spread manure.

Spring Goose-Days of Use—An index to the value of certain regions or refuges to geese is often estimated by calculating goose-days of use. Goose-days of use can be estimated by multiplying the number of geese surveyed times the total estimated days they are present.

We can conservatively estimate spring goose-days of use in Wisconsin by using the 1986 December counts of geese in Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee as an example of numbers moving through Wisconsin in spring during our 1986–88 study, and by using radio and telemetry data (Tacha 1991) to estimate the proportion of MVP geese in Wisconsin during various periods. The 1986 winter count of MVP geese in the above mentioned states was 487,000 (Gamble and Peterson 1997). Since essentially all of these geese had left southern Illinois and entered Wisconsin by the first week in April (Tacha 1991) and our average departure date from Wisconsin was 20 April, there would be approximately 9,740,000 goose-days of use in April alone (20 days × 487,000 geese). Geese reaching Wisconsin during the last half of March averaged 64% to 78% of the population (Tacha 1991); using 64% for this period would add 4,682,880 goose-days of use. By the second week of March, approximately 26% of the geese had reached Wisconsin (Tacha 1991); this would add an additional 887,796 goose-days of use, for a total of 15,310,676 goose-days of use from 7 March to 20 April. Not included in these calculations is a small portion of the total flock present as early as late February and the first week of March, so our estimate is indeed conservative.

If the same chronology on proportions of the flock present is applied to the 1994 population (the last complete winter count) of 920,000 geese, the spring goose-days of use equals 28,925,300. This represents an increase for this nine-year period of 13,614,624 goose-days of use (89%). This level of spring use exceeds the 25,605,700 goose-days of use in the previous fall (1993) in the same general area of east-central Wisconsin (Wheeler, 1993 WDNR survey files). Thus, southeastern Wisconsin has become an extremely important spring staging area for the MVPs increasing numbers.

Habitat Use in Spring—The type of diurnal habitat used was recorded for 1,968 flocks of geese during the springs of 1986–88 (Table 2). The major habitats used were harvested corn (22.7%), grass pasture (20.8 %), alfalfa (11.5%), wet meadow (10.2%), open

Table 1. Arrival and departure chronology and stay length for Mississippi Valley population of Canada Geese in east-central Wisconsin, 1946–1999.

	Arrival Dates		Departure Dates			
Year	First Migrants	Peak Arrivals	First Departure	Peak Departures	No Remaining Migrants	Days Present
1946	3/2					
1947	3/11					
1948	3/14					
1949	3/4					
1950	3/3					
1951	2/26					
1952	2/10					
1953	3/10					
1954	3/15					
1955	3/2					
1956	3/1					
1957	3/24					
1958	3/5	3/11, 3/12				
1959	2/27	3/1, 3/2				
1960	3/12	3/29, 3/30				
1961	2/23	2/28, 3/2				
1962	3/16	3/17, 3/18	4/24	4/25	4/27	43
1963	3/8	3/14, 3/2	4/24		4/26	50
1964	3/2	3/13, 3/22	4/21	4/23	4/25	55
1965	3/2	3/13, 3/31	4/27	4/28	4/30	60
1966	3/2	3/5, 3/9			4/30	60
1967	3/2	3/10, 3/16	4/19	4/28	4/30	60
1968	3/5	3/8, 3/9, 3/24	4/26		4/28	55
1969	2/26	3/5, 3/16, 3/22	4/19	4/24	4/26	60
1970	2/24	3/4, 3/7	4/24	4/25	4/27	63
1971	2/25	3/5, 3/14	4/24	4/26	4/28	63
1972	2/28	3/11, 3/18	4/17	4/24	4/26	58
1973	2/24	3/3, 3/10				

1974	2/18					
1975	2/21	3/6, 3/17		4/26	4/28	66
1976	3/18					
1977	2/24	3/2, 3/6, 3/7	4/17	4/19, 4/23	4/27	63
1978	3/1	3/18, 3/22, 3/28	4/22	4/27	4/28	59
1979	3/9	3/13, 3/20	4/24	4/28	4/29	52
1980	3/9	3/16, 3/24	4/17	4/20, 4/26	4/26	50
1981	2/21	2/28, 3/11	4/15		4/17	56
1982	2/21	3/14, 3/17, 3/22	4/22	4/23	4/28	67
1983	2/19	3/2	4/22	4/25	4/25	66
1984	2/12	2/13	4/21		4/26	74
1985	2/25	3/3, 3/9	4/19		4/22	57
1986	3/1	3/2, 3/14	4/16	4/23	4/24	55
1987	2/11	2/24, 3/8	4/17		4/20	69
1988	2/25	2/28, 3/6	4/16		4/21	56
1989	3/9	3/12, 3/16	4/15	4/23	4/24	47
1990	2/7	2/14, 3/4, 3/12	4/20		4/22	75
1991	3/9	3/12, 3/15	4/15	4/23	4/24	47
1992	2/14	2/18, 2/21	4/19	4/21, 4/28	4/28	74
1993	3/6	3/7, 3/17, 3/21	4/23	4/26	4/27	53
1994	2/17	2/19, 2/24, 3/4	4/18		4/22	65
1995	2/22	2/22, 2/28, 3/11	4/23	4/24	4/25	63
1996	2/20	2/28, 3/11	4/17	4/23	4/25	65
1997	2/15	3/1, 3/3	4/22	4/23	4/27	72
1998	2/14	2/16	4/17	4/18	4/22	67
1999	2/9	1/10	4/13	4/13, 4/21	4/22	73

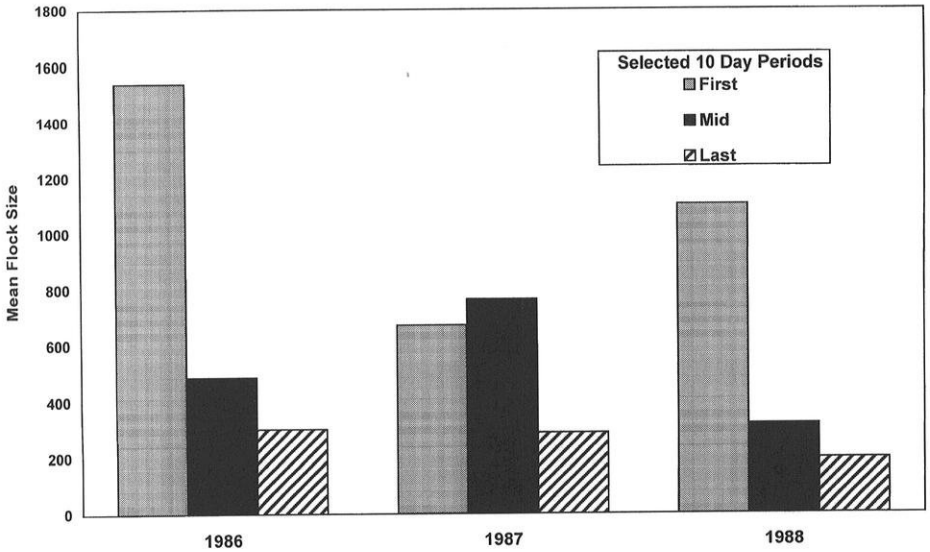


Figure 2. Temporal change in flock size during spring staging by Mississippi Valley Canada Geese in Wisconsin, 1986–1988. Differences between 10-day periods were statistically significant ($P < 0.005$) for 1986 and 1988 only.

water (9.8%), and marsh (8.3%). Manured, chopped, or plowed corn fields and winter wheat were used somewhat less by geese.

Waste grain in corn fields is important to geese in spring. Picked and combined fields (harvested for dried grain) contain 2.3 to 4.5 bushels per acre of waste corn available to geese (Wheeler et al. 1998), while chopped corn (silage) fields provide only 0.7 to 1.0 bushels per acre. If manure was spread on chopped fields, the waste corn available increased to 3.4 bushels per acre.

Picked corn fields comprise about 25% of the area (Smith 1989) and provide high food value. Geese used waste grain and green browse during the entire period they were present in spring in Wisconsin. Grass pastures make up only about 3% of the area, but are used more than expected by their proportion of the land area (Smith 1989). Pasture grasses, alfalfa and minor amounts of winter wheat constitute the sources of needed fresh green protein for the geese.

The importance of habitat for feeding and loafing are evident from the amount of time individual geese spend in these activities during the day (Figure 3). In all grain fields and fields spread with manure, geese spent 33% to 57% of their time feeding. Similarly, while in green alfalfa, winter wheat, and pasture, geese spent 41% to 46% of their time feeding. Geese spent a similar portion of their time loafing in green fields (20% to 28%) and corn fields (15% to 21%); these areas were also important as day roost sites. Wet meadows (lowlands) and marshes were even more important for day roosting, as they were used more for loafing dur-

Table 2. Percent of total flocks of Mississippi Valley Canada Geese observed in each cover type during spring, 1986–1988.

Cover Type	Number of Flocks	Percent of Flocks
Harvested Corn	445	22.7
Grass Pasture	409	20.8
Alfalfa Hay	226	11.5
Wet Meadow	200	10.2
Water	194	9.8
Marsh	163	8.3
Manured Fields	107	5.4
Plowed Fields	88	4.5
Chopped Corn	78	3.9
Winter Wheat	27	1.4
Standing Corn	19	<1
Fallow Fields	9	<1
Soybeans	2	<1
Total	1,968	100.0

ing the day than either green crops, pasture, or corn fields.

Body Condition of Staging Adult Female Geese—During their stay, paired adult females gained an average of 25 g per day and reached an average of 4,600 g by departure. They gained 1.6 g of protein per day on average and increased body fat from 34% to 65% at an average rate of 22.3 g/day (Wheeler et al. 1998). The total body weight of these birds increased 23% to 38% annually during the three years studied. Fat reserves necessary for migration, egg laying, and incubation by paired female geese increased by approximately 1,000 g annually during spring staging in Wisconsin, bringing these reserves to an average of 1,357 g (2.8 lb) per goose.

Summary

MVP Canada Geese stage in southeastern Wisconsin each spring on their way to coastal wetland breeding grounds on Hudson Bay. Geese arrive during the period from 7 February to 25 March and remain until 20 April. Of greatest importance are Dodge, Columbia, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, and Marquette Counties. Geese heavily utilize waste corn for fat and protein needs. They also heavily utilize pasture alfalfa and wetlands for green browse protein sources. Pasture and wetlands also are used heavily for day roosting areas. Body fat content increases from 34% to 65%, and total body weight increases by up to 38%. These reserves are needed for migration, egg formation, and body maintenance during incubation. As the season progresses, geese spread out over the landscape and break into smaller and smaller flocks prior to their northward migration. Goose-days of use approach 29,000,000 in spring and exceed the goose-days of use in the fall.

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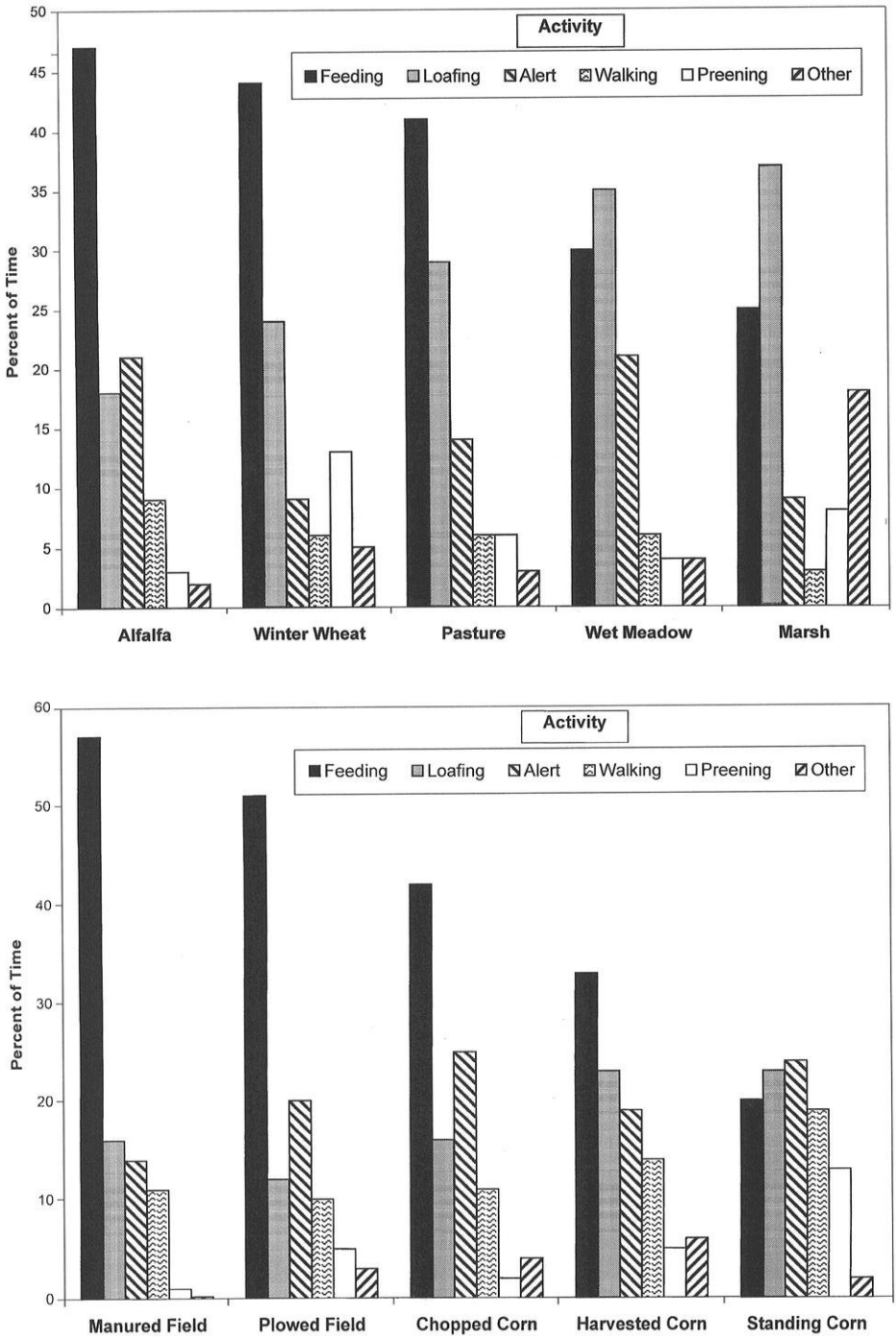

Figure 3. Diurnal mean time budget of individual Mississippi Valley Canada Geese observed by cover type during spring staging, 1986–88.

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Great Blue Heron *by Jack Bartholmai*

Bald Eagles Nest in Heron Rookery in the Apostle Islands

The authors document an unusual instance of Bald Eagles nesting within an active waterbird colony in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Lake Superior.

by Theodore J. Gostomski and Sumner W. Matteson

In 1997, during a colonial waterbird nesting survey on Eagle Island, we observed the first occurrence of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nesting within a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) rookery in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (APIS NL) in Wisconsin. Though this was an isolated occurrence (the eagles did not renest there in 1998), it is noteworthy because of potential impacts on the eagle pair's productivity and overall longevity, and because it provides an interesting insight into Bald Eagle nesting ecology.

Eagle and Waterbird Surveys in the Apostle Islands

Surveys documenting the nesting locations and productivity of colonial waterbirds and Bald Eagles within northern Wisconsin's Apostle Islands are two of the longest running monitoring projects conducted by APIS NL Resource Management staff. Both are cooperative efforts between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). In addition to the population and productivity information that results from these surveys, resource managers can use these data as an indicator of the health of the Lake Superior ecosystem.

Annual eagle nest surveys conducted by the WDNR have documented an average of four active nests per year within the Lakeshore since 1980 (range = 3–7 nests). These nests have produced a mean of 3.6 fledged young per year (NPS Resource Management files). In 1997, five active nests were identified, and three of these produced two young each. Though no island has supported nesting eagles every year, three islands—North Twin, Michigan, and York—have had the highest frequencies of occupation at 13, 12, and 11 years, respectively, since 1980 (NPS Resource Management files).

Waterbird surveys have been conducted on each of the Apostle Islands every five years since 1974, with surveys conducted intermittently on Gull and Eagle Islands (J. Van Stappen, APIS

NL, pers. comm.). With the exception of a rookery on Michigan Island in 1979, only Eagle Island has supported Great Blue Herons within the national lakeshore; a rookery also formerly occurred on Madeline Island outside the national lakeshore boundary (S.W. Matteson, unpubl. data; NPS Resource Management files).

Description of Eagle Island

Eagle Island (Bayfield County, Wisconsin), a small (11 ha) sandstone plateau located at the far west end of the Apostle Islands archipelago, is one of two islands within the national lakeshore closed to the public because of its use by nesting waterbirds. Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), and Great Blue Herons coexist on the north end, with cormorant nests occurring both on the ground and in trees. The forest canopy is dominated by white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), and yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), with the understory dominated by dense mats of Canada yew (*Taxus canadensis*) (Judziewicz and Koch 1993).

Historic records (Burnham 1930, Jackson 1941, Beals 1958) and recent literature (Brander 1981, Sindelar 1983, Temple and Harris 1985) documenting eagle nests within the archipelago make no mention of eagle activity on Eagle Island, so the origin of the island's name is an enigma. An 1878 map of the Bayfield Peninsula and Apostle Islands identifies Eagle as Steamboat Island (Benton 1972), and this name continues to be used by many local residents (Strzok 1981; J. Hepner, pers. comm.; B. Brander, pers. comm.). Burnham (1930) stated that Steamboat Island was submerged, but it is possible that Steamboat (Eagle) Island and a smaller island off of its southern shore, identified on the 1878 map as "Little Steamboat Island," were collectively identified as Steamboat Island. Little Steamboat Island did eventually disappear beneath rising water levels.

1997 Survey of Eagle Island

On 30 May 1997, while conducting a count of ground-nesting and tree-nesting Double-crested Cormorants, we discovered a pair of Bald Eagles exhibiting territorial behavior at the northwestern end of Eagle Island. Observations of the pair led to the discovery of an active nest that contained at least one eaglet. The eagles were using a former Great Blue Heron nest that was located at the top of a 15 m mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*) that had a circumference of 1.4 m.

The nest occurred within the northern edge of a Great Blue Heron rookery (composed of approximately 50 nests), and was approximately 100 m west and northwest of the cormorant colony (composed of 151 nests) and about 50 m from the nearest Herring Gull nest (Herring Gulls nest around the entire perimeter of the island). A second visit on 26 June confirmed the presence of two eaglets in the nest, and both were subsequently banded. The remains of heron, cormorant, and Herring Gull juveniles were found below or within the eagle nest, suggesting that the birds were opportunistically exploiting the abundant food source that the waterbird colonies provided. The nest blew down during the winter of 1997–98.

Discussion

Personal communication with resource managers and researchers reveals that the phenomenon of Bald Eagles nesting within waterbird colonies is not common, but is widespread geographically.

Nesting eagles have been observed in heron rookeries in Arizona, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Virginia, Wyoming, Wisconsin, and Ontario (partial summary in Table 1). Additionally, Koonz (1980) observed an active eagle nest with two eaglets in a heron colony in Manitoba, and Bayer (1979) reported eagles nesting within 1.5 km of an active heron rookery along the central Oregon coast. Similar reports also exist for other raptor species, including Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) nesting in a heron colony in New York (J. Connor, Rocky Mountain National Park, pers. comm.), and Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nesting within and at the perimeter of heron colonies in Iron County, Wisconsin, and along the Snake River in Wyoming, respectively (R. Wallen, Redwood National and State Parks; J. Wilson, WDNR, pers. comm.).

In general, there is little reason for concern regarding the effect of eagles on colonial waterbirds. There have been past incidents of eagles roosting at Wisconsin cormorant colonies and heron rookeries, leading to disruption of waterbird nesting activities and colony abandonment (Hoefler and Kooiker 1983; J. Wilson, WDNR, pers. comm.), but these are few.

Of greater concern, particularly in the Apostle Islands, is the consumption of chemical-laden gulls and cormorants by the nesting eagles. Gulls and cormorants, like many piscivorous birds, bioaccumulate toxins from the Lake Superior fish that they eat. These toxins, which are introduced to the aquatic system through wind and rain, bioaccumulate in greater amounts further up the food chain. Bowerman et al. (1995) identified concentrations of environmental contaminants in the prey of nesting eagles as one of the three primary factors influencing Bald Eagle productivity in the Great Lakes region. Fox et al. (1991a, 1991b) presented evidence supporting the use of colonial fish-eating birds to monitor the presence of contaminants in Great Lakes fish, reporting that chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are bioconcentrated in the eggs of cormorants, terns, and gulls by as much as 2.5×10^7 times their ambient concentration in water.

In their studies of Apostle Island eagles, Van Stappen and Meyer (1996) found that the mean plasma PCB con-

Table 1. Occurrences of Bald Eagles nesting in or near a Great Blue Heron (GBHE) colony. Data provided through personal communication with J. Driscoll (AZ), C. Lea (MD), V. Deschamps (Ontario), L.J. Brindza (VA), and S. Jennings, A. Hebig, L. Tesky, and R. Eckstein (WI).

Location	Number of Occurrences	Number of GBHE Nests	Eagle Nest Location	Distance to GBHE Nest
Arizona	6	Unknown	Periphery and Center	Same Tree
Maryland	1	30	Periphery	100 m (330 ft)
Ontario	1	Mean = 50	Center	Unknown
Virginia	1	1,400	Center	Same Tree
Wisconsin	10	Mean = 64	Periphery and Center	22 m (75 ft)

centration of Wisconsin Lake Superior eaglets was three times greater than in eaglets from interior mainland Wisconsin sites. They noted, however, that this level is 45% less than the average plasma PCB concentration for Michigan and Ohio Great Lakes eaglets, and that concentrations of PCBs and DDE in eagle eggs on Lake Superior have declined to the point that Lake Superior eagle productivity may no longer be affected by these contaminants.

Still, the potential for eagles to bioaccumulate toxins from their prey is a concern, particularly when eagles switch to an alternative food source such as colonial waterbirds. Van Stappen and Meyer (1996) documented eagles feeding on both Herring Gulls and Double-crested Cormorants from a colony on Gull Island in the Apostle Islands archipelago in 1992. They also found that the highest concentration of PCBs (1,154 parts per billion) among Wisconsin Lake Superior shoreline eagles was recorded in birds that nested on Michigan Island, which is approximately 1.6 km from Gull Island.

This isolated instance of eagles nesting in an Apostle Islands waterbird colony provides only a glimpse into the potentially serious effects that the regular intake of contaminated prey could have on a nesting pair of eagles. Continued surveys of both Bald Eagles and colonial waterbirds, and the sampling of eagle blood during occasional banding activities, will be important to help resource managers maintain records on the health of these species and on the overall health of Lake Superior.

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Information on eagle/heron cohabitation in other states was gathered through personal communication on the Department of the Interior electronic bulletin board system. We thank each of the managers and biologists who shared their information with us: L. J. Brindza (Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia), V. Deschamps (Long Point Bird Observatory, Ontario), J. Driscoll (Arizona Game and Fish Dept., Nongame Branch), B. Dusek (Biscayne National Park, Florida), S. Jennings and A. Hebig (St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Wisconsin), C. Lea (Assateauge Island National Seashore, Maryland/Virginia), T. McEneaney (Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming), P. E. Nye (New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Endangered Species Unit), J. Schaberl (Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota), and R. Eckstein and L. Tesky (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources). T. Gostomski also wishes to thank Nancy Hori, National Park Service Librarian at the Columbia Cascades Library, Seattle Support Office, who conducted CD-ROM literature searches. D. Evans and M. Klich (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources contract biologists) conducted the banding and blood sampling, and D. Evans provided additional information about the Eagle Island eagle nest.

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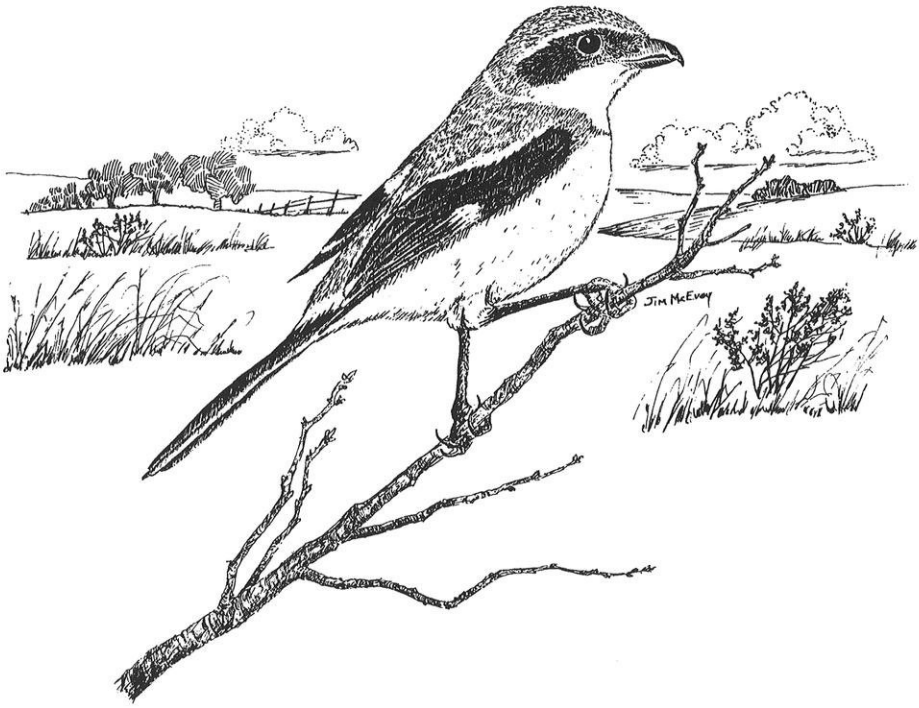

Loggerhead Shrike *by Jim McEvoy* (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

A Remarkable First Wisconsin Record: Streak-backed Oriole

by Thomas R. Schultz

In this report, I document a record of what I believe to be a Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*) that appeared at the feeders of Mike Stevens at Mercer, WI (1640 Hwy 51 South). It was apparently present there for about two weeks before it succumbed to cold temperatures on 15 January 1998. At some point, the dead bird was delivered to a local Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) office, and it was subsequently delivered to the University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum (UWZM) in Madison. The specimen (#A21909) has been archived in the UWZM collection. During two visits to the UWZM, I examined, measured, and photographed the frozen carcass, and checked the details against various print references. The tentative identification was confirmed during a working trip to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, where I examined additional specimens of this species. The existence of only *one* previous record of Streak-backed Oriole north of Arizona and southern California attests to the remarkable nature of this occurrence.

Details of the Discovery

In early January 1998, Mike Stevens noticed that an unusual bird had begun visiting his feeders in Mercer, Wisconsin. He reported the bird to local WDNR wildlife biologist, Bruce Bacon, and together they ran through a list of species in a field guide for a possible match. Unfortunately, none of the birds in the book appeared to fit the plumage of the Mercer bird. Bacon visited the Stevens residence on two occasions in an effort to observe the bird himself, but was unsuccessful on both attempts. On 15 January, when the bird failed to appear at the feeders after a rather severe cold snap, Stevens searched his yard and discovered that it had not survived. He recovered the dead bird and delivered it to the Mercer WDNR office (Figure 1).

On 7 April, Bacon brought the frozen specimen to the Park Falls WDNR office so the bird could also be seen by WDNR Avian Biologist Larry Gregg. They agreed that the bird appeared to be an oriole, based on the orange and black in the plumage and the shape of the bill, but it was an oriole unlike any they

Figure 1. Wisconsin's first record of Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*) appeared at the bird feeders of Mike Stevens, Mercer, Wisconsin, in January 1998. The bird eventually succumbed to cold temperatures. Photo by Larry Gregg.

had ever seen before. After consulting several field guides, Gregg concluded that it had to be a Streak-backed Oriole, based on its size and coloration, as well as the shape and color markings of the bill, and Bacon concurred.

Gregg contacted Frank Iwen at the University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum in Madison to alert him about the bird, and to make arrangements for its delivery to the museum. It was decided that it would be best to wait until the specimen could be transported directly, rather than risk loss through additional transfers. On 7 May, WDNR Warden Mike Rindfleisch delivered the oriole to the UWZM.

On or about this same date, I was notified about the existence of this bird by Sam Robbins, and was asked if I was interested in checking out the identification. I subsequently made two trips to the museum to examine and measure the specimen and to take photographs. Based on the oriole's plumage and measurements, and after consulting several references, I agreed that the specimen appeared to have been correctly identified, but I felt it would be important to do some additional research to establish the identification beyond all doubt.

In October 1998, during a working trip to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, I examined (along with Jon Dunn) several dozen specimens of Streak-backed Oriole, and, with the photos of the Mercer bird in hand, we concurred that the identification had been correct.

Plumage Description

The Mercer oriole has a black throat, with the black extending up narrowly along the sides of the bill and through the lores. The cheeks are rather bright orange, with a narrow wash of the same orange also present across the front of the forehead and above the black lores (Color Plate 1). The sides of the neck are a fairly bright ochraceous-yellow, as are the entire underparts, with the deepest tones across the upper breast (Color Plate 2). The undertail coverts are also yellow, but more pure yellow in tone.

The crown is an orangey-yellow color with an olive-brown wash, and the individual feathers have narrow shaft streaks that are slightly darker. The nape and hindneck are similar to the crown in color, but perhaps a bit more yellowish-ochre, and without the shaft streaks. The mantle is a warm, medium gray, with conspicuous and rather distinct black streaks that are 1.5–2.0 mm wide on the individual feathers (Color Plate 3). The scapulars are the same color, with shaft streaks that are even broader—up to 4–5 mm wide. The lower back is a little more yellowish with an ochre wash, and the rump is a dull ochraceous-yellow. The uppertail coverts are a dull olive-yellow, and they match and blend into the sides of the tail base.

The rectrices (tail feathers) are apparently in a state of partial molt, with the central three not quite fully grown. They are about 8–11 mm shorter than the longest fully grown rectrices, and are dark gray in color with irregular broad, blackish centers—especially on the inner webs. The tips of these feathers are whitish (1.5–2.0 mm). The outer rectrices, which number five on one side and four on the other, are brownish-gray on the distal one- fourth to two-thirds, grading into dull brownish-yellow at the base. There is a small amount of blackish mottling in the innermost of these feathers. The tail is somewhat graduated, with the outer tail feathers measuring about 14 mm shorter that the longest inner feathers.

The wings are rather striking in appearance: all the flight feathers and coverts are black, conspicuously edged with white or very pale gray. On the primaries, the narrow pale gray edges broaden somewhat just below the black primary coverts, creating a pale wing patch that is very similar to that of a Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). The tertials are black and rather broadly edged with very pale gray, with a small amount of white at the tips. The black greater and median secondary coverts are also broadly edged with white or very pale gray, which together create the effect of two broad, white wing bars. The lesser coverts (although generally hidden by the scapulars) are dark, and tipped with grayish-ochre. Small, bright yellow patches are present at the wrists (on the edge of the wing, just below the bend). The yellow also extends into the underwing coverts, although it is somewhat less bright here.

Bare Parts

On the bill, the upper mandible is dark (blackish), and the lower mandible is dark on the distal half, and pale bluish-gray at the base and along the cutting edge. The feet are also pale bluish-gray, with similarly pale nails. (These colors were recorded from the frozen, unprepared specimen, UWZM, #A21909.)

Measurements

All of the recorded measurements from the frozen specimen support the identification of this oriole as Streak-backed, as indicated by the *Identification Guide to North American Birds—Part One* (Pyle 1997). The wings and tail of this species average relatively longer than those of either Baltimore (*Icterus galbula*) or Hooded (*Icterus cucullatus*) Oriole, with the bill averaging somewhat longer and thicker (deeper) in profile (Table 1).

Distribution and Origin

Streak-backed Oriole is distributed in its range from northwestern Mexico south to Costa Rica, with periodic records from Arizona, including a few breeding occurrences. California has six accepted records, mostly in the vicinity of the Mexican border, and only as far north as Orange County and Death Valley (California Birds Records Committee). The only known published record of this species north of Arizona and California is one from Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, from 28 September to 2 October 1993 (Gilligan et al. 1994), so one can see that this Wisconsin record is truly remarkable.

Whenever a bird turns up so inexplicably distant from its normal range, one has to question whether the event was a natural occurrence or whether it was somehow human-assisted. Was this bird captured as a cage bird, transported to the region, and subsequently released? The plumage of the specimen certainly provides no such indication, for the feathers of the wings and tail are in immaculate condition, with absolutely no signs of "cage wear."

I examined several dozen specimens of Streak-backed Oriole at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, and noted that the Mercer specimen appears to have the plumage characteristics of an immature male. Also evident was the probability that this bird originated from the northernmost group of Streak-backeds, the race *microstictus*, which occurs in western Mexico from Sonora south to Jalisco (Howell and Webb 1995). This race should be the one most expected to turn up north of the species' normal range. The key plumage character that suggests *microstictus* is the narrow, dark mantle streaking. Within adult males, for example, Streak-backed Orioles from northwestern Mexico have narrow streaking, while the races from further south (Guatemala to Costa Rica)

Table 1. Comparison of the 1998 Mercer, Wisconsin, oriole specimen with various measurements of Streak-backed, Baltimore, and Hooded Orioles (taken from Pyle 1997). Streak-backed Oriole measurements pertain to the race *microstictus*. All measurements are in millimeters.

	Mercer Specimen	Streak-backed	Baltimore	Hooded
Wing Chord	96.7	87–106	83–96	76–88
Tail	84.5 (in partial molt)	80–100	64–75	73–94
Bill Length (exposed culmen)	22.5	17.8–21.1	15.8–18.9	14.9–20.4
Bill Depth (at front of nostril)	7.45	6.0–7.4	5.3–6.6	4.4–5.8

have very large mantle streaks or spots which merge together to form a nearly solid black mantle. In first-year males and adult females, which are rather similar to each other in plumage, the same trend is true, with the northern birds having the narrowest mantle streaks and the streaking becoming broader on individuals further south.

Similar Species

The oriole species that are most similar to Streak-backed include Hooded, Altamira (*Icterus gularis*), and Spot-breasted (*Icterus pectoralis*). Of these, Hooded is the species with the highest likelihood of occurring in Wisconsin, having numerous extralimital records scattered throughout North America, including six for Canada (Bannon et al. 1999). Like the Streak-backed, the Hooded has a black throat patch (in the adult male, and immature males by mid-winter), and can have blackish markings on the mantle. The throat patch of Hooded has a different shape, however, being broader below the eye, and any mantle markings (when present) tend to be more diffuse and more transverse in orientation. In addition, the bill profile is different, with a much thinner, more decurved shape. Note that the measurements of the Mercer bird do not correlate well either, with Hooded being smaller in wing length and bill size (Table 1).

Male Altamira and Spot-breasted Orioles can also appear superficially similar, with black throats, a white patch at the base of the primaries, and relatively large, thick-based bills. Neither species, however, shows distinct, narrow mantle streaking in any plumage, and the bill of Altamira is even deeper (>9 mm at the nostril).

Conclusion

Taking into consideration the paucity of records of Streak-backed Oriole in North America (beyond Arizona and southern California) and the time of year of this occurrence, this might well be considered one of Wisconsin's most remarkable bird records. It is most fortunate that Mr. Stevens had the perceptiveness to recognize that he was hosting an unusual species, the curiosity to seek assistance for making an identification, and the foresight to recover and preserve the bird after its demise. The existence of an actual specimen made it possible for the identity of this oriole to be established with virtual certainty, providing the best possible verification for this unprecedented Wisconsin record.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Larry Gregg for providing information on the discovery and recovery of the Mercer oriole, as well as several of his personal photos of the bird. Frank Iwen, former curator of the University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum, provided me with generous assistance and access to the frozen specimen. David Willard, Curator of the Bird Division at the Field Museum of Natural History, provided access to the skin collections in Chicago. I would also like to extend my thanks to Jon L. Dunn for his assistance in reviewing the documentation and museum specimens of Streak-backed Oriole in Chicago, and for his helpful and substantive comments on an earlier draft of this article.

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50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

A backbone of *The Passenger Pigeon* from its earliest days has been the seasonal field notes. In 1949, just as today, the seasonal editor continually encouraged bird watchers to submit their bird records. Sam Robbins notes in Volume 11, No. 2 (1949) that one of the most encouraging developments in Wisconsin ornithology in 1948 was the increase in the number of observers and better coverage of the state. In 1948, there were 37 regular reporters, 60 who sent in occasional reports, plus another 55 Wisconsin Conservation Department employees who also sent occasional reports, and observations from 114 others that were received indirectly. Three counties in 1948 totaled more than 200 species: Milwaukee (236), Dane (217), and Winnebago (204).

Through the encouragement of Bob Domagalski, Wisconsin birders are being asked to submit their life, county, or annual totals. Annual lists for 1948 also were printed in this issue. Sam Robbins, with 222 for the year, was sandwiched between two prominent Milwaukee birders—Mrs. Dixie Larken (273) and Mrs. A. P. Balsom (211). Others on the list who are still birding 50 years later include George Hall (192), who is the dean of West Virginia ornithology; Jack Kaspar (187); Paul Cors (187), now in Wyoming; Eugene Roark (176); Hal Roberts (158); Winnifred Smith (134); Ed Peartree (75); and Harold Koopman (68).

Plate 1. Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*) specimen from Mercer, Wisconsin, January 1998. Side view showing bill shape, facial markings, and flight feathers. Photo by Tom Schultz.

Plate 2. Ventral view of oriole showing color distribution on the underparts. Photo by Tom Schultz.

Plate 3. Dorsal view of oriole showing black streaking on the mantle. Photo by Tom Schultz.

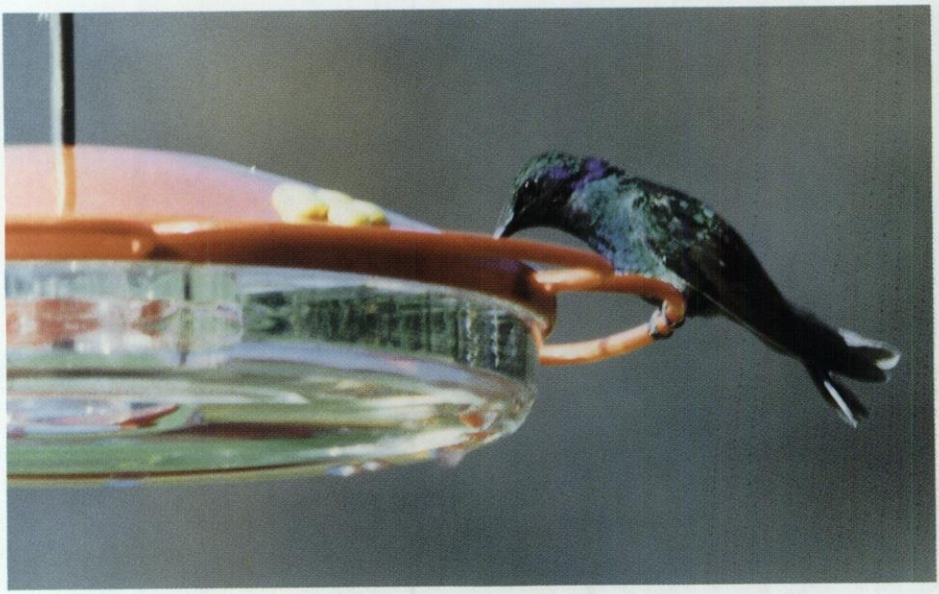

Plate 4. Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) visiting feeder of Ed and Marcella Larson in La Crosse, Wisconsin, 27 October 1998. Photo by F. Z. Lesher.

Plate 5. The La Crosse Green Violet-ear at Marge Gibson's wildlife rehabilitation center in Antigo, Wisconsin, where it was taken following capture on 1 November 1998. Photo by Dennis Kuecherer.

Green Violet-ear Visits La Crosse

by Dennis Kuecherer

La Crosse, Wisconsin, was treated to an extraordinary event in October 1998. A male Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) visited our city on the central east side (Figure 1, Color Plates 3 and 4). How long the hummingbird was here is not exactly known. Dr. John Hayden of Coulee Springs Road first noticed a different-looking hummingbird at his feeder in the middle of September. He photographed it and carried the photographs to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology while vacationing. He was informed that the bird might be a Blue-throated Hummingbird (*Lampornis clemenciae*) and to get some experienced advice when he returned home.

The hummingbird did not leave the area, and started visiting the hummingbird feeder of Ed and Marcella Larson, also on Coulee Springs Road. Ed and Marcella stated that they began to see an unusual hummingbird now and then from late in July. This was most likely the same bird.

The Larsons called Fred Lesher on 26 October and informed him of a green to bluish-green hummingbird on their feeder. Fred called me that night and arranged to meet at the Larson's the next morning. Fred and I are both Coulee Region Audubon Society members and regional coordinators for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. We arrived together the next morning and knew immediately that a new species of hummingbird was in La Crosse and the state of Wisconsin. Together, we determined that the bird was from Central or South America. Because of the dim and heavily overcast day, all the markings could not be seen on the bird to make a positive identification. From the literature we took with us, we narrowed it down to one of two species, the Green Violet-ear or the Cuban Emerald (*Chlorostilbon ricordii*). The two are very similar in size, shape, color, and bill. We reported the bird to various hotlines throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota, and also called Daryl Tessen, author of *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts,* and Sam Robbins, author of *Wisconsin Birdlife.*

Early the next day, 28 October, Daryl and several other knowledgeable birders were at the Larsons with us. The day was clear, bright, and sunny. The hummingbird was identified as a Green

Violet-ear. The violet ear patch and a faint tail band were observed. These two markings separate it from Cuban Emerald.

Because of the hotlines and other birding links, many people came to see the bird. The Larsons were very gracious hosts. They served coffee and cookies and there was viewing space for everyone. The Larsons started a sign-up book, and, in the next four days, over 250 people came to their home. Birdwatchers came from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Ontario. The hummingbird (now named "Lars") was very cooperative for everyone, as it came to the feeder every 15 minutes or so. By now, Lars had become famous; both La Crosse television channel 19 and the *La Crosse Tribune* had run articles on the bird.

Because the seasonal time frame was not good for the survival of the bird, Fred and I began to formulate plans for capturing Lars and getting him to his normal habitat. We both have mist-netting experience. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) were called over any legalities. By Friday, Lars seemed to be getting weaker and weaker. He was not flying well and was struggling to get around. Plans were now put into effect to capture the bird and get it to a rehabilitation center. Ed Larson, Fred, and I also set up a heating station where the hummingbird normally perched and spent the nights.

The method of capture was put to rest on Sunday, 1 November. Among the viewers early that morning was Tom Schultz, one of Wisconsin's premier wildlife artists. When Tom watched Lars fly weakly to the feeder, he simply walked up to the feeder, cradled Lars in his hand, and took him into the Larson home. An all-around effort now began within the house. I called various places for advice on how to maintain the bird until it could be transported to Marge Gibson, a medical ornithological biologist, who operates a raptor and wildlife rehabilitation center in Antigo, Wisconsin. As I made calls, Ed, Marcella, Tom, Kay Burcar, and a couple of others were listening to the advice and were preparing flannel coats with a slit for the head to warm the bird, making a special box to place Lars in if he started to show stress during the trip, mixing warm sugar water, and attending to several other small details. The coordination and cooperation was excellent. Fred arrived shortly, and, cradling Lars in his hands, we drove to Antigo without mishap.

Marge Gibson talked to Fred on the phone during the last 15 minutes and guided us right to her rehabilitation center. When we arrived with Lars, Marge had everything laid out and was ready for medical service. Lars was placed into a heating unit to get his body temperature up and was given various medicines, including antibiotics, special steroids, vitamins, and a protein diet. Marge, who is executive director of the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, made calls to professional contacts concerning any and all treatments for neotropical hummingbirds.

For the first several days, Lars improved and was given a chance to pull through. However, it was noted by Marge that Lars had most likely sustained injuries from a cat, as there were a couple of inner tail feathers missing and a claw-like scratch on his breast. Unfortunately, the medicine prompted

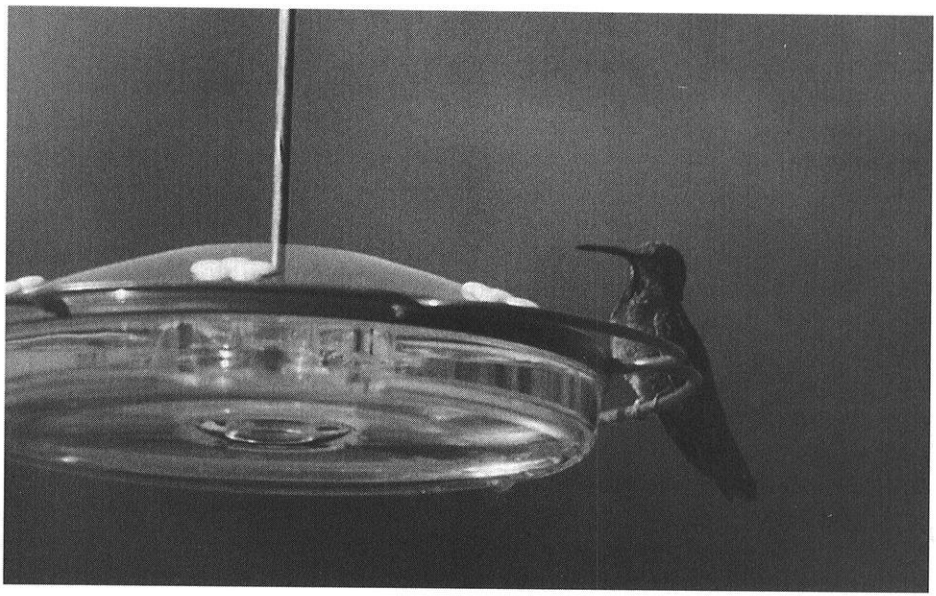

Figure 1. Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) on feeder of Ed and Marcella Larson, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 28 October 1998. Photo by Dennis Kuecherer.

only a temporary improvement, and Lars died on the fourth day at the center. The cause of death, according to Marge, was probably congestive heart failure due to infection from the cat scratch and pneumonia. Due to migratory bird statutes and USFWS regulations, Lars was transported to the Bell Museum in Minneapolis, where Dr. Robert Zink conducted an autopsy and preserved the skin.

I sent several photographs of Lars to Nancy Newfield of Louisiana State University, a specialist in neotropical hummingbirds. Together with Dr. Van Remsen, Curator of Birds and Mammals at Louisiana State, she identified Lars as a male Green Violet-ear. She stated that there are three recognized subspecies of Green Violet-ear ranging from Peru to Mexico. Our La Crosse individual is the *Colibri thalassinus thalassinus* subspecies from the Mexican region, and the only one that could be reasonably expected to occur anywhere north of Mexico as a natural vagrant.

The Larsons have received numerous letters for their hospitality and several have included donations of money for telephone calls and other expenses. The Larsons have graciously forwarded the donations to Marge Gibson's nonprofit rehabilitation center.

The Larsons commented that it was a grand experience, that they met many wonderful people and felt deep sorrow that Lars had died. They had become very attached to the hummingbird.

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Cape May Warbler *by Dennis Malueg*

The Green Violet-ear Hummingbird Specimen From Wisconsin: A Museum Report

by Robert M. Zink and John Klicka

After receiving the frozen specimen from Marge Gibson, the bird was stored in our freezer for approximately three weeks, at which time it was thawed, weighed, and prepared as a scientific research specimen by Klicka (Figure 1). Obviously, great care had been taken in its handling after death. This hummer was in excellent condition and made a beautiful study skin

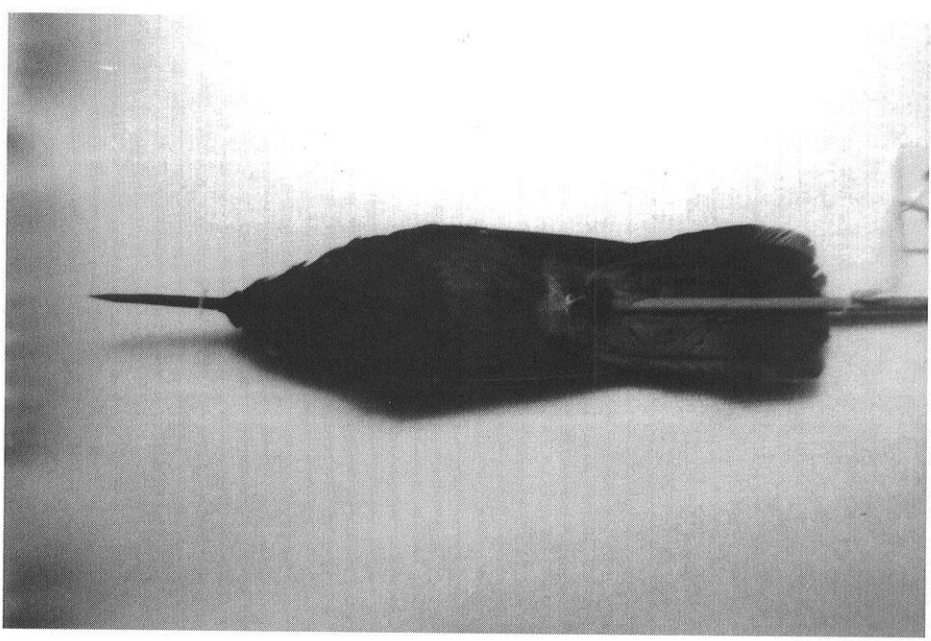

Figure 1. Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus thalassinus*) study skin (specimen #42609), prepared and stored at the Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. Photo by Robert Zink and John Klicka.

(because of their size and long wings, hummingbirds are notoriously difficult to prepare). We also preserved a "tissue specimen" that is housed in our growing Frozen Tissues Collection. The availability of such material is critical for modern-day studies of genetic and evolutionary relationships. We noted the following information on the specimen label (date and locality information are furnished in the previous article):

Specimen ID: *Colibri thalassinus* [*thalassinus*]
Catalog number: BMNH 42609
Sex: male
Testes: 1.5 × 1.0 mm, white
Age: Probable AHY (after hatching year)
Mass: 4.9 grams (thawed weight)
Molt: symmetrical wing molt, one secondary each wing in quill
Fat: very light, but some fat present

We tentatively assigned this hummingbird to the nominate subspecies *thalassinus,* a highland form that ranges from Central Mexico to Guatemala. We based this tentative conclusion on the ample amount of violet-blue coloration on the breast and the geographic proximity of this subspecies to Wisconsin (the other subspecies occur much farther south, all the way to Bolivia). Bill (exposed culmen, 18.8 mm) and wing length (chord, 64 mm) measurements fall within the range of values (Ridgway 1911, Johnsgard 1997) established for *thalassinus,* although size overlap among subspecies is considerable. Definitive subspecies identification requires comparison with a series of study skins representing the described subspecies, and is beyond the scope of this report. Due to the size and condition of the testes, we tentatively concluded that this is an adult bird; however, further examination of plumage is warranted. The average weight for males of this species is 5.7 g (n = 15, Johnsgard 1997), although there is a bird in our collection of 5.2 g. If the bird had an average starting weight (which of course we do not know), its 4.9 g weight represents a 14% reduction in body mass. The keel on this bird was exposed and clearly some atrophying of pectoral muscle mass had occurred. Although the presence of fat seems incongruent with a reduced weight, birds can replenish fat reserves in a short interval of time.

We suggest that the flight feather molt observed is not active but probably represents an interrupted molt. In other words, the molt (prebasic) likely began normally in the premigratory environment but was subsequently halted before completion, once food resources diminished and energetic conditions for molt could no longer be met.

We were delighted to find that this bird was still in such excellent condition. Vagrant birds often display signs of physical trauma, especially skull damage. Such damage apparently affects navigation and orientation abilities, resulting in vagrancy. For example, the Calliope Hummingbird that recently occurred in Minnesota was missing throat feathers, consistent with hitting a glass window, perhaps. Microscopic examination of the skull of the Green Violet-ear, however, showed no signs of such an injury—no "dents" in the skull, nor blood clots, which are frequently associated with collisions with windows. This bird was indeed missing the central pairs of rectrices, along with most of the undertail coverts. As some have suggested, this is not uncommon for birds that have but

narrowly escaped predation from house cats (doubters of the effect of house cats on birds should consult www.Audubon.org/birds/cats). However, we cannot rule out energetic stress, a well known cause of feather loss, as the cause for the missing tail feathers. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we noted that with the skin inverted, no lacerations, punctures, or hemorrhaging was evident on either the skin or carcass. Thus, although a cat attack cannot be positively ruled out, the lack of evidence of physical trauma suggests otherwise.

To our eyes, all internal organs were normal and in good (fresh) condition. The only anatomical peculiarity that we discerned during our examination was what seemed to be an unusual amount of fluid in the lung area. We suggest that this was perhaps associated with the bird's death (as Marge Gibson had suggested) but unlikely a factor in "why" it ultimately ended up in Wisconsin. After our examination, the still fresh carcass was frozen and later sent up the street to the avian veterinary specialists at the Raptor Rehabilitation center, where unfortunately no additional information was gleaned.

This specimen is of obvious interest from a distributional point of view. Wisconsin now joins neighbors Ontario and Michigan in having a verified record of the species. Green Violet-ear, in fact, is among a handful of hummers that are well known for showing up in unexpected places (i.e. prone to vagrancy, see review in Johnsgard 1997). Hence, it was important that the specimen be placed in a recognized and active research museum where it is available for study by qualified researchers from around the world. The Bell Museum has major holdings of hummingbird specimens, particularly those occurring in southern Mexico. The skin and tissues from this bird are now available, as are all of our specimens, to researchers in need of comparative material. Those saddened by the demise of "Lars" should take heart in the fact that he will be a source of information concerning his species for generations to come.

Acknowledgments

We are indebted to all who made efforts to recover and so diligently care for this bird. We thank especially Marge Gibson for recognizing that this specimen is not a curiosity of regional interest, but rather a valuable research specimen that belongs in a scientific research collection.

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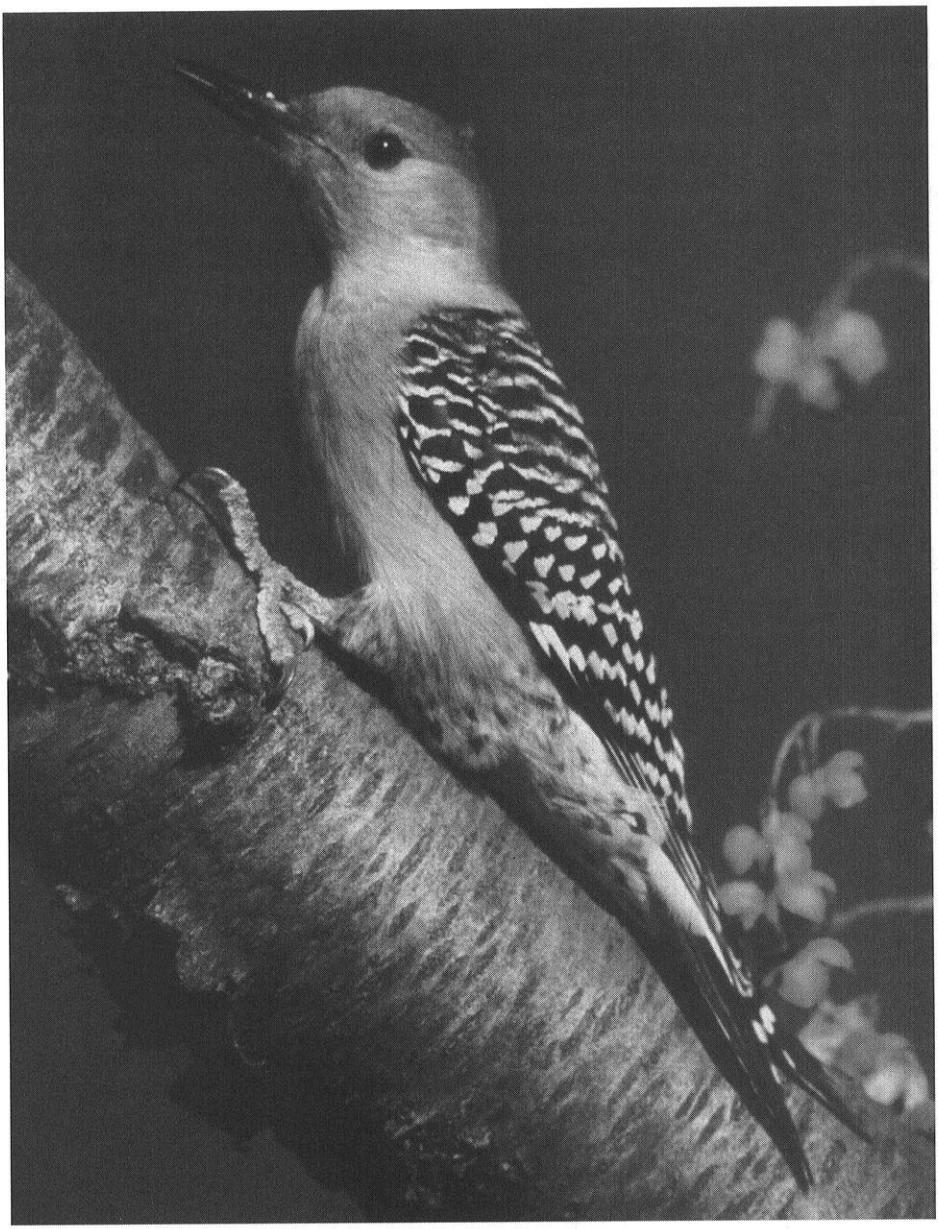

Red-bellied Woodpecker *by Dennis Malueg*

The Fall Season: 1998

by Mark S. Peterson

With the effects of El Niño all but gone by the time the fall season had begun, the talk was mainly concentrated on another weather phenomenon known as La Niña. The Pacific Ocean had gotten much colder, so the weather was supposed to be colder and wetter than it had been the previous year. It did seem to be wetter, for the most part, but except for some brief cool periods, it was a warm fall season.

It was a memorable fall season for those who were in pursuit of birds. Wisconsin's first record of a Green Violetear was identified in late October and lingered for several days before being captured in a weakened state in early November. Two species were added to the state's hypothetical list, with a Common Teal making a brief appearance in Vernon County and a Long-billed Murrelet appearing for a few hours in Ozaukee County.

August was a warm month, and it remained dry in the northeastern part of the state. There were flooding rains reported in the southeastern areas from the 4th to the 6th. A high of 99°F was reported during the last week of the month and a low of 38°F was reported during the third week. Ashman found 15 species of warblers in Dane County on the 24th and 25th; Berner found 16 species in Portage County on the 21st and 27th; Tessen found 18 species in Forest County on the 18th; and M. Peterson found 18 species on the 26th, and 21 species on the 30th in Shawano County.

September continued to be warm. Moisture was adequate in most areas, but continued to be lacking in the north until the end of the month. A high of 97°F was reported during the second week and a low of 24°F was recorded during the last week of the month. The first frost was reported in Caroline on the 23rd. Warblers continued their migration through the state and were especially noticeable one or two days after a cold front had passed. Ashman found 18 species on the 15th and 17 species on the 4th in Dane County; Berner found 16 species on the 5th and 10 species on the 28th in Portage County; M. Peterson found 16 species on the 3rd and 17th, and 17 species on the 4th in Shawano County; and Tessen found 19 species on the 1st in Winnebago County.

October continued with above normal temperatures with a high of 81°F reported during the third week and a low of 16°F reported during the fourth week. The first freeze was reported in Caroline on the 2nd, with a hard freeze on the 22nd. The first snow flurries were reported in the north on the 13th.

November had the most memorable weather of the season. The month started with some minor snows in the north and temperatures continuing to cool down. One of the strongest storms of the century passed through the state on the 10th and 11th. Duluth reported a barometric pressure of 28.47 inches along with 7 inches of snow. La Crosse reported a wind gust of 93 mph. Winds over 50 mph were reported over the rest of the state. Birds were blown into the state, the most noticeable of these being Franklin's Gulls. Warm weather returned after Thanksgiving and most lakes were free of ice as the month ended.

Three hundred species were reported during the fall of 1998, which is up from 292 species reported during the fall of 1997. Rarities were numerous and included the following: Pacific Loons in Douglas and Green Lake Counties; Eared Grebes in Columbia, Dane, Dodge, and Milwaukee Counties; Western Grebes in Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties; Snowy Egrets in Brown County; a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Milwaukee County; Trumpeter Swans in Dodge, Douglas, Forest, Marathon, Oneida, Polk, and Vilas Counties; a Greater White-fronted Goose in Columbia County; Ross's Geese in Columbia and Dane Counties; a Common Teal in Vernon County; Cinnamon Teal in Grant County; King Eiders in Bayfield and Door Counties; Harlequin Ducks in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties; a Barrow's Goldeneye in Ozaukee County; a Swainson's Hawk in Ozaukee County; Golden Eagles in Monroe, Ozaukee, and Portage Counties; a Gyrfalcon in Ozaukee County; Spruce Grouse in Vilas County; a King Rail in Brown County; American Avocets in Milwaukee and Trempeleau Counties; Whimbrels in Manitowoc and Marinette Counties; Western Sandpipers in Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Shawano Counties; a Purple Sandpiper in Manitowoc County; Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Dane, Douglas, Marathon, Milwaukee, Oneida, Ozaukee, Portage, and Racine Counties; Red-necked Phalaropes in Marathon, Milwaukee, Oneida, and Portage Counties; Pomarine Jaegers in Douglas County; Parasitic Jaegers in Douglas County; Little Gulls in Brown and Douglas Counties; a Black-headed Gull in Manitowoc County; Thayer's Gulls in Brown, Manitowoc, and Ozaukee Counties; Iceland Gulls in Brown and Douglas Counties; Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Dane, Douglas, Kewaunee, and Sheboygan Counties; Great Black-backed Gulls in Brown, Door, Douglas, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties; Black-legged Kittiwakes in Brown and Douglas Counties; Sabine's Gulls in Douglas County; a Long-billed Murrelet in Ozaukee County; a Eurasian Collared-Dove in Portage County; an Anna's Hummingbird in Waukesha County; a Green Violet-ear in La Crosse County; Black-backed Woodpeckers in Douglas, Oneida, and Vilas Counties; a Western Kingbird in Marathon County; Carolina Wrens in Dane, Door, and Waupaca Counties; Mountain Bluebirds in Door and Outagamie Counties; Northern Mocking-

birds in Columbia, Dane, and Door Counties; a Kentucky Warbler in Juneau County; Hooded Warblers in Door, Manitowoc, and Portage Counties; a Summer Tanager in Brown County; a Western Tanager in Milwaukee County; and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Milwaukee County.

Records
(1 August–30 November 1998)

Red-throated Loon.—First reported by Tessen in Douglas County on September 28. Last reported by Kuecherer in Monroe County on November 27.

Pacific Loon.—Found by Johnson and Putz in Douglas County on October 17, and by Lubahn in Green Lake County on November 15. See "By the Wayside."

Common Loon.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Oneida, Polk, and Vilas Counties. Verch found 85 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 10. Found at the end of the period in scattered areas throughout the state.

Pied-billed Grebe.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson found 218 in Shawano County on September 18. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Horned Grebe.—First reported on September 4 in Marathon County by Belter and in Oneida County by the Fishers. Verch found 307 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 10. Found at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Dane, Door, Oconto, and Ozaukee Counties.

Red-necked Grebe.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Green Lake and Winnebago Counties. Ziebell found 3 in Winnebago County on August 23. Reported at the end of the period in Milwaukee County by Korducki.

Eared Grebe.—First reported on September 3 in Dane County by Ashman and E. Hansen. Last reported on November 30 in Milwaukee County by Gustafson.

Western Grebe.—Reported on October 1 in Sheboygan County by Tessen, and on October 28 in Ozaukee County by Green.

American White Pelican.—Found at the beginning of the period in Brown, Oconto, Pierce, Vernon, and Winnebago Counties. Nelson reported 132 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 29. Last reported by Kuecherer in La Crosse County on November 30.

Double-crested Cormorant.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ziebell found 800 in Winnebago County on September 16. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

American Bittern.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Oneida, and Winnebago Counties. Last reported by Hoffmann in Kenosha County on October 21.

Least Bittern.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown, Oconto, and Winnebago Counties. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on September 19.

Great Blue Heron.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found 65 in Marathon County on August 15. Reported at the end of the period in Dane, Douglas, La Crosse, Monroe, and Polk Counties.

Great Egret.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Polk and Oconto Counties. Nelson reported 57 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 7. Last reported by Kuecherer in La Crosse County on November 26.

Snowy Egret.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown County by J. Hansen and Tessen. Several observers reported a maximum of 4 in Brown County from August 1 to September 12. Last reported by Tessen in Brown County on September 21.

Cattle Egret.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown County by Tessen where 3 were found. Last reported by Tessen in Dodge County on October 14.

Green Heron.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 11 in Portage County on September 7. Last reported by Hoffmann in Kenosha County on October 21.

Black-crowned Night-Heron.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Oconto and Door Counties. Ziebell found 150 in Winnebago County on September 19. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on November 15.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.—Reported in Milwaukee County on August 29 and September 7 by Korducki, on September 5 by Wood, and on September 12 by Gustafson.

Turkey Vulture.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Carlsen found over 50 in Pierce County on September 11. Last reported on October 28 in Columbia County by Bridge, in Washington County by Diehl, and in Waukesha County by Diehl.

Greater White-fronted Goose.—Reported by Robbins in Columbia County on October 26.

Snow Goose.—First reported by Putz in Douglas County on September 18. Parsons found 700 in Walworth County on November 14. Last reported by Domagalski in Kewaunee County on November 28.

Ross's Goose.—Reported in Columbia County on November 26 by Lubahn; on November 27 by Belter, Hall, and M. Peterson; and on November 28 by Robbins. Found in Dane County on November 27 by Bontly and Hall and on November 29 by Wood.

Canada Goose.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Parsons found 4,500 in Walworth County on November 12. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

Mute Swan.—Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Dane, Door, Marquette, and Washington Counties. The Lukeses found 25 in Door County on November 12. Reported at the end of the period in Dane, Door, Marquette, and Washington Counties.

Trumpeter Swan.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Polk and Vilas Counties. The Fishers found 9 in Oneida County on October 11. Reported at the end of the period in Polk County by Hudick.

Tundra Swan.—First reported on October 8 in Manitowoc County by Tessen and in Vernon County by Lesher. Lesher found 8,000 at Pool 8 in Vernon County (no date given), and Kuecherer found 8,000 in La Crosse County on November 27. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Wood Duck.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Nelson reported 70 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 14. Found at the end of the period in Barron and Grant Counties.

Gadwall.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Winnebago County by Ziebell. Nelson reported 4,835 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on November 2. Found at the end of the period in scattered areas throughout the state.

American Wigeon.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Oconto Counties. Nelson reported 9,275 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 14. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

American Black Duck.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Sontag found 350 in Manitowoc County on September 27. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

Mallard.—Found throughout the state during the period. Nelson reported 10,620 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 14.

Blue-winged Teal.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Nelson reported 230 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 7. Reported at the end of the period in La Crosse and Monroe Counties.

Cinnamon Teal.—Horn, a conservation warden, reported that a male and probably a female were harvested by hunters at Bagley Bottoms in Grant County on November 14. See "By the Wayside."

Northern Shoveler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Dane, Milwaukee, and Winnebago Counties. Nelson reported 300 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 14. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Northern Pintail.—First reported by the Smiths in Oconto County on August 4. Nelson reported 195 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on November 2. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Grant, La Crosse, Marquette, and Monroe Counties.

Green-winged Teal.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Nelson reported 1,110 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 29. Reported from scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Common Teal.—Houle found one at a fish hatchery pond south of Genoa in Vernon County on November 29. It was seen later that day by Kuecherer. These sightings were accepted by the WSO Records Committee as the first hypothetical records of this race of Green-winged Teal [formerly considered a distinct species] in the state. See "By the Wayside."

Canvasback.—First reported by Tessen in Winnebago County on September 3. On November 24, Nelson reported 34,985 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County; 112,300 at Pool 8 in Vernon County; and 152,175 at Pool 9 in Grant County. Found at the end of the period north to Dunn and Marathon Counties.

Redhead.—Found at the beginning of the period in Dane and Winnebago Counties. Nelson reported 5,625 at Pool 8 in Vernon County on November 24. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Ring-necked Duck.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Dane, Douglas, Marathon, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Nelson reported 25,700 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 29. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Greater Scaup.—Found at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Manitowoc Counties. The Lukeses found 2,000 in Door County on November 1. Reported at the end of the period north to Marathon and Door Counties.

Lesser Scaup.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Green Lake, Milwaukee, and Portage Counties. Verch found 1,021 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 25. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Scaup sp..—Nelson reported 32,100 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 29.

King Eider.—Stover found one in Door County on November 14, and Brady and Verch found 2 in Bayfield County on November 22. See "By the Wayside."

Harlequin Duck.—First reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on November 7. Last reported by Tessen in Sheboygan County on November 25. Also reported from Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties.

Surf Scoter.—First reported by Putz in Douglas County on September 18. Verch found 14 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 20. Found at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, and Ozaukee Counties.

White-winged Scoter.—First reported by Stover in Door County on September 7. Tessen found 9 in Ozaukee County on November 7. Reported at the end of the period in Buffalo, La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Ozaukee Counties.

Black Scoter.—First reported by Tessen in Douglas County on September 24. Verch found 14 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 22. Found at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Marathon, and Ozaukee Counties.

Oldsquaw.—First reported by Putz in Douglas County on September 26. Tessen found 30,000 to 40,000 at Point Beach in Manitowoc County on November 16. Found at the end of the period in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties.

Bufflehead.—First reported by Hall in Portage County on September 4. Nelson reported 1,470 at Pool 8 in Vernon County on November 24. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

Common Goldeneye.—Found at the beginning of the period in Door and Kewaunee Counties. Nelson reports 3,560 at Pool 8 in Vernon County on November 24. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

Barrow's Goldeneye.—Reported in Ozaukee County by Wood on November 22, by Uttech on November 25, and by Bontly and Strelka on November 28. See "By the Wayside."

Hooded Merganser.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Verch found 79 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on November 12. Found at the end of the period in scattered areas throughout the state.

Common Merganser.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Door, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Berner found 94 in

Portage County on November 13. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

Red-breasted Merganser.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, and Door Counties. Tessen found 1,000 in Manitowoc County on November 12. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Ruddy Duck.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Dunn, and Winnebago Counties. Parsons found 5,000 at Lake Maria in Green Lake County (no date given). Found at the end of the period north to Monroe, Winnebago, and Manitowoc Counties.

Osprey.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to La Crosse and Portage Counties. Berardi and Cohen found 14 at Concordia University in Ozaukee County on September 27. Last reported by Christensen in Marquette County on November 17.

Bald Eagle.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to La Crosse and Marquette Counties. Evanson found 135 in Dane County on November 14. Found at the end of the period south to Grant and Dane Counties.

Northern Harrier.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berardi and Cohen found 43 at Concordia University in Ozaukee County on October 19. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Sharp-shinned Hawk.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to La Crosse County. Berardi and Cohen found 1,220 at Concordia University in Ozaukee County on October 19. Found at the end of the period south to La Crosse, Marquette, and Sheboygan Counties.

Cooper's Hawk.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berger found 19 in Sheboygan County on October 19. Reported at the end of the period north to Marathon and Door Counties.

Northern Goshawk.—Reported at the beginning of the period and at the end of the period in Door and Marquette Counties.

Red-shouldered Hawk.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Brown, Polk, and Dunn Counties. Berardi and Cohen found 4 at Concordia University in Ozaukee County on November 6. Reported at the end of the period in Dunn, Grant, Marquette, Polk, and Washington Counties.

Broad-winged Hawk.—Found at the beginning of the period south to La Crosse and Portage Counties. Berardi and Cohen found 565 at Concordia University in Ozaukee County on September 27. Last reported by Christensen in Marquette County on November 2.

Swainson's Hawk.—Tessen found one in Ozaukee County on September 15.

Red-tailed Hawk.—Found throughout the state during the period. Berger found 115 in Sheboygan County on August 25.

Rough-legged Hawk.—First reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on September 19. Gamache found 4 in Dunn County on November 20, and K. Smith found 4 in Kewaunee County on November 25. Found at the end of the period south to Grant, Portage, Dodge, and Sheboygan Counties.

Golden Eagle.—Reported by Kuecherer in Monroe County from October 3 to the end of the period, by M. Peterson in Portage County on November 21, and by Berardi and Cohen at Concordia University in Ozaukee County on November 23.

American Kestrel.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berger found 24 in Sheboygan County on August 25. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Clark, Marathon, Oconto, and Door Counties.

Merlin.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Oneida Counties. Berardi and Cohen found 267 at Concordia University in Ozaukee County on October 19. Reported at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties.

Gyrfalcon.—Berardi and Cohen found one at Concordia University in Ozaukee County on November 23.

Peregrine Falcon.—Found at the beginning of the period in Brown, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee Counties. Berardi and Cohen found 27 at Concordia University in Ozaukee County on September 26. Found at the end of the period in Brown and Milwaukee Counties.

Gray Partridge.—Reported during the period in Door, Kewaunee, Oconto, and Ozaukee Counties. K. Smith found 12 in Kewaunee County on August 27.

Ring-necked Pheasant.—Reported during the period north to Douglas, Oconto, and Door Counties. Parsons found 12 in Walworth County on August 3.

Ruffed Grouse.—Reported during the period south to La Crosse, Richland, Columbia, and Sheboygan Counties. The LaValleys found 18 in Douglas County on November 22.

Spruce Grouse.—In Vilas County, the Greens found one on September 5 and two on September 27.

Sharp-tailed Grouse.—Reported during the period in Burnett and Douglas Counties.

Greater Prairie-Chicken.—Reported during the period in Marathon and Portage Counties. Hall found 102 in Portage County on November 20.

Wild Turkey.—Found during the period north to Barron, Florence, and Door Counties. Christensen found 262 in Marquette County on November 2.

Northern Bobwhite.—Reported during the period in Columbia, Dane, Marquette, and Richland Counties. Duerksen found 21 in Richland County on November 30.

King Rail.—Reported by Tessen in Brown County on August 1 and 22.

Virginia Rail.—Found at the beginning of the period in Brown, Oconto, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on October 4.

Sora.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Christensen found 100 in Marquette County on August 30. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on October 30.

Common Moorhen.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown, Dane, Dodge, Oconto, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. Tessen found over 60 in Brown County on September 2. Last reported by Domagalski in Dodge County on October 27.

American Coot.—Found at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Nelson reported 36,815 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 29. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Marathon, Oconto, and Door Counties.

Sandhill Crane.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Vilas, Oconto, and Door Counties. Hoffmann found 7,625 in Kenosha County on November 23. Reported at the end of the period in La Crosse, Manitowoc, and Monroe Counties.

Black-bellied Plover.—First reported by Tessen in Dodge County on August 3. Belter found over 50 in Marathon County on September 28. Last reported on November 7 in Sheboygan County by the Brassers and Domagalski.

American Golden-Plover.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland and Bayfield Counties by Verch. The Fishers found 100 in Oneida County on September 24. Last reported by Verch in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 30.

Semipalmated Plover.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Tessen found 20 in Brown County on September 2. Last reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on October 4.

Killdeer.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found over 270 in Marathon County on August 15. Reported at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Brown, Dane, Grant, La Crosse, Oconto, and Ozaukee Counties.

American Avocet.—Reported in Milwaukee County on November 12 by Gustafson, Korducki, and Thomas, and in Trempeleau County on November 12, 13, and 17 by McCurdy.

Greater Yellowlegs.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Dunn, Marathon, Shawano, and Oconto Counties. Tessen found 20 in Shawano County on August 18. Found at the end of the period in Grant, La Crosse, Monroe, Oconto, and Ozaukee Counties.

Lesser Yellowlegs.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found over 130 in Marathon County on August 15. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on November 12.

Solitary Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Dunn, Marathon, Shawano, and Oconto Counties. Belter found over 140 in Marathon County on August 15. Last reported by K. Smith in Kewaunee County on October 8.

Willet.—Reported by Bruce in Winnebago County on August 5 and by Sontag in Manitowoc County on August 28 and September 7.

Spotted Sandpiper.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Evanson found 11 in Dane County on August 1 and Belter found 11 in Marathon County on August 15. Last reported by Gamache in Dunn County on October 25.

Upland Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door and Kewaunee Counties. K. Smith found 14 in Kewaunee County on August 12. Last reported on August 26 in Winnebago County by Bruce and in Kewaunee County by K. Smith.

Whimbrel.—Reported in Marinette County by Bridge on August 18 and in Manitowoc County by Sontag on September 6.

Hudsonian Godwit.—Reported by McCurdy in Trempeleau County on November 13.

Ruddy Turnstone.—First reported on August 17 in Marathon County by Belter and in Oneida County by the Fishers. Last reported by the Brassers in Sheboygan County on September 28.

Red Knot.—First reported by the Fishers in Oneida County on August 17. Last reported by M. Peterson in Manitowoc County on September 16.

Sanderling.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Manitowoc Counties. Regan found 45 in Brown County on October 19. Last reported by Tessen in Sheboygan County on November 12.

Semipalmated Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dunn, Marathon, and Oconto Counties. Belter found over 60 in Marathon County on August 15. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 11.

Western Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ozaukee County by Uttech. Last reported in Manitowoc County by Tessen on September 9.

Least Sandpiper.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found over 300 in Marathon County on August 15. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 11.

White-rumped Sandpiper.—First reported by Evanson in Dane County on August 1, when he found 20. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on November 12.

Baird's Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown, Dane, and Dunn Counties. Tessen found 105 in Oneida County on August 18. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on November 23.

Pectoral Sandpiper.—Found at the beginning of the period in Brown, Dane, Dunn, Ozaukee, and Vernon Counties. Ashman found 200 in Dane County on August 7. Last reported in Ozaukee County on November 23 by Tessen.

Purple Sandpiper.—Sontag found one in Manitowoc County on November 28. See "By the Wayside."

Dunlin.—First reported by Korducki in Milwaukee County on September 7. Verch found 13 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 25. Last reported by Evanson in Sheboygan County on November 26.

Stilt Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown and Dane Counties. Korducki found 12 in Milwaukee County on August 23. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on September 29.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper.—First reported by E. Hansen in Dane County on August 15. Baughman found 40 in Oneida County on August 23. Last reported by Belter in Marathon County on September 19.

Short-billed Dowitcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown, Dane, Milwaukee, and Ozaukee Counties. Belter found 8 in Marathon County on August 15. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on November 15.

Long-billed Dowitcher.—First reported by Tessen in Calumet County on August 4. The Smiths found 19 in Oconto County on Septem-

ber 20. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on November 17.

Common Snipe.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found 41 in Marathon County on September 23. Reported at the end of the period in Brown, Grant, and La Crosse Counties.

American Woodcock.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Ozaukee County. Hoffmann found 7 in Kenosha County on October 21. Last reported on November 8 in Clark County by Decker and in Waupaca County by Hewitt.

Wilson's Phalarope.—First reported by Tessen in Dodge County on August 3. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on August 8.

Red-necked Phalarope.—First reported by Belter and Ott in Marathon County on August 15. Last reported by Wood in Milwaukee County on October 3.

Pomarine Jaeger.—Reported in Douglas County on September 26 by Johnson and Putz and on September 27 by Tessen. See "By the Wayside."

Parasitic Jaeger.—First reported by Johnson and Putz in Douglas County on September 19. Putz found 4 in Douglas County on September 26. Last reported on October 2 in Douglas County by Hewitt, M. Peterson, and Putz.

Franklin's Gull.—First reported by Frank in Milwaukee County on August 7. Lubahn found 800 in Milwaukee County on November 9. Last reported by Domagalski in Jefferson County at the end of the period.

Little Gull.—Reported by Tessen in Douglas County on September 24, and by Regan in Brown County on October 5.

Black-headed Gull.—Tessen found one in Manitowoc County on October 8. See "By the Wayside."

Bonaparte's Gull.—Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, and Oconto Counties. J. Hansen found 400 in Brown County on November 13, and Tessen found 400 in Brown County on November 14. Reported at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Grant, and Ozaukee Counties.

Ring-billed Gull.—Found throughout the state during the period. Parsons found 3,000 in Walworth County on September 16.

Herring Gull.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Milwaukee County. K. Smith found 1,000 in Kewaunee County on November 8. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

Thayer's Gull.—First reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on November 14. Reported at the end of the period in Brown and Ozaukee Counties.

Iceland Gull.—Reported on September 24 in Douglas County by Belter, Hall, and Tessen; on November 14 in Douglas County by Svingen; and on November 25 in Brown County by Regan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull.—First reported on October 27 in Dane County by Robbins and in Kewaunee County by Regan. Reported at the end of the period in Dane County by Bridge and Robbins.

Glaucous Gull.—First reported by Robbins in Douglas County on October 3. Regan reported a maximum of 3 in Kewaunee County (no date given). Reported at the end of the period in Douglas, Kewaunee, and Manitowoc Counties.

Great Black-backed Gull.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Sheboygan County by the Brassers. Reported at the end of the period in Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties.

Sabine's Gull.—Tessen found 4 in Douglas County on September 23. Several observers saw at least one in Douglas County on September 24. Last reported by Johnson and Putz in Douglas County on September 26. See "By the Wayside."

Black-legged Kittiwake.—Found in Douglas County on September 24 by Belter, Johnson, Putz, and Tessen. Reported in Brown County from November 13 to 23 by several observers. See "By the Wayside."

Caspian Tern.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Oconto, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties. The Smiths found 55 in Oconto

County on August 1. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on October 17.

Common Tern.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Milwaukee, and Oconto Counties. The Smiths found 76 in Oconto County on August 1. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on October 19.

Forster's Tern.—Found at the beginning of the period in Marquette, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. Christensen found 40 in Marquette County on August 10. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on November 25.

Black Tern.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Polk and Shawano Counties. Belter found 25 in Marathon County on August 12. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on September 10.

Long-billed Murrelet.—Lubahn found one at Virmond Park in Ozaukee County on November 24. This bird was seen briefly by Sundell. This record was accepted as the first hypothetical record for the state by the WSO Records Committee. See "By the Wayside."

Rock Dove.—Found throughout the state during the period. Belter found over 350 in Marathon County on November 17.

Eurasian Collared-Dove.—This bird, which was originally found on a farm at Buena Vista Marsh in Portage County during the summer season, remained until September 22 and was seen by several observers. See "By the Wayside."

Mourning Dove.—Reported throughout the state during the period. Hall found 355 in Portage County on September 6.

Black-billed Cuckoo.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Ozaukee County. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on September 26.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo.—Found at the beginning of the period in Barron and Richland Counties. Bontly and Strelka found 4 in Milwaukee County on September 12. Last reported by Berner in Portage County on September 20.

Eastern Screech-Owl.—Reported during the period in Dane, Jefferson, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Richland, Sheboygan, Washington, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties.

Great Horned Owl.—Found throughout the state during the period. Christensen found 6 in Marquette County on September 28.

Snowy Owl.—First reported by Putz in Douglas County on November 4. Last reported by Korducki in Milwaukee County on November 27.

Barred Owl.—Reported during the period south to Grant, Iowa, Dane, Jefferson, Washington, and Ozaukee Counties. Christensen found 10 in Marquette County on September 27.

Long-eared Owl.—Reported by Hoffmann in Kenosha County on October 21 and by Green in Ozaukee County on October 23.

Short-eared Owl.—Diehl reported an injured bird from Washington County on October 24. Wood found 4 in Milwaukee County on October 25. Tessen found 4 in Winnebago County on November 23, which was the latest report.

Northern Saw-whet Owl.—First reported by the Smiths in Oconto County on September 28. Berger reported 25 in Sheboygan County on October 20. Last reported by Hewitt in Waupaca County on November 26.

Common Nighthawk.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berger found 7,000 in Sheboygan County on August 23. Last reported by Diehl in Milwaukee County on October 1.

Whip-poor-will.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Brown, Dunn, Polk, and Shawano Counties. M. Peterson found 5 in Shawano County on August 1. Last reported by Christensen in Marquette County on September 30.

Chimney Swift.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Gamache found 242 in Dunn County on September 4. Last reported on October 10 in Milwaukee County by Bontly and in Grant County by Lesher.

Green Violet-ear.—One was apparently present in La Crosse for at least a month before it was positively identified at the Larson residence on October 27. It was seen by many observers before it was captured in very weakened condition on November 1 and taken to Marge Gibson for rehabilitation. It survived until

November 4. See related articles and "By the Wayside."

Ruby-throated Hummingbird.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Christensen found 20 in Marquette County on September 4. Last reported by Korducki in Milwaukee County on September 30.

Anna's Hummingbird.—Diehl reported that one was captured at a home in Muskego in Waukesha County on November 16. It was still being rehabilitated in early January when he examined it. See "By the Wayside."

Belted Kingfisher.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found 10 in Marathon County on August 15. Found at the end of the period in Grant, La Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, Polk, and Portage Counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Shawano, Oconto, and Door Counties. Cowart found 23 in Ozaukee County on October 12. Found at the end of the period in Grant, La Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, and Shawano Counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Douglas, Marinette, and Door Counties. Parsons found 4 in Walworth County on September 15, Belter found 4 in Marathon County on October 11, and Evanson found 4 in Green Lake County on October 30.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Christensen found 10 in Marquette County on September 26. Last reported by Bontly in Ozaukee County on November 19.

Downy Woodpecker.—Found throughout the state during the period. The Smiths found 8 in Oconto County on August 1, and Berner found 8 in Portage County on September 17.

Hairy Woodpecker.—Found throughout the state during the period. Christensen found 8 in Marquette County on November 2.

Black-backed Woodpecker.—Reported by Baughman in Vilas County on August 10, by the Fishers in Oneida County on September 27, and by Johnson and Putz in Douglas County on November 14.

Northern Flicker.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Christensen found 30 in Marquette County on September 26. Reported at the end of the period in Dane, Grant, La Crosse, Marquette, Ozaukee, Richland, and Washington Counties.

Pileated Woodpecker.—Found during the period south to Grant and Dane Counties. Berner found 3 in Portage County on November 9.

Olive-sided Flycatcher.—First reported on August 2 in Forest County by Reardon and in Oneida County by the Fishers. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on September 21.

Eastern Wood-Pewee.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found over 20 in Marathon County on August 15. Last reported was one heard singing by Evanson at the U. W. Arboretum in Madison on October 19.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron County by Goff. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on September 20.

Acadian Flycatcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Jefferson, Portage, and Washington Counties. Last reported by Domagalski in Jefferson County on August 16.

Alder Flycatcher.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Portage, Outagamie, and Kewaunee Counties. M. Peterson found 10 in Shawano County on August 10. Last reported by Tessen in Winnebago County on September 7.

Willow Flycatcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Marathon, Shawano, Oconto, and Door Counties. Christensen found 6 in Marquette County on August 5. Last reported by Christensen in Marquette County on September 6.

Least Flycatcher.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 10 in Portage County on August 21. Last reported by Ott in Marathon County on September 28.

Eastern Phoebe.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Domagalski found 33 in Waushara County on August 23. Last reported by Berger in Sheboygan County on November 4.

Great Crested Flycatcher.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the pe-

riod. The Smiths found 7 in Oconto County on August 1. Last reported by Stover in Door County on October 26.

Western Kingbird.—Ott found one in Marathon County on August 23.

Eastern Kingbird.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 31 in Oconto County on August 1. Last reported on September 26 in Douglas County by the La Valleys and in Manitowoc County by Sontag.

Northern Shrike.—First reported by Berner in Portage County on October 17. Found at the end of the period south to Pierce, Portage, and Kewaunee Counties.

Yellow-throated Vireo.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Dunn and Oneida Counties. M. Peterson found 5 in Shawano County on August 1, and Berner found 5 in Portage County on August 10. Last reported by Belter in Marathon County on September 23.

Blue-headed Vireo.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. M. Peterson found 3 in Shawano County on September 17, and Berner found 3 in Portage County on September 23. Last reported by Bontly and Strelka in Milwaukee County on November 2.

Warbling Vireo.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Domagalski found 36 in Washington County on August 1. Last reported by Evanson in Dane County on October 10.

Philadelphia Vireo.—First reported by Ott in Marathon County on August 9. Domagalski found 5 in Waushara County on September 7. Last reported by Evenson in Dane County on October 18.

Red-eyed Vireo.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Hall found 30 in Portage County on August 26. Last seen by Cowart in Ozaukee County on November 21 where it had been present for a week.

Gray Jay.—Reported during the period in Adams, Bayfield, Douglas, Forest, Langlade, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. The Fishers found 6 in Oneida County on October 28.

Blue Jay.—Found throughout the state during the period. Berner found 140 in Portage County on September 27.

American Crow.—Found throughout the state during the period. Berner found 520 in Portage County on September 18.

Common Raven.—Reported during the period south to La Crosse, Monroe, Juneau, Marquette, and Sheboygan Counties. Verch found 10 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 30.

Horned Lark.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Vilas, and Door Counties. Baughman found over 100 in Oneida County on September 19. Found at the end of the period north to Barron, Clark, and Door Counties.

Purple Martin.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Marathon, Shawano, Oconto, and Door Counties. Korducki found 200 in Milwaukee County on August 14. Last reported by Stover in Door County on September 19.

Tree Swallow.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Carlsen found thousands in Pierce County on September 3, Goff found thousands in Barron County on September 10, and Christensen found 2,000 in Marquette County on September 26. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on October 21.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Oneida, and Door Counties. The Smiths found 7 in Oconto County on August 1. Last reported by J. Hansen in Brown County on October 1.

Bank Swallow.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Vilas, and Door Counties. Belter found 20 in Marathon County on August 29. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on September 21.

Cliff Swallow.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Gamache found 300 in Dunn County on August 9. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 13.

Barn Swallow.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ziebell found 220 in Winnebago County on September

19. Last reported by Christensen in Marquette County on October 30.

Black-capped Chickadee.—Found throughout the state during the period. Berner found 85 in Portage County on November 17.

Boreal Chickadee.—Reported during the period in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Baughman found 7 in Vilas County on September 24.

Tufted Titmouse.—Reported during the period in Columbia, Dane, Dunn, Grant, La Crosse, Monroe, and Winnebago Counties. Ashman found 4 in Dane County on August 8, and Gamache found 4 in Dunn County on October 26.

Red-breasted Nuthatch.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane County. Tessen found 15 in Douglas County on September 23, and Berner found 15 in Portage County on November 12. Found at the end of the period south to La Crosse, Dane, and Washington Counties.

White-breasted Nuthatch.—Found throughout the state during the period. Gamache found 12 in Dunn County on October 24.

Brown Creeper.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Washington County. Korducki found 12 in Milwaukee County on September 22. Found at the end of the period north to Barron and Vilas Counties.

Carolina Wren.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Waupaca County by Hewitt. Found at the end of the period in Dane and Waupaca Counties.

House Wren.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 14 in Portage County on August 10. Last reported by Hall in Portage County on November 8.

Winter Wren.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Washington County. Berner found 24 in Manitowoc County on September 16. Found at the end of the period in Manitowoc and Ozaukee Counties.

Sedge Wren.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Carlsen found 10 in Pierce County on August 18. Last reported by the Smiths in Oconto County on September 28.

Marsh Wren.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Dunn, Shawano, Oconto, and Door Counties. Ziebell found 20 in Winnebago County on September 19. Last reported by the Smiths in Oconto County on November 30.

Golden-crowned Kinglet.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Berner found 30 in Portage County on October 3. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Marinette, and Door Counties.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet.—Found at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Oneida Counties. Tessen found 50 in Winnebago County on October 5. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on November 13.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Dunn, Marathon, Shawano, and Oconto Counties. Domagalski found 19 in Washington County on August 11. Last reported by Hall in Portage County on October 6.

Eastern Bluebird.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Christensen found 200 in Marquette County on October 4. Last reported on November 28 in Door County by the Lukeses and in Ozaukee County by Bontly.

Mountain Bluebird.—Found in Door County on October 23 by Hewitt and Stover, and on October 24 by Domagalski, Hall, and the Lukeses. Found in Outagamie County on November 14 by Tessen. See "By the Wayside."

Veery.—Found at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Berner found 125 in Portage County on August 29. Last reported by the Fabers in Washington County on September 30.

Gray-cheeked Thrush.—First reported by Berner in Portage County on August 19. Christensen found 7 in Marquette County on August 30. Last reported by the Lukeses in Door County on October 12.

Swainson's Thrush.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas County by the La Valleys. Berner found 230 in Portage County on September 1. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on October 17.

Hermit Thrush.—Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Mar-

athon, Oneida, Portage, and Vilas Counties. Berner found 25 in Portage County on October 1. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on November 26.

Wood Thrush.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Dunn, Shawano, Oconto, and Door Counties. The Smiths found 4 in Oconto County on August 2. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on September 21.

American Robin.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Lesher found 3,000 in Monroe County on October 15. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Gray Catbird.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Domagalski found 79 in Washington County on August 1. Last reported by Christensen in Marquette County on November 18.

Northern Mockingbird.—A pair with two fledged young was found on a farm near Egg Harbor in Door County from the beginning of the period until October 31. Another pair with at least one fledged young was found near the Columbia and Dane County line from the beginning of the period until August 10.

Brown Thrasher.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson found 5 in Shawano County on September 4, and Ashman found 5 in Dane County on September 22. Last reported by Gamache in Dunn County on November 25.

European Starling.—Found throughout the state during the period. Ziebell found 1,200 in Winnebago County on September 19.

American Pipit.—First reported by Regan in Door County on September 8. K. Smith found 108 in Kewaunee County on September 22. Last reported by Domagalski in Grant County on November 29.

Bohemian Waxwing.—First reported by the Fishers in Oneida County on September 27. Lesher found 300 in Vilas County on November 16. Found at the end of the period south to Buffalo, Waupaca, and Outagamie Counties.

Cedar Waxwing.—Reported at the beginning of the period throughout the state. Berger found 5,100 in Sheboygan County on September 6. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Vilas, and Oconto Counties.

Blue-winged Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Dunn, Marquette, Portage, Richland, Washington, and Waushara Counties. Berner found 4 in Portage County on August 10, and Gamache found 4 in Dunn County on August 8. Last reported by Gamache in Dunn County on September 21.

Golden-winged Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Portage County by Berner. M. Peterson found 5 in Shawano County on August 30. Last reported by Evanson in Dane County on September 19.

Brewster's Warbler.—Reported by Berner in Marathon County on August 1, and by M. Peterson in Shawano County on August 30.

Lawrence's Warbler.—Reported by Berner in Portage County on August 10, and by M. Peterson in Shawano County on August 26.

Tennessee Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Pierce County by Carlsen. Belter found over 60 in Marathon County on August 25. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on October 24.

Orange-crowned Warbler.—First reported by the Lukeses in Door County on August 9. Domagalski found 6 in Jefferson County on October 4. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on October 30.

Nashville Warbler.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Marquette County. Belter found 20 in Marathon County on August 25. Last reported by Tessen in Winnebago County on October 17.

Northern Parula.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Door, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. M. Peterson found 3 in Shawano County on August 26. Last reported by Tessen in Winnebago County on October 17.

Yellow Warbler.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Domagalski found 51 in Washington County on August 1. Last reported by Cowart in Ozaukee County on September 22.

Chestnut-sided Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane

County. Belter found 8 in Marathon County on August 25, and Berner found 8 in Portage County on August 27. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on September 27.

Magnolia Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Door, Douglas, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Christensen found 50 in Marquette County on September 4. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on November 28.

Cape May Warbler.—First reported by the Fishers in Oneida County on August 5. Regan found 10 in Brown County on August 24. Last reported by Bruce in Winnebago County on October 4.

Black-throated Blue Warbler.—Found at the beginning of the period in Vilas County by Baughman. M. Peterson found 4 in Shawano County on September 17. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 11.

Yellow-rumped Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Tessen found over 200 in Douglas County on September 24. Reported at the end of the period in Ozaukee County by Bontly, Strelka, and Uttech.

Black-throated Green Warbler.—Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Door, Douglas, Marathon, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. M. Peterson found 15 in Shawano County on September 17. Last reported by Wierzbicki in Brown County on October 21.

Blackburnian Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Oneida and Vilas Counties. Berner found 5 in Portage County on August 21. Last reported in early November in Door County by Tielens.

Pine Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Christensen found 8 in Marquette County on August 20. Last reported by the Lukeses in Door County on October 12.

Palm Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Vilas Counties. Christensen found 100 in Marquette County on September 20. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on November 12.

Bay-breasted Warbler.—Found at the beginning of the period in Door County by Stover. Tessen found 20 in Brown County on August 31. Last reported by Bruce in Winnebago County on October 5.

Blackpoll Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland and Bayfield Counties by Verch. Tessen found 25 in Brown County on August 31. Last reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on October 12.

Black-and-white Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. M. Peterson found 8 in Shawano County on August 26. Last reported by Berner in Portage County on September 28.

American Redstart.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ashman found 35 in Dane County on September 2, and Tessen found 35 in Winnebago County on September 3. Last reported by Regan in Door County on October 20.

Ovenbird.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane County. Berner found 6 in Portage County on August 24, and Christensen found 6 in Marquette County on August 26. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on October 27.

Northern Waterthrush.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Marquette and Washington Counties. Christensen found 8 in Marquette County on August 30. Last reported by Berner in Portage County on September 29.

Louisiana Waterthrush.—Reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on August 24, and by Duerksen in Richland County on September 9.

Waterthrush sp.—Reported by Bridge in Dane County on October 28.

Kentucky Warbler.—Mueller found one in Juneau County on August 24.

Connecticut Warbler.—First reported by Hale in Jefferson County on August 13. Last reported on September 9 in Brown County by Tessen and in Marathon County by Ott.

Mourning Warbler.—Found at the beginning of the period in Brown, Douglas, Oneida, Portage, and Vilas Counties. Berner found 7 in Portage County on August 10. Last reported by Wierzbicki in Brown County on September 27.

Common Yellowthroat.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Christensen found 50 in Marquette County on September 20. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on November 27.

Hooded Warbler.—Reported by Berner in Portage County on August 19 and September 29, by Stover in Door County on August 23 and 30, and by Berner in Manitowoc County on September 16.

Wilson's Warbler.—First reported by Tessen in Forest County on August 18. Belter found 4 in Marathon County on August 25. Last reported by Evanson in Dane County on September 26.

Canada Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Oneida and Vilas Counties. Last reported by Ott in Marathon County on September 21.

Summer Tanager.—A male was seen by several observers at the Kearn's residence in Brown County from November 15 to the end of the period.

Scarlet Tanager.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron and Door Counties. Christensen found 15 in Marquette County on August 10. Last reported by Berner in Portage County on September 30.

Western Tanager.—Lubahn found one at Lake Park in Milwaukee on September 22. See "By the Wayside."

Eastern Towhee.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. Christensen found 20 in Marquette County on August 10. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on November 28.

American Tree Sparrow.—First reported by Korducki in Milwaukee County on September 25. Hall found 535 in Portage County on November 12. Found at the end of the period north to Polk, Dunn, Marathon, and Oconto Counties.

Chipping Sparrow.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Christensen found 100 in Marquette County on September 20. Reported at the end of the period in Ozaukee County by Uttech.

Clay-colored Sparrow.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Waushara County. Berner found 11 in Portage County on August 15. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on October 20.

Field Sparrow.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Oneida, and Door Counties. Domagalski found 26 in Washington County on August 1. Last reported by Parsons in Walworth County on November 11.

Vesper Sparrow.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Christensen found 20 in Marquette County on August 20. Last reported by Berner in Portage County on October 22.

Savannah Sparrow.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Christensen found 100 in Marquette County on September 18. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on November 14.

Grasshopper Sparrow.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Door, Marquette, Oconto, Portage, and Shawano Counties. Christensen found 4 in Marquette County on August 2. Last reported by Regan in Door County on September 27.

Henslow's Sparrow.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Richland and Shawano Counties. Duerksen found 4 in Richland County on August 8. Last reported by Tessen in Waukesha County on August 16.

Le Conte's Sparrow.—Reported by Tessen in Marathon County on September 23.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.—First reported on September 19 in Milwaukee County by Gustafson and Korducki. Wood found 5 in Milwaukee County on September 27, which was the last report.

Fox Sparrow.—First reported by Williams in Marathon County on September 20. Berner found 74 in Portage County on October 28. Found at the end of the period in Monroe County by Richter.

Song Sparrow.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Christensen found 500 in Marquette County on September 20. Reported at the end of the period in Barron, Dane, Grant, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Winnebago Counties.

Lincoln's Sparrow.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Belter found 18 in Marathon County on September 23. Last reported in Portage County on October 25 by Berner and Hall.

Swamp Sparrow.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ziebell found 40 in Winnebago County on September 19. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marquette, and Winnebago Counties.

White-throated Sparrow.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Washington County. Tessen found over 200 in Douglas County on September 24. Found at the end of the period in Barron, Dane, Milwaukee, and Portage Counties.

Harris's Sparrow.—First reported by the La Valleys in Douglas County on September 12. Tessen found 10 in Douglas County on September 28. Last reported by Gustafson in Waukesha County on November 27.

White-crowned Sparrow.—First reported by Tessen in Brown County on September 9. The La Valleys found 27 in Douglas County on September 23. Found at the end of the period in Adams and Waushara Counties.

Dark-eyed Junco.—Found at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Vilas Counties. Berner found 350 in Portage County on October 25. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

Lapland Longspur.—First reported by Verch in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on September 10. K. Smith found 776 in Kewaunee County on November 24. Found at the end of the period in Columbia, Kewaunee, Oconto, Ozaukee, and Winnebago Counties.

Snow Bunting.—First reported on September 23 by Tessen in Douglas and Marathon Counties. K. Smith found 205 in Kewaunee County on October 28. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Northern Cardinal.—Found throughout the state during the period. Berner found 15 in Portage County on August 30.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Christensen found 20 in Marquette County on August 25. Last reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County from November 26 to the end of the period.

Indigo Bunting.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 17 in Oconto County on August 1. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on October 2.

Dickcissel.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dunn and Ozaukee Counties. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on September 26.

Bobolink.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Richland County. Christensen found 50 in Marquette County on September 6. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on September 29.

Red-winged Blackbird.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found over 5,000 in Marathon County on October 8, and Ziebell found 5,000 in Winnebago County on October 11. Found at the end of the period north to Barron, Polk, and Brown Counties.

Eastern Meadowlark.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Verch found 19 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 4. Last reported by Domagalski in Dodge County on October 31.

Western Meadowlark.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Kewaunee, Outagamie, Pierce, and Portage Counties. Berner found 9 in Portage County on September 26. Last reported by Hall in Portage County on October 25.

Meadowlark sp.—Hall found 28 in Portage County on October 14.

Yellow-headed Blackbird.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Dodge, Dunn, Oconto, and Outagamie Counties. Gamache found 11 in Dunn County on August 10. Reported at the end of the period in Dodge County by Domagalski.

Rusty Blackbird.—First reported by Tessen in Brown County on September 9. Hale found over 500 in Jefferson County on November 14. Last reported by the Smiths in Oconto County on November 29.

Brewer's Blackbird.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage and Winnebago Counties. Domagalski found 800 in Waushara County on September 7. Reported at the end of the period in Dodge and Jefferson Counties.

Common Grackle.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Hoffmann found 1,900 in Kenosha County on October 21. Found at the end of the period north to Barron, Polk, and Brown Counties.

Brown-headed Cowbird.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Vilas, and Door Counties. Parsons found 500 in Walworth County on November 3. Found at the end of the period in Brown, Dodge, Jefferson, and Ozaukee Counties.

Baltimore Oriole.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Vilas, and Door Counties. M. Peterson found 12 in Shawano County on August 2, and Ashman found 12 in Dane County on August 20. Last reported by Hall in Portage County on September 11.

Pine Grosbeak.—H. Peterson found a very early one in Shawano County on August 3. This was the only report during the period.

Purple Finch.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Barron, Oconto, and Door Counties. Verch found 43 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 22. Reported at the end of the period south to Marquette and Washington Counties.

House Finch.—Found throughout the state during the period. Ashman found 105 in Dane County on November 1.

Red Crossbill.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Vilas Counties. Tessen found 30 in Menominee County on August 18. Found at the end of the period in Douglas, Vilas, and Waupaca Counties.

White-winged Crossbill.—Found at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Vilas Counties. Tessen found 4 in Menominee County on August 18. Reported at the end of the period in Douglas County by the La Valleys.

Common Redpoll.—Verch found 7 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 20, where he last saw them on October 22.

Pine Siskin.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, and Vilas Counties. Berner found 150 in Portage County on November 4. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

American Goldfinch.—Found throughout the state during the period. Tessen found 70 in Ozaukee County on November 23.

Evening Grosbeak.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Verch found 24 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on October 20. Found at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Vilas Counties.

House Sparrow.—Found throughout the state during the period. Ziebell found 300 in Winnebago County on September 19.

Contributors

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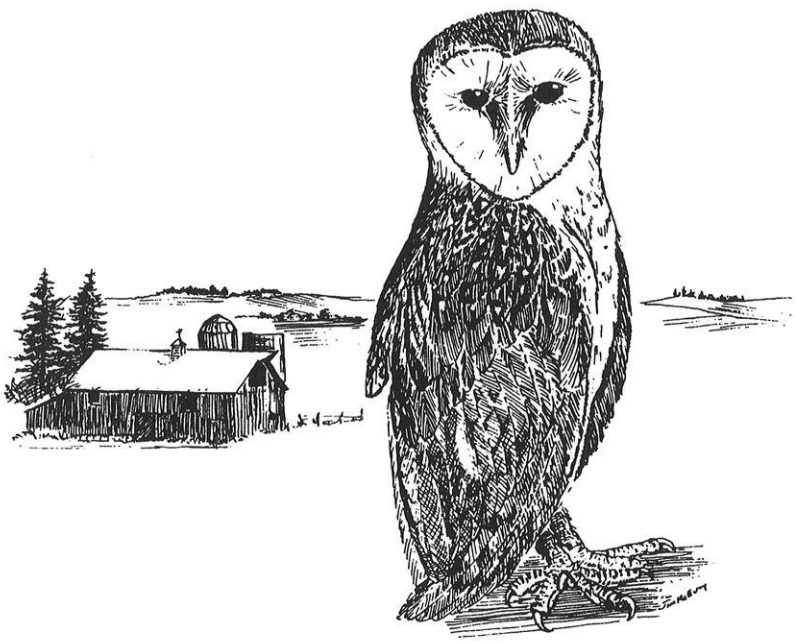

Barn Owl *by Jim McEvoy* (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

"By The Wayside"

Fall 1998 sightings are documented of Pacific Loon, Ross's Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Common Teal, King Eider, Barrow's Goldeneye, Purple Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Long-billed Murrelet, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Green Violet-ear, Anna's Hummingbird, Mountain Bluebird, and Western Tanager.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*)

17 October 1998, Wisconsin Point in Douglas County—Shaun Putz and I were birding on the bluff at Wisconsin Point when a loon flew into my scope field of view. It was quite close to shore, close enough to see good detail, appearing large in the scope format. It was all dark gray above, all white below. The line where black and white met on the sides of the head and neck was clear and sharp-edged. A faint hint of a "necklace" showed at the throat. Shaun didn't pick up the bird in his scope until it landed, too far out to see any field marks. The bird worked its way closer, swimming and diving while we had our attention elsewhere, eventually coming close enough to note the sharp line of demarcation between the white underside and dark upperside. The bird looked small sitting among the gulls and too round-headed for a Red-throated Loon, which typically gives the impression that the bird has no head at all, but merely a long neck with a bend in it. A few minutes later, a Red-throated Loon swam by at about the same distance. We noted how indistinct the edges of the two colors were, especially on the sides of the head where brownish-gray blotched and fuzzed over onto the cheek. A much different look than our first bird.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, Wisconsin 54880.*

15 November 1998, Green Lake in Green Lake County—Birding with my scope at Blackbird Point Road, I saw a single loon out about 200 yards, offering clear frontal and profile looks. This loon would often flap its wings and rise out of the water as it was preening itself for almost an hour. I saw no other loons nearby to compare it to, but it did not seem to be as large or thick as a Common Loon appears. This winter-plumaged loon had a clear distinction

between dark and light areas on the head, neck, and belly. There were areas where the light (white) areas invaded the dark (black) areas. The throat, neck, and belly were pure white, and the forehead, crown, and nape were all black or dark brown. The only exception was a thin necklace that was visible at times at the base of the head on the throat. The back, as far as I could tell, was black or dark brown. I did not observe any light spotting or much variation. The bill was average or thin compared to its head and was held pretty much horizontal. The eye was in the dark part of the head. The bill color was dark at a distance. I watched this bird for about an hour and a half and looked for any variations on the neck, lighter areas surrounding the eye, size of the bill, and overall size of the bird. I found this bird to be less bulky in appearance, compared to a Common Loon. This, along with the plumage descriptions above, led me to believe I was seeing a winter-plumaged Pacific Loon.—*Steven Lubahn, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin 53217.*

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

26 November 1998, Goose Pond in Columbia County—Scoping the pond among the many white and blue phase adult Snow Geese and many immatures of both phases, I came upon two smaller white geese that were adult plumaged, white phase. These two geese swam together and could easily be compared to the larger Snow Geese nearby. The Snow Geese seemed to be one to one and a half sizes bigger, although immatures were about the same size. They were all white with black wing tips and a rounder, blunter-looking head with a smaller, stubbier pinkish bill that gave this bird a different look than Snow Geese. I looked for that "grinning patch," which was not apparent on these two birds. The eye was black and the legs were underwater. All of these birds were white except for the black outer primaries, black eye, and pink bill. These birds swam and fed among many other Canada and Snow Geese, but I never heard them call or saw them take flight.—*Steven Lubahn, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin 53217.*

29 November 1998, Tiedemann and Stricker's Ponds in Dane County—I had spent two unsuccessful hours hunting for this species among the many Snow Geese at Columbia County's Goose Pond. Acting on a tip about a previous day's sighting, I went to Tiedemann Pond in Middleton and almost immediately found a Ross's Goose which I believed to be an immature bird. Unfortunately, no Snow Geese were present for comparison, but there were many Canada Geese, and the Ross's was smaller. Plumage was mainly white with black wing tips, but the face seemed to have a slightly gray tint. I recognized this species by the short, triangular, stubby bill which was different from the elongated, stocky bill of the Snow Geese I had been watching 35 minutes earlier at Goose Pond. Because the bill was mostly dark, two field marks, which are the lack of a grin line and the basal discoloration that appears on an adult, were not apparent on this bird. It left the pond with a large contingent of the Canada Goose flock, and since it headed toward Stricker's Pond I quickly drove there.

About 50 feet from shore I focused my scope on another white form among the Canada Geese; much to my

surprise, this was an adult Ross's Goose. This bird was a much cleaner white, also with dark wing tips, a nicely rounded head, dark black eye, and a typical adult bill, which was short, stubby with no evidence of a grin line, and pink with a greenish basal discoloration. I was able to watch this bird for about a minute, but as I scribbled some notes, it, too, flew away. A lady who was curious about my scope came out of her house and said, "That white duck has been hanging around for a couple of days."—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051.*

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*)

14 November 1998, Bagley Bottoms in Grant County—Two hunters had harvested an eclipse drake and a hen as well as several Gadwall, American Wigeon, and Mallards. When I first observed the hen, I thought it was a late-migrating Blue-winged Teal, as most other blue-wings had already migrated. Inspection of the male revealed a larger teal specimen with rust- (or cinnamon) colored feathers starting to appear on the breast, neck, face, and tail. It should be noted that on Tuesday, November 10, 1998, we had an extremely strong windstorm, and I believe this pair was blown off course by the wind. We normally have a few Gadwall and wigeon show up in this area, but this weekend they made up the majority of the bag. The hunters stated that the two teal came in to their decoys together, but with no other birds.—*Charles S. Horn, Fennimore, Wisconsin 53809.*

COMMON TEAL (*Anas crecca*)

29 November 1998, U. S. Fish Hatchery, one mile south of Genoa in Vernon County—I stopped to check the ducks gathered in the shallow pond behind the fish hatchery main building. The Common Teal was immediately evident. The bird was swimming with about a dozen Green-winged Teal about 50 feet away and down about an 8 foot bank. They didn't swim away when I parked, but swam out about 100 feet when I got out of the car; they swam right back to feed when I got my scope set up. The bird was the same shape and size as the Green-winged Teal. The long horizontal stripe was vivid, wide, and white, from just below the back of the head to near the end of the tail. The bird was a typical dappled bird of brown, tan, and white. The breast, showing above the waterline, was lighter in color. The bill was black. The eye was brown. I did not see any head coloration, just brown, tan, and white dappled together. The white stripe was ¼ inches to ⅜ inches wide, front to back, very evident, striking, with no other coloration. The bird was a juvenile male.—*Michael J. Houle, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603.*

29 November 1998, Genoa Fish Hatchery south of Genoa in Vernon County—Mike Houle notified me via e-mail within a half-hour after he located the bird. It swam and dabbled with approximately 25–30 Green-winged Teal within the near vicinity. It was dabbling and feeding constantly. Its movement covered 20–30 meters in all directions. Its breast was buff-colored with dark speckling. The sides were solid gray with no vertical white stripe near the shoulder. The bill was dark, short, with a slight down curve to tip on upper mandible, and the lower mandible was straight. The tail was short, dark, and pointed at the end. The speculum was

green and highly evident. The undertail coverts showed buffy-yellow when the bird had its head underwater, with the back portion of the bird tipped up. The eye was dark. The length of the bird was estimated to be approximately 13–14 inches. The head was brown to slight rufous, more brown. A long horizontal white stripe extended from just behind the bend in the nape and continued along the upper back, over the green speculum, and ended. At first, a green patch on the side of the head, running from in front of the eye to the nape, was difficult to see. It seemed drab to start with. The problem was that the bird was constantly feeding with its head in the water probing for aquatic food. As it swam around and gave different angles to the sunlight, I got several good views of a glossy green patch in the same area. This green patch was surrounded by a light buffy-to-white line stripe around it. I went back around 4:00 P.M. and could not relocate he bird. The overall number of Green-winged Teal had diminished from approximately 25–30 birds to about 10.—*Dennis Kuecherer, West Salem, Wisconsin 54669.*

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*)

14 November 1998, Sand Bay in Door County—I was standing on one of the two piers at Sand Bay watching numerous Redheads, scaup, coots, and Bufleheads when a single bird swam past within 20 feet of me. It was a large black and white duck, and the first thing I noticed was the flat crown and bulging forehead. His head, back, and sides were entirely black. The breast was white and the bill was very light with some facial skin extending upwards. He swam past me by the pier and then headed out away from me. At one point, he raised up out of the water and I saw prominent white patches on the wings.—*Barbara R. Stover, Mequon, Wisconsin 53092.*

22 November 1998, about 1.5 miles west of Ashland in Bayfield County—Ryan Brady and I were birding at the head of the bay in one of our choice stops. We walked to the location where we set up scopes and immediately saw the two King Eiders feeding near a flock of about 30 Lesser Scaup.

I set up the Questar telescope and made the following observations: The bills were grayish-blue. The gape line was visible and turned up somewhat at the end. The feathers in the bill area came to a rounded end before reaching the nostril area. Both birds were brown, but one had somewhat of a rufous tinge to the body feathers. There were V-shaped markings on the feathers on the sides of the body and on the upperwing coverts. The tips of the wings and the tail were dark (black). The head and neck were either unmarked or very finely marked. The same was true for the breast area and undertail coverts; they appeared to have fine markings, but even with the Questar, they couldn't be distinguished. There was an eye ring visible that was most visible on the top. The birds stayed together and spent most of the time feeding (dabbling). The legs and feet were a dark blue-gray also. Even before setting up the scope, I could see they were considerably (50%) larger than the scaup and had an overall brown appearance. The bill appeared short and sloped somewhat from the forehead.—*Richard L. Verch, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806.*

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

28 November 1998, Virmond Park in Ozaukee County—Unable to locate the murrelet, we decided to search for the Barrow's Goldeneye. We saw it from where the picnic table is and in fairly close to shore. The black area that extends into the white of the sides helped me pick out this bird from among the Common Goldeneyes. The shape of the head is more elongated than is the Common, more like the head of a loon. However, the forehead is higher than the more sloped forehead of the Common. The white patch on the face was not as round as on a Common, but shaped like a long, wide crescent. I had been unable to see this feature on the Barrow's when I had seen it previously at Virmond, so this was a nice detail to observe well.—*Marilyn Bontly, Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012.*

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

28 November 1998, Manitowoc Sewage Treatment Facility—The lone bird was found feeding on a mat of algae/vegetation that had recently washed up on the riprap shoreline adjacent to the sewage treatment facility. The initial observations were made at about 20–25 feet, but as the bird fed it moved south and was last seen when it was about 150 feet from where it was first found. The bird at first glance gave the impression of a Dunlin in fall plumage. It appeared to have no neck, almost like a football player with his helmet pulled down too far. The head, back, mantle, and breast were dark gray with streaking from the breast extending to the sides. The bill was relatively long, slightly decurved, and two-toned; dark at the tip and orangish at the base. The feet were also orangish. An incomplete eye ring was evident, but required very careful observation, even at close range. This field mark, in my experience, is not as evident as the field guides represent, as it seems to require almost optimal lighting to be observed. Because of the possible confusion with the Rock Sandpiper, special attention was given to the bill and feet. Because the bill was two-toned and the feet orangish, both the western counterpart of the Purple Sandpiper, the Rock Sandpiper, and the Dunlin were ruled out.—*Charles Sontag, Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220.*

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

26 September 1998, Wisconsin Point—While standing on the beach at the base of the lighthouse breakwall at Wisconsin Point, Shaun Putz and I had been watching at least two Parasitic Jaegers for almost an hour. One light morph bird flew in and out of the chutes between big waves as it harassed nearby gulls. At one point, we had followed the progress of a Parasitic way down the beach to the base of the bluff when another appeared close to it. As I was about to say it, Shaun said, "This one's bigger." As we watched the two tussle in the air, the size difference was obvious. We kept our scopes on them as they turned and flew towards us, keeping 10 to 20 feet apart, one behind the other, and passed just behind the lighthouse, disappearing into Minnesota waters. They were far enough out to make identification a study in concentration, but close enough to see key field marks. The larger bird was much

heavier-bodied, with slower wing beats and gull-like flight, in contrast to the Parasitic's tern-like flight. Both birds were basically dark brown with light cheek patches, dark brown neck bands, dark caps, light bellies, and dark brown tails. Both had proportionately smaller heads and bills than do gulls. The larger bird had a wider neck band, making the light cheek patch harder to see. The light belly on the larger bird was also more restricted and round-shaped, ending at dark undertail coverts. Large light patches showed at the base of the primaries on the underwings of both birds. Upperwing patches were more difficult to see, but were wider than the two or three feather shafts of a Long-tailed Jaeger. Once when the birds flared out of the waves, central tail feather projections were visible, pointed, and maybe 3 inches long on the Parasitic, shorter and blunt on the larger bird. When they disappeared off Park Point, Minnesota, we looked up from our scopes and said "Pomarine."—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, Wisconsin 54880.*

Black-headed Gull
(*Larus ridibundus*)

8 October 1998, Fischer Creek Park in Manitowoc County—Having stopped at several sites south and immediately north of Cleveland, I decided to check the north end of Fischer Creek Park. While scanning from the bluff at the numerous gulls, I noticed two smaller birds flying just north of me. As they wheeled and circled, one was obviously a winter-plumaged adult Bonaparte's Gull. I assumed the other was, too, until, as it continued to wheel, I kept picking up dark underwings. Initially dismissing this as sun effect, I soon realized that it was not. It quickly became apparent this individual was somewhat larger than the adjacent "Bonies." It had white on the upper, outer primaries, but very limited white on the outer, under edge of the primaries. The remainder of the underwing was dark (black/gray). The upperwing was gray, the tail white, also the head, with a black spot behind the eye. The bill appeared larger than the Bonaparte's, but at this distance it was too difficult to be 100% certain. They continued to circle for several additional minutes before working too far out over the lake.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.*

Lesser Black-backed Gull
(*Larus fuscus*)

3–30 November 1998, intersection of Gammon Road and Mineral Point Road in Madison, seen on three occasions—The Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen associating with Ring-billed Gulls on all three observation dates. The bird was slightly larger, but easily noticeable, than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls. Its head was white with some brown streaking. Its underparts were white, and its tail was also white. Its mantle was much darker than the Ring-billed Gulls nearby. Its bill was yellow with a red spot on the lower mandible. Its legs, which I spent two different occasions observing closely, were a mix of dull yellow and gray. Its outer primaries were tipped black, and I noticed, while the bird was resting, that the individual's second-longest primary was just barely longer than the end of its tail. The nearby Ring-billed Gulls had wing tips that extended much further past the ends of their tails.—*Peter Bridge, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.*

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*)

24 September 1998, Wisconsin Point in Douglas County—To make a long story short, Daryl Tessen found four Sabine's Gulls on September 23, so on the 24th there was a large group looking for these birds. This day ended up being extremely good. I arrived later, so I missed a few things, but I was the first to locate the Sabine's Gull. I was scanning the Minnesota shoreline when I spotted this bird. It was unmistakable, even though it was most likely over a mile away. Everyone else was looking for it, but couldn't find it until the bird entered Wisconsin by flying by the lighthouse. This bird was an immature and the plumage was unmistakable. The back and the first half of the wings were a light brown. Then there was a white triangle on the back side of the wing and at the tip of the wing there was a black triangle. The tail was white, except that the end was forked and was black. The bird then landed next to two Bonaparte's Gulls which were just out past the lighthouse. The Sabine's Gull was the same size as these two other gulls. The three birds just sat on the water, and eventually I left with everyone else. On September 26, Robbye Johnson and I were out at the same location and saw two immature Sabine's Gulls fly by the lighthouse. These just flew by.—*Shaun Putz, West Bend, Wisconsin 53095.*

24 September 1998, Wisconsin Point in Douglas County—Our group of birders was having an excellent day for rarities at Wisconsin Point, but we were still waiting for one or more of the Sabine's Gulls that were seen the day before. Shaun Putz was scanning the lake, looking towards Duluth, when he shouted "Sabine's Gull." We found an immature flying from Minnesota waters towards the lighthouse. It landed out just beyond the lighthouse, but in Wisconsin waters. While in flight, I saw that this was a juvenile. The upperwing pattern was black, white, and a washed-out brownish-gray. The tail was white with a black terminal band. It also had a dark bill. The underparts were white. For the upperwing, the outer primaries were black. The inner primaries and secondaries were white, forming a triangular patten. The lesser wing coverts, the back, and the nape were a washed-out brownish-gray color. This gull landed next to two Bonaparte's Gulls. Both species appeared to be about the same size.—*Dan Belter, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403.*

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*)

24 September 1998, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County—Daryl, Kent, Dan, and I had been standing on the dunes at the end of Wisconsin Point for most of a very birdy morning. We had just finished a "round" of talking when Daryl spotted "something different" flying west towards the lighthouse. We had quite a few Bonaparte's Gulls flying around that morning; one wasn't far away from this gull and was in the scope view with it. The "different" bird was much larger than the Bonaparte's it was near. Its flight was similar to the larger Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, and was completely different from the bouncing, tern-like flight of Bonaparte's. The bird was far enough out so that moisture in the air hazed the image a bit, eliminating small detail through my scope at 30×. The head and underparts were white. The tail

was white with a black terminal band. The back and upperside of the inner wings were pale gray. Otherwise, the primaries were black and joined by a dark line running from the wrist diagonally across the inner wing to the midpoint of where the wing meets the back. A large white area showed on the inner primaries. The trailing edges of the wings were not black as in young Bonaparte's Gulls. I missed seeing a neck collar or a fork in the tail. However, I am positive this was a kittiwake because it is the only gull with this distinctive back pattern that is larger than a Bonaparte's Gull and has a large gull flight pattern.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, Wisconsin 54880.*

14–23 November 1998, mouth of the Fox River on Green Bay—I found the kittiwake on the morning of 14 November with a flock of Ring-billed Gulls near the mouth of the Fox River. An unusual concentration of minnows had attracted large numbers of gulls to this area during October and November. The area is usually quiet by the end of October.

The kittiwake was smaller than Ring-billed Gulls and larger than Bonaparte's Gulls that were nearby. On the water it showed a light gray mantle with a blackish streak running across the back. A black half-collar on the back of the neck; dusky ear spot. The rest of the head and neck were white. The bill was black. In the air the bird showed a black M pattern on the upperwing (not as striking as on a Little Gull), formed by the black primaries and black carpal bar. There was a white wedge between the primaries and carpal bar; otherwise the rest of the upperwing was light gray. The trailing edge of the wing was a clean white. The black half-collar showed up well while the bird was in flight, even from long distances. The tail was white, with a thin, black, terminal tail band. The underparts were white.

The kittiwake was nice enough to stick around for more than a week, allowing many other birders to see it, although at times it was difficult to find.—*John Regan, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303.*

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*)

24 November 1998, Virmond Park in Ozaukee County—Glassing the lake with my scope at 40 power, I happened upon the bird, which was all alone and not very far out. This odd-shaped, chunky, black and white bird immediately stood out from anything I've ever seen. My first reaction was "murrelet or guillemot," but with no experience with alcids, I knew I had to get another birder out there to look at it. The bird was about 300 yards out, and I was viewing it from near the top of the bluff. The lake was very calm; it was about 50°F and sunny. The bird was all alone and did not interact with nearby goldeneyes or gulls. I made a comparison in size with a goldeneye and found that this bird was about half the size. I was treated to a very long profile view. One of the clearest distinctions of this bird was the striking black and white plumage. The entire upperparts, with one exception, were black, including the entire bill. The exception was a single, narrow white patch on each side near the scapulars. At one point, the bird spread its wings, revealing to me that they were indeed all black, short, and pointy. This was an important observation in showing that the white

patches were not on the wings, but instead on the scapulars. In contrast, the entire underpart of this bird was white. This white was a very clean white and showed no shading or speckling. The bird showed a very clean separation between white and black on the head and neck. At times, the white at the rear of the bird/undertail coverts seemed to creep up a little, giving the bird a stubby look. The tail was short and did not extend far from the body or touch the water. The bird was flat-headed with a short and thick neck. The bill was all black, straight, larger at the base narrowing to a point at the tip. The bird held its bill in a horizontal position, giving a sleek appearance. The bill seemed to be about three-quarters the length of the size of the head (from the lores to the nape). Overall, the body was compact, not long and slender.

I observed this bird on three separate occasions between 10:45 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. During the first sighting, I kept with the bird for about fifteen minutes in order to get enough in my memory banks as possible before I got help. Leaving my scope on the bluff locked on to the bird, I ran to a nearby phone to call someone. As soon as I hung up, I quickly returned and found it in a different location not far from where I left it. I kept with it another five or so minutes. Roger Sundell arrive and we began relocating the bird with separate scopes. I located the bird, it dove, and I found it again a couple minutes later. Roger got it in his scope a few minutes later. The bird dove again soon thereafter and could not be relocated. I scoped the lake for another three hours. I am very confident that the bird I saw was not only a murrelet, but more specifically a Long-billed Murrelet.—*Steven Lubahn, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin 53217.*

24 November 1998, Virmond Park in Ozaukee County—Marilyn Bontly called me at home mid-morning on the 24th to tell me that Steven Lubahn had just reported a probable alcid at Virmond Park. I left home immediately, arrived at the park within 15 minutes, and accompanied Steve to the viewing area. Steve pointed the bird out quickly, and I found it readily; first with binoculars and then with my scope. I viewed the bird through my scope for half a minute or so.

The bird remained separated from nearby Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, and two Horned Grebes during the observation, though these other species were close enough to provide good size and shape comparisons. The murrelet was clearly smaller, for example, than nearby Buffleheads. It was a squat, black and white, thick-necked, and very short-tailed bird that floated close to the water. Its back, wings, and what little I could see of the tail were black, with narrow, clear white areas extending along the scapulars, contrasting sharply with the black wings and back. The visible underparts were clear white. The head, flat by contrast with the rounded and peaked heads of nearby goldeneyes and Buffleheads, was black on the crown. That black area appeared to extend across the face, through or perhaps slightly below the eye, forming a clean line that then ran evenly down the sides of the neck. The contrast here was sharp against the bright white lower facial area and the front portion of the neck. I looked for but observed no irregularities of shape on the neck. The bill seemed to be straight and thin, shorter than a

duck bill, but not stubby or thick. I think it was uniformly dark, though I was concerned with that question and prepared to try to confirm other details when I shifted my scope power from 20 to 40, lost sight of the bird, and, to my dismay, never again saw it.—*Roger H. Sundell, Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012.*

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

1 August 1998, Buena Vista Marsh, Portage County—I arrived at the Buena Vista ranch at about 2 P.M. and immediately found the dove obligingly perched on a wire next to the road. I parked along the shoulder across the road from the bird and watched and photographed it for the next 20–30 minutes. It was a medium-sized dove, in body size somewhere between a Rock and Mourning Dove, with a fairly long, squared-off, but round-edged tail. It was all medium to light buffy-brown, perhaps a shade darker on the mantle and upper tail surface, with dark primaries and a dark half-collar on the nape. The tail pattern was distinctive: the upper surface of the tail was buff-brown with white outer corners, but the underside was strikingly marked with black at the base and extending just beyond the end of the brown undertail coverts and sharply cut off from the long white tip. The basal black area extended all the way to the edge on each side of the tail (unlike the Ringed Turtle-Dove, which has pale outer webs).

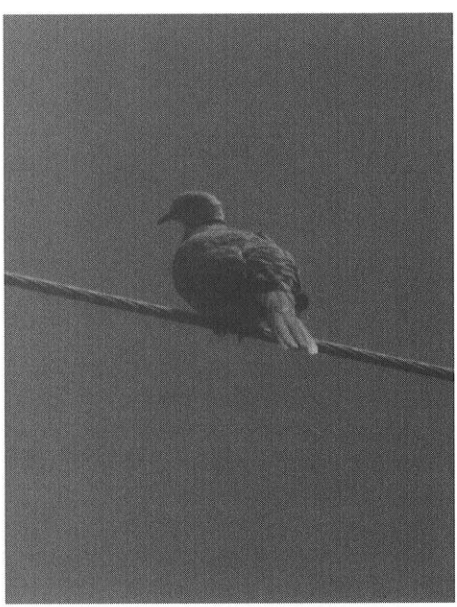

Figure 1. Eurasian Collared-Dove, 1 August 1998, Portage County, Wisconsin. Photo by Janine Polk.

The dove seemed a little shy and nervous at my presence, rather than tame, and jumped when the camera shutter clicked. It allowed me to watch it for quite a while, though, before it finally flew off toward the farmhouse, landing in a spruce or pine near the house. After that, the only clue to its presence was its occasional call. The call was not entirely typical of this species, from what I've read. Instead of being a clear, three sectioned "coo-cooooo-coo," the call had a rough or rolling quality to the middle part: "coo-crrrrr-oo." Perhaps this indicates some domestic collared-dove admixture, although there was nothing about the bird's appearance to suggest this. I didn't hear the mewing, catbird-like call.—*Janine Polk, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701.*

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*)

28 October 1998, La Crosse—The six of us arrived at the Larson's residence on the south side of La Crosse before 10:00 A.M. Positioning ourselves along

the west side of the yard, we anxiously anticipated the arrival of this mystery "Mexican" hummingbird. Within 5 minutes it appeared at the feeder. We excitedly began to tick off the identification points: fairly large, iridescent green body, with a blue-violet (mainly blue) throat; distinct blue from the bill and eye extending below and back; a black bill, which was long and slightly decurved. The bird faithfully appeared every 10–15 minutes, affording excellent views on this sunny warm day. Additional views allowed us to see the subterminal tail band, the darker wings, and the grayish undertail coverts. We, the Larsons, and neighbors enjoyed great views of this male Green Violet-ear during the ensuing two hours. A later check by Dennis Kuecherer revealed that Wisconsin is only the eighth state to record this species.—*Daryl D. Tessen, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.*

28 October 1998, La Crosse—Our group of birders arrived at the house that a strange hummingbird was coming to. We waited for around 10 minutes when the hummingbird flew in to get a drink. I first noticed that this hummingbird had an overall greenish body plumage, with dark grayish wings. When the light hit the body feathers just right, I could see it had bluish-violet ear coverts, and bluish-violet in the breast area. The bill had a slight downcurve to it, and it was dark in color. The tail had a dark, broad, subterminal band.

Every time the bird came to feed, it would stay for less than 30 seconds, then fly off, always in the same direction. It would be gone for about 10–15 minutes at a time. I saw the bird six or seven times while I was there.—*Dan Belter, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403.*

30 October 1998, La Crosse—I arrived in La Crosse about 9 A.M. and several other birders were already there. The bird came about 15 minutes later. It seemed very nervous, probably because a Minnesota birder was noisily fumbling with his camera out in the yard. It was coming to a flat, round hummingbird feeder about 40 feet away. It would come every 10–15 minutes, stay for about a minute, then fly to some thick bushes in an adjacent property. This bird visited 3–4 holes in the feeder each time it came, offering good views of its front, back, and side each time it came. The bill was black and drooped slightly. The wings at rest were a brownish-tan color. The back, throat, and breast were green. The center of the breast was bluish. The side of the head, through the eye, was bluish-purple, with one feather just behind the eye a brilliant blue at the right angle. The tail was a dark bluish-green, with a dark, almost black, horizontal band about one-quarter inch wide about one-quarter inch from the distal end of the tail. When this bird flew from the bushes to the feeder, there was a noticeable undulation in its flight.—*Mark Peterson, Caroline, Wisconsin 54928.*

31 October 1998, La Crosse—As we watched, a hummingbird sat briefly on a lilac bush, then flew to the hummingbird feeder in the Larson's backyard. The bird was larger than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and much darker. Most of the body was an iridescent green (dark green), including the head, but with a wide, violet stripe across and below the eye (like a thick eye line from near the lores to the au-

ricular area). The breast was darker, but I could not detect any violet there, maybe because of the cloudy weather. The wings were more brownish. The lower belly and undertail coverts were buffy, but not as much as on a Buff-bellied Hummingbird. The bill was black and slightly curved down. I did not get a clear look at the tail because the bird was mostly facing me or at right angles, but no noticeable forking of the tail was noted. I thought I once detected some light spots at the rear corners of the tail when it flexed its wing and tail, but the moment was too brief to be sure. No sounds were heard.—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151.*

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Calypte anna*)

16 November 1998, originally captured at Muskego in Waukesha County. Was viewed in-hand on 5 January 1999—An area wildlife rehabilitator had captured this bird that had been coming to a hummingbird feeder in November. I was contacted to help identify the bird when the rehabilitator began to doubt her initial identification of Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Superficially, it was very similar in general size, shape, and posture to Ruby-throated and Rufous Hummingbirds. The bill was straight and black; exposed culmen measured 18 millimeters. The crown and forehead were dusky greenish with small, scattered, red iridescent feathers. The chin and sides of the throat had gray feathers edged with white. The side of the face was gray with a small white spot directly behind the eye and a black spot directly in front of the eye. It had a fine, whitish-gray "eyebrow" line. The gorget had rosy-red and green iridescent feathers, mostly in the center of the throat; a few scattered rosy-red iridescent feathers on the sides of the throat, including one relatively large feather on the lower left throat, almost on the side of the upper breast. The underparts were gray and the belly was light gray. The area ringing the vent was white. The undertail coverts were gray edged with white. The nape, back, and rump were metallic green. At rest the wing tips were about equal with the tip of the tail. The wings were blackish-brown. The upperside of the central two tail feathers were all metallic green. The upperside of the other tail feathers were dusky green at the bases, then with a broad blackish band, then with white tips. On the outermost tail feathers, the white tips were 5 millimeters wide, and the blackish band was 8 millimeters wide. The tail length was 27 millimeters. The wing "flat" chord was 50.5 millimeters. The feet and legs were black. The eye color was black. The vocalization was a "chip" or "chip, chip, chip," much like a Rufous Hummingbird, as I recall. The sides were metallic green with some gray. The measurement from the tip of the undertail coverts to the tip of the folded tail was 8 millimeters. The tail was rounded, not forked like a full adult Ruby-throated Hummingbird. I believe this bird to be a second-year male Anna's Hummingbird, showing some immature and adult plumage characteristics.—*Scott Diehl, Hubertus, Wisconsin 53033.*

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia currucoides*)

23–24 October 1998, Gills Rock, Door County—I first saw the bird perched on a birch tree in an old gravel pit area

Figure 2. Mountain Bluebird, 24 October 1998, Door County, Wisconsin. Photo by Roy Lukes.

that had small trees and shrubs scattered around. He was perfectly plain: no striping, no wing bars, or any other distinguishing field marks. The undersides appeared to be pale gray and the upperside darker gray. The belly was paler than the throat and breast. There was a blackish area on the wings as they folded over the tail. It had a black bill; black legs; and a dark eye with a narrow, pale eye ring. When he flew from the tree, the sun caught his backside and the "gray" became a bright blue (head to tail), but not the dark, intense blue of an Eastern Bluebird (the "sky blue" I later saw described in the field guides). He flew from tree to tree acting very much like a flycatcher, and then went into an impressive hover, an honest-to-goodness full-fledged hover over the ground, slightly below my eye level, and then dropped to the ground to retrieve an insect. I was unable to see any blue on the underside and when he was perched, he was once again a "gray" bird.

I returned to the same spot about 5:00 P.M. that afternoon and waited about 20 minutes when the bird reappeared. The sun was setting at my back and it was amazing to see the effect of the different light conditions upon the bird's appearance. As he was flying from tree to tree, he now appeared blue all over. At one point he was perched and the sun reflected an almost golden wash across the breast. A little later at dusk, I had a wonderful head-on look and the underside was a very pale blue—the bird of the field guides!—*Barbara R. Stover, Mequon, Wisconsin 53092.*

14 November 1998, Appleton—While working in the yard, trying to clean up the remaining mess from the storm of the past several days, I heard robins. I discovered several in a neighbor's mountain ash. Walking around to the backyard, a thrush-like bird flew up from either my mountain ash or crab apple trees. It landed in the neighbor's tree. Its flight and perching in the tree indicated a thrush, but it was grayish in general appearance. I rushed in, grabbed the binoculars, and got back outside. Fortunately, it was still perched in the treetop. It was obviously a bluebird, but it was grayish, with some faint bluish on the wings and tail. The lower belly was white. There may have been a little orangish color on the breast and throat, but it was difficult to ascertain positively in the light. It was a female Mountain Bluebird. It remained a few minutes and then flew off. I could not relocate it.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.*

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

22 September 1998, Lake Park, Milwaukee—While standing on a stairway that led down to a ravine, I spotted a yellowish bird with dark wings and two wing bars. The bird was in a kind of upright stance and appeared larger than a finch and most warblers. It also lacked any field mark that I could associate with any warbler. The bird's overall color was a variable dull yellow to olive-yellow (similar to a Scarlet Tanager female, but less bright). Its wings were distinctly black with two obvious wing bars. The upper wing bar was yellowish and wider than the lower wing bar, which was thinner and whitish. The tail appeared to be black, contrasting with a yellow rump and slate-gray mantle. The head was lightly streaked with dull olive to light gray in color, but maintained an overall tone of yellow. The eye was black, and I do not recall an eye ring. The bill was thick: not as thick as a grosbeak's, but not as long and thin as an oriole's. This bird lacked any streaking on the breast, sides, or back. I do not recall leg color or flight characteristics. This bird did not call, sing, or interact with other birds. The breast and belly, as well as the undertail coverts, were yellow. I believe this bird to be a female Western Tanager.—*Steven Lubahn, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin 53217.*

WSO Records Committee Report—Fall 1998

The WSO Records Committee is expected to review rare bird reports of species not normally seen in Wisconsin. Usually these are western strays, overshooting southern migrants, or rare arctic wanderers. This fall the committee was faced with the extremely unusual circumstance of reviewing records of species from Siberia, Mexico, and an uncertain area of the Old World. One such species might not have surprised us, but this collection may be unprecedented. Normally able to rely significantly on their own field experiences, the committee members found themselves investigating the literature for identification points on species as unfamiliar to them as to the field observers that reported them.

The WSO Records Committee reviewed 69 records of 24 species for the Fall 1998 season. Of these, 56 were accepted, including the first state record of Green Violet-ear and the first hypothetical records of Long-billed Murrelet and Common Teal (the Eurasian race of Green-winged Teal). Almost lost in the deluge of "firsts" was the third state record of Anna's Hummingbird. Two additional records, from the springs of 1997 and 1998, were also accepted. All contributors of records were notified by postcard in the case of accepted records and by personal letter in the case of records not accepted.

The Wisconsin state list now stands at 408 species.

Accepted

Pacific Loon—

#98–060 Douglas County, 17 October 1998, Johnson, Putz.

#98–062 Green Lake County, 15 November 1998, Lubahn.

These "winter-plumaged loons" differed from a Common Loon in that there was a marked size difference between them, the Pacific Loon being noticeably smaller, but of a similar size to a nearby Red-throated Loon in the case of the Douglas County bird. The dark gray/black of the back and the top of head was darker than a Common Loon and markedly darker than the Red-throated Loon. Observers of both the Douglas County bird and the Green Lake County bird were near enough to see the sharp, linear demar-

cation between the light front of the neck and dark hind neck, as well as a faint "necklace" of darker color appearing across the white throat. The dark of the head extended down to the eye before giving way to a white cheek. The white that is normally evident above and in front of the eye of a Common Loon was not apparent. The bill was thinner than a Common Loon's bill and held horizontally.

Interestingly, both the Douglas County and Green Lake County sites were also hosts to Pacific Loons last fall.

Ross's Goose—

#98–063 Dane County, 27 November 1998, Bontly; 29 November 1998, Wood.

#98–064 Columbia County, 26 November 1998, Lubahn; 27 November 1998, Hall, Belter, Peterson.

A very small, white goose was observed. Noted were black wing tips; a small rounded head; and a short, pink bill, with no evidence of a "grin patch." The Columbia County observation involved direct comparison to more than 100 Snow Geese. The Dane County bird showed only slightly larger size compared to adjacent Mallards, and it was markedly smaller than the Canada Geese.

Common Teal (Eurasian race of Green-winged Teal)—

#98–068 Vernon County, 29 November 1998, Houle, Kuecherer.

Observed with about 25–30 Green-winged Teal, the white stripe along the scapulars contrasted this bird markedly from the other individuals. In addition, it lacked the vertical white shoulder stripe the other Green-winged Teal had. The rufous head and green facial patch were separated by a fine, whitish line, a feature lacking in the other birds. This is believed to be the first Wisconsin record of the nominate Old World race of the Green-winged Teal.

The question of origin of waterfowl can always be raised because many species are captively held. Then again, many Old World species do wander frequently enough into the New World to allow assumptions of natural origin. The seemingly wild behavior of this individual and its association with a wild flock of the same species make it reasonable to assume a wild origin.

King Eider—

#98–065 Door County, 14 November 1998, Stover.

#98–066 Bayfield County, 22 November 1998, Verch (2 birds, photo), Brady (photo).

The Door County bird was a large black-and-white duck. The head, back, and sides were black, with the breast being white. The bill was light in color, grading into a bulging forehead, not a sloping forehead. When the duck extended its wings, white patches were noted. This description appears to fit an immature male.

In Bayfield County, two large, brown ducks, much larger than adjacent scaup, were seen. The brown feathering was marked with darker V shapes. The bill and feet were gray-blue. The slope of the bill into the forehead showed a slight dip, not a long, flattened slope. Key to the identification was the cheek feathering, which stopped short of the nostril opening rather than extending up to it, and the gape line, which extended caudally into an upward slope.

Barrow's Goldeneye—

#98–067 Ozaukee County, 22 November 1998, Wood; 28 November 1998, Bontly, Strelka.

Noted was the extension of black from the back farther down the flanks on the Barrow's Goldeneye compared to the Common Goldeneye, particularly at the shoulder. Only white dots were left on the scapulars of this bird, instead of broad white patches. With further observation, the white, crescent-shaped facial spot was noted. Also reported was the shorter, stubbier, black bill of the Barrow's Goldeneye relative to the Common Goldeneyes surrounding it. Finally, the steeper forehead relative to that of the Common Goldeneyes was noted.

(This is the fifth consecutive late fall/early winter report from this Ozaukee County location.)

Hudsonian Godwit—

#98–079 Trempealeau County, 13 November 1998, McCurdy.

This large shorebird was noted to have a long, upturned bill that was darker distally, lighter proximally. The overall grayish coloration gave way to white on the belly. In flight, a white rump and a white wing line were noted. The size of this bird was slightly smaller than an adjacent American Avocet.

This is a late fall record of this species for Wisconsin, eclipsing the previous record by 12 days.

Purple Sandpiper—

#98–078 Manitowoc County, 28 November 1998, Sontag.

A plump, short-legged, "no-necked," gray shorebird was noted to have orangish feet and an orangish base to an otherwise dark bill. This bill was relatively long and very slightly decurved. Streaks of gray intruded on a white lower breast and belly. The overall size was about that of a Dunlin.

Pomarine Jaeger—

#98–077 Douglas County, 26 September 1998, Johnson, Putz; 27 September 1998, Tessen.

The fortuitous 26 September observation involved both a Parasitic and Pomarine Jaeger. While spending an hour observing two Parasitic Jaegers, the observers saw a larger jaeger suddenly appear and give pursuit to one of the Parasitics. During this chase, the larger size and greater bulk of the Pomarine Jaeger was apparent. In addition, the slower wingbeat was also noted. The Pomarine was characterized as more gull-like, while the faster wingbeat of the Parasitic was more tern-like. Both birds exhibited a similar amount of white in the base of the outer primaries. The plumage was otherwise dark brown with a light cheek patch, dark brown neck bands, light bellies, and dark caps. The ends of the central tail feathers projected beyond the rest of the tail, being pointed on the Parasitic and blunt on the Pomarine.

Black-headed Gull—

#98–072 Manitowoc County, 8 October 1998, Tessen.

This individual was seen in flight with a Bonaparte's Gull and was very slightly larger. It had white on the outer upper primaries as did the Bonaparte's, but had a very limited white area on the outer underwing portion of these same feathers. The underwing was otherwise black or very dark gray. The bird was otherwise white, with a light gray mantle, and it had a black

spot behind the eye. The bill was similar to, but perhaps slightly larger than, the Bonaparte's Gull's bill. Distance precluded any color determination on the bill.

Iceland Gull—

#98–071 Brown County, 25 November 1998, Regan.

This gull was similar in size to a Herring Gull, with a light gray mantle. Initially, the primary tips appeared white, but eventually light gray spots were discernible near the tips. The head was smaller and rounder than Herring Gulls' heads. The yellow bill was thinner and shorter.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—

#98–086 Dane County, 27 October–30 November 1998, Robbins; 3, 16, 30 November 1998, Bridge.

#98–087 Sheboygan County, 6 November 1998, Robbins.

#98–088 Kewaunee County, 27 October–7 November 1998, Regan.

These individuals were slightly larger than Ring-billed Gulls or slightly smaller than Herring Gulls. The mantle was very dark gray; the wing tips contrastingly black. The bill was as long, but more slender than a Herring Gull's bill. The legs were dull yellow. In the case of the Dane and Kewaunee County birds, the head had a bit of brownish streaking.

Sabine's Gull—

#98–073 Douglas County, 23 September 1998, Tessen (4 birds); 24 September 1998, Belter, Hall; 24, 26 September 1998, Johnson, Putz (2 birds).

Noted in flight, this Bonaparte's Gull-sized bird showed a strikingly different upperwing pattern. The outer primaries formed a black triangle. Medial to that, the inner primaries and outer secondaries formed a white triangle. Still medial to that was a dark gray-brown triangle formed by the upperwing coverts. The mantle was also dark gray-brown, the slightly notched tail was white, the underparts were white, and the head was dark gray. The tail had a black tip. (As birders may recall, this is the third consecutive fall record for this species in Wisconsin, and represents an unprecedented number of sightings.)

Black-legged Kittiwake—

#98–074 Douglas County, 24 September 1998, Johnson, Belter, Hall, Tessen.

#98–076 Brown County, 14, 18 November 1998, Tessen; 14, 23 November 1998, Regan; 18 November 1998, Peterson.

The Douglas County bird was seen in flight to be noticeably larger than nearby Bonaparte's Gulls. The back and upper inner wings were gray, the tail white with a black terminal band. The outer primaries were black, but this bird lacked the black trailing edge to the wings seen in young Bonaparte's Gulls. The inner primaries and outer secondaries were white, but there was a black band from the wrist to the middle of the wing connection on the back. The observers could not detect the expected black nape band. The flight was noted to be stronger than the tern-like flight of the Bonaparte's Gull in the air at that time.

The Brown County individual had the previously mentioned field marks, but was present off and on for more

than a week, allowing much better than usual looks at it. The black spot behind the eye and the black nape band were readily apparent.

Long-billed Murrelet—
#98–070 Ozaukee County, 24 November, Lubahn, Sundell.

This alcid was found on Lake Michigan near some Common Goldeneyes, and appeared to be about half their size. The entire upperparts were black, including the bill. The underparts of the bird were white. Of note were the "no-necked" appearance and the horizontal posture of the head. The bill was about three-quarters as long as the length of the head, exhibiting a tapering from base to tip. A diagnostic field mark was a white stripe across the scapulars. This was proven to not be part of the wing when the bird flapped its wings and showed no white in the extended wing. In addition, there was no evidence of white extending around the collar area, nor was there an extension of the black down from the shoulder area. These last two points distinguish Long-billed from Marbled Murrelets.

The Long-billed Murrelet breeds on the Pacific coast of Siberia, and the Marbled Murrelet breeds on the Pacific coast of North America. In addition to the plumage differences, the two species differ in their migratory habits. Whereas the Marbled Murrelet is relatively nonmigratory, or is minimally so, the Long-billed Murrelet customarily abandons its breeding range in the winter. As of January 1997, there have been more than 35 North American records of this species, 20 of them away from the Pacific coast. Since the AOU split the two species in 1997, most of these vagrants have appeared as Marbled Murrelets in the ornithological literature. Midwestern records include an inland record in southern Indiana in 1981; Lake Michigan records from Michigan City, Indiana, in 1984 and 1994; and an inland record in northern Ohio in 1996. All occurred between 12 November and 2 December.

This is the first hypothetical record of this species for Wisconsin. Field guides will not be much help in this case, but an excellent article with photographic comparisons of the two species is found in *Birding*, Vol. 29, No. 6, 1997.

Eurasian Collared-Dove—
#98–056 Portage County, 1 August 1998, Polk (photo).

This is a last report of the second state record individual seen in Portage County during the summer of 1998. As previously noted, the bird was between the size and shape of a Rock and Mourning Dove. The longer tail was squared off rather than pointed. The overall color was a light buffy-brown. The nape had a dark streak. The upperside of the tail had white outer corners, but the underside was black proximally and white distally. The undertail coverts were buffy-brown. Also reported was the three-note call, with the middle syllable longer and more rolling than the other two notes.

(Interested birders may read more extensively on the Eurasian Collared-Dove in *American Birds*, Vol. 41, No. 5, 1987.)

Green Violet-ear—
#98–082 La Crosse County, 27 October 1998, Kuecherer (photo); 28 October 1998, Tessen, Belter, Houle; 30 October 1998,

Gustafson, Peterson; 31 October 1998, Wood.

This small hummingbird was slightly larger than a Ruby-throated and was uniformly metallic green, including the breast, a characteristic not seen on North American species. The only break in this coloration was a buffy color on the belly. The black bill was very slightly decurved. The tail had a dark subterminal band. Of importance in identification was the dark blue ear patch and central blue upper breast patch. The blue upper breast patch is indicative of the Mexican subspecies. The WSO Records Committee thanks Nancy Newfield of Louisiana State University for reviewing the photographs of this bird. Many birders may remember the Michigan record of this species from the summer of 1997. This is Wisconsin's first record.

Anna's Hummingbird—

#98–089 Waukesha County, 16 November 1998, Diehl (photo).

This hummingbird was captured at a feeder in Waukesha County and turned over to a wildlife rehabilitator with subsequent identification by Diehl. The overall size and shape of this hummingbird was suggestive of a Ruby-throated. The forehead, back, and rump were green, the throat gray, the underparts light gray, and the upperside of the tail was also green. The tail was tipped with black and white. No rufous was evident on the bird.

Of particular note were the red flecks on the forehead and the rosy-red flecks on the throat. Additional data supplied included wing chord measurements of 50.5 millimeters, tail length of 27 millimeters, and an exposed culmen of 18 millimeters, all within known limits of Anna's and outside the limits of many other North American species of hummers. It is believed that this bird was a second-year male. This is Wisconsin's third record.

Mountain Bluebird—

#98–083 Door County, 23–24 October 1998, Stover, Hewitt; 24 October 1998, Hall, Domagalski, Lukes (photo).

#98–084 Outagamie County, 4 November 1998, Tessen.

Though these birds were bluebird-sized, they were more slender in shape than the Eastern Bluebird. The color varied with the light, but ranged from grayish- to sky-blue, the blue most prominent in the tail, in the primaries, and on the head. The belly was white. No other distinctive markings were evident. Observers also remarked on the amount of hovering the Mountain Bluebird did relative to Eastern Bluebirds.

Western Tanager—

#98–085 Milwaukee County, 22 September 1998, Lubahn.

A dull yellow bird with a dark gray back and black wings was noted. It was a little larger than warblers or finches. It had two wing bars: wider and yellowish in the case of the upper bar, and thinner and whitish in the case of the lower wing bar. The head was yellow, with a bill not as thick as a grosbeak's, but not as thin as an oriole's. The rump, breast, and undertail coverts were yellow.

Accepted—Spring 1998

Great Gray Owl—

#98–081 Douglas County, 9 May 1998, LaPole, (photo).

Though rather distant, the photo does reveal the large size, lack of ear tufts, and white neck patch ("bowtie") of a Great Gray Owl.

Accepted—Spring 1997

Western Tanager—

#97–052 Pierce County, 17 May 1997, Hewitt.

Again, a yellow bird with black wings and tail was reported. The head was bright red. This is further documentation of a previously accepted bird.

Not Accepted

Pacific Loon—

#98–061 Ashland County, 29 October 1998.

The two descriptions of this loon were from a very distant observation, but somewhat in comparison to nearby Common Loons. This bird appeared to be noticeably smaller than the Common Loons, with proportionally smaller head and bill. One of the documentations indicated the plumage of the Pacific Loon to be darker than the Common Loons. Both observers indicated it was too distant to clearly see the nature of the dark hindneck and light foreneck on any of these loons. Although there is enough in these reports to believe that this very probably was a Pacific Loon, conclusive evidence would require a clearer look at the dark and light areas of contrast on the face and neck.

Brown Pelican—

#98–090 Winnebago County, 31 October 1998.

This very large bird would alternately flap and sail. After it landed, it was determined to be brown in color, with "an odd-shaped head and neck." A pouch was evident on the bill. Without a more complete description, it is difficult to determine the species to be a Brown Pelican, a juvenile American White Pelican, or a even a juvenile cormorant.

King Eider—

#98–091 Door County, 16 November 1998.

In contrast to the male King Eider reported in this area two days before, this was a large, all-brown duck with a bill sloping quickly up into the crown. Unfortunately, this sighting occurred in the rain, so the details of nostril position relative to the cheek feathering and the gape line shape were not discernible. Without that information, this bird is identifiable only as an eider species.

#98–091 Door County, 18 November 1998.

This bird was also a "soft, brown," "squat" duck. Unfortunately, the size of this individual was not compared to the nearby scaup and goldeneyes. The head was described as not sloping as much as a Common Eider. With the distant view limiting the description, the identification as a King Eider is questionable. The lack of a size description leaves the identification as an eider species uncertain as well.

Mississippi Kite—

#98–069 Pierce County, 21 August 1998.

This bird was reported sitting on a backyard birdbath, viewed from a distance of 25 feet without any optical enhancement. Unfortunately the only size reference was to an "oversized" bird. There is a suggestion that the observer thought it initially was a hawk.

Color description is limited to a gray back, reddish eyes, a head "not as white" as the pictures referenced, and white legs. Although these sparse details do fit a possible Mississippi Kite, the incomplete description leaves some possibilities of one of the accipiter species loosely fitting this narrative.

Red Phalarope—

#98–080 Milwaukee County, 8 November 1998.

This brief observation was of a "fly by" along Lake Michigan. The shorebird was medium to light grayish, with a black eye line, and a thin black bill that appeared to be "longer than an inch or so." The back lacked any markings on the gray color, this gray extending onto the inner portion of the wings. The outer wing and the primary-secondary bar were black, contrasting with the white wing stripe. The underparts were white. Although the geographic and temporal circumstances suggest this to be a Red Phalarope, the brevity of the sighting and the "thin" bill description and length raise the question of a Red-necked Phalarope. The lack of any back markings could be hard to determine in such a fly by observation. A Sanderling could also fit, except for the black eye line reported. To conclude that this was a Red Phalarope, it would be helpful to see the bill shape and color more clearly, as well as a clearer look at the back coloration.

Pomarine Jaeger—

#98–077 Douglas County, 27 September 1998.

One of the reports limited its description to the "Herring Gull" look to this bird, but that it was bulkier than a Parasitic Jaeger. The other described it as all dark brown with extensive barring across the breast and belly. The wings appeared to be longer and "sharper angled" than a gull's, instead of relatively shorter and broader based as might be expected of a Pomarine Jaeger. The identification was more than likely correct, as the bird flew directly overhead, but the details in the reports do not rule out a Parasitic Jaeger or even juvenile Herring Gulls.

Sabine's Gull—

#98–073 Douglas County, 24 September 1998.

Although this bird was seen by others and adequately documented, this report by itself was brief. The description was limited to black wing tips, gray mantle, and white windows in the wings. The top of the head, the back, and the secondaries were dusky; the size was smaller than a Ring-billed Gull. To better describe this bird, the location of black, gray, and white areas on the wings (the "triangles") would be important.

Black-legged Kittiwake—

#98–074 Douglas County, 24 September 1998.

#98–075 Ozaukee County, 3 November 1998.

The Douglas County bird was one of the accepted records, but this description was limited to the presence of a black M across the wings and a black tail tip on a gull slightly larger than the surrrounding Bonaparte's Gulls. To accurately describe a first-year kittiwake, mention of the white inner primaries and outer secondaries and lack of a black trailing edge to the wings as in Bonaparte's Gulls would be necessary. The black nape marking was not discernible.

In Ozaukee County, two small gulls were seen flying, tern-like, at great distance on Lake Michigan. They exhibited a white triangle on the back of the wings, with a black outer primary triangle and a dark gray back and inner wing area. The observer could not discern a nape band, partial hood on the back of the head, or a black carpal bar. One of the birds was noted to have "some sort of markings" on the back that gave it an "unclean" look. The limited look at these birds makes identification tentative, but the dirty markings on the back and lack of black nape and carpal bar may suggest these birds were young Sabine's Gulls.

Blue-throated Hummingbird—#98–082 La Crosse County, 22 September 1998, (photo).

This photograph was of the Green Violet-ear seen a month later at a feeder in the same neighborhood as this report. There is a noticeable difference in the plumage between the two sets of photographs, however. In September, the blue on the upper breast is very limited to the throat area. The blue ear patch is evident in the photographs, but instead of a dark ear patch as in a Blue-throated Hummingbird, the ear patch is in fact blue. In addition, the white line above this ear patch is lacking, again inconsistent with a Blue-throated Hummingbird. Also absent are the two white patches on the corners of the tail that Blue-throated Hummingbirds exhibit. The breast appears much grayer in these photos, instead of the metallic green of the later pictures. Given the unfamiliarity of the species involved, the identification in this case is understandably made as a Blue-throated Hummingbird; it is the closest thing in a North American field guide. Though these photos are sufficient to call this a Green Violet-ear, it is still striking how much the bird molted in a month's time.

Jim Frank
WSO Records Committee Chair

Magnolia Warbler *by Jack Bartholmai*

The Winter Season: 1998–99

by Kenneth I. Lange

It was another mild winter, at least by Wisconsin standards. The main determinant apparently was El Niño's sibling, called La Niña. During a La Niña, equatorial Pacific waters turn cold except around Indonesia, drawing thunderstorms back to that part of the ocean basin. The Pacific jet stream weakens, and the winter weather becomes much more unpredictable. The climate indeed appears to be changing.

The period began with picnic weather, as the mild spell of late November continued into December. On the third of November, painted turtles were active at Goose Pond, near Arlington, in Columbia County, and on the morning of the fifth, after a night of fog and rain, spring peepers were calling in Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County. But we all knew that this wouldn't last, and, of course, it didn't—seasonal temperatures returned on the sixth, "December's about-face," as it was described in the *Wisconsin State Journal* for 7 December. But then, after several days, a strange thing happened—it warmed up again, and temperatures remained above normal for approximately another week, prompting remarks such as "we'll pay for this later." Mid-month saw another return to seasonal temperatures and snow, with sub-zero temperatures making their initial appearance in the third week. It was milder towards the end of the month, with a return of bitter cold during the last few days.

Residents hoping for snow had their wishes fulfilled on the second and third of January, when a massive storm blanketed the state with up to 20 inches of blowing snow. Airline flights were delayed and cancelled, and all of us, especially Wisconsinites returning from the Rose Bowl and sunny California, were rudely reminded of what winter in Wisconsin can entail. We then experienced a pattern of alternating bitter cold and more moderate temperatures with light snowfalls, until the proverbial January thaw. This winter it began in mid-month and, including some marginal weather, lasted for about a week, with milder weather again at the end of the month.

February was mild: average temperatures in the first half of the month were 14 degrees above normal, and strong south winds and mild temperatures in

the second week resulted in the state's initial spring migration; average temperatures in the second half were 3 to 5 degrees above normal. The average snow and frost depths for the state in late February were approximately 3 and 6 inches, respectively, in both cases considerably less than the average for the last 37 years.

Comments from contributors help put the season in perspective. A number of contributors mentioned late freeze-ups and early ice-outs for water bodies, although generally not as extreme as last winter. One exception, as reported by Mark and Sue Martin, was Goose Pond in Columbia County, which did not freeze up until 16 December, a record late date. In adjoining Jefferson County, as reported by Karen Etter Hale, all but two days in February were above 30 degrees. Mark Korducki summarized Milwaukee's weather this way: December was mostly mild, with approximately 4 inches of snow; January was variable, with near record snow for the month (some 3 feet); and February was essentially a repeat of December. In northwestern Wisconsin, Joe Hudick reported mild temperatures and much open water in Polk County, while Alta Goff in neighboring Barron County reported pansies blooming on 8 December and a chipmunk active on 20 February. When Robbye Johnson in Douglas County buys her Christmas tree, usually a stiff wind is blowing and the temperature is around 20 below; this winter it was drizzly and foggy and Ring-billed Gulls were hovering over the parking lot. In Iron County, as reported by Lance Tryggeseth, temperatures were mainly above normal, with a number of days in the 30s and some in the 40s; in adjacent Vilas County, Jim Baughman reported a mild fall and early winter, which resulted in open water on the larger lakes into December. And on 11 February, a thunderstorm with rain spread across northern Wisconsin, as reported in Iron County (Tryggeseth) and Door County (the Lukeses).

Several species in addition to Ring-billed Gull, notably Cedar Waxwing and American Tree Sparrow, were found in far northwestern Wisconsin in Douglas County. This is unusual for these species and possibly weather-related. Tryggeseth in nearby Iron County reported above-average numbers of American Goldfinches.

Here are the more noteworthy bird reports, arranged systematically, for yet another winter that wasn't quite a winter. Turkey Vulture: record arrival dates. Greater White-fronted Goose: a tie on the record departure date, and a record arrival date for the second consecutive year. Ross's Goose: noted in Columbia and Dane Counties in December for just the second winter records; the only other winter record was one in Winnebago County on 29 February 1996. Scoters: all three species were first reported for the entire period in the winter of 1994–95, which was mild, then last winter, and now this winter. Also notable this winter were December records of White-winged Scoter and Black Scoter away from Lake Michigan. Northern Bobwhite: Bill Reardon in Eagle River, Vilas County, reported 6 by his feeder on 12 December; they had been in the area since September. Most likely they were raised or released by a local person. Reardon commented, "I know this is too far north for bobwhite, but maybe last year's mild winter and spring resulted in some breeding taking place."

Sandhill Crane: Sam Robbins in his *Wisconsin Birdlife* (1991:249) reports this species to be rare in winter, north to Marquette and Brown Counties. This northern boundary apparently was nudged slightly farther north this winter, with at least one bird probably throughout the period in Waushara County. But perhaps more interesting was the early arrival (5–28 February) of cranes in at least 9 southern counties. Greater Yellowlegs: records for 3 counties (Vernon, Dodge, Ozaukee), the latest date being 14 December; the previous late departure date was 28 November 1968 in Vernon County. Ruddy Turnstone: also the first winter record, one in Sheboygan County from 13 December–1 January; the previous late departure date was 16 November 1991 in Sheboygan County. Baird's Sandpiper: the state's second winter record, one in Grant County on 1 December; the first winter record was one in downtown Eau Claire on a rocky falls in the Chippewa River, 28 November–1 December 1990.

Franklin's Gull: this species is rarely found in Wisconsin after November; one was discovered on 4 December in Jefferson County, the state's fifth winter record. Bonaparte's Gull: this species has remained throughout the period in mild winters, such as the El Niño winter of 1982–83; this winter it was reported as late as 9 February in Kewaunee County. Black-legged Kittiwake: one was found on 1 December and 1–5 February in Ozaukee County, and on 6 February in Milwaukee County; the only other February record for this species was 1–4 February 1938 in Milwaukee County. Ivory Gull: Wisconsin's fifth winter record; the third and fourth were last winter, the second in December 1991, and the first in January 1989. Common Tern: one in Marathon County, 6–7 December; the previous late date was 28 November 1953 in Brown County, unless one accepts the 29 December 1966 sighting for Racine County (Robbins, S.D., Jr., *Wisconsin Birdlife,* 1991:316).

White-eyed Vireo: Wisconsin's first winter record was one on 15 December 1979 on the Madison Christmas Bird Count, and the second was one from late November–8 December 1997 in the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison, Dane County (Philip Ashman; the details of this record were inadvertently omitted from last winter's report). This winter, on 19–20 December, one was found along Sixmile Creek near Waunakee, Dane County, for the state's third winter record. Gray Jay: one at a feeder in Wausau, Marathon County, from late November into December, at least through the 10th, is marginally south for this species in Wisconsin. A Tree Swallow in Winnebago County on 1 December was the first winter report since 1968, and a Barn Swallow in Kenosha County on 18–19 December was a record date and only the state's third winter report.

Wood Thrush: one on the Madison Christmas Bird Count for the state's second winter report. American Robin: likely present in record high numbers, "unprecedented number," as Alan Gamache in Dunn County expressed it. Veteran birder Daryl Tessen commented, "Most I have ever seen in winter—all winter!," and Janine Polk in Eau Claire County aptly called this the "winter of the Robin." Robins were reported from over half of Wisconsin's counties, from Racine and Walworth Counties in the southeastern corner to Douglas County in the northwestern corner, with flocks of 200+ in Dunn,

La Crosse, Sauk, Dane, Jefferson, and Outagamie Counties (Figure 1). American Pipit: December records for Grant and Marquette Counties, and a January record for Milwaukee County; rare in Wisconsin in winter. Yellow-throated Warbler: one at a feeder in Richland County for Wisconsin's second winter record (Figure 2); the first was last winter in La Crosse County. Indigo Bunting: the state's third winter record was an immature netted on 8 December in Chippewa County; it was malnourished and did not survive.

Here are additional records of interest. Northern Shrike was generally uncommon; it was reported from a total of 31 counties scattered throughout the state, except for the southernmost tier, the southwestern quarter, and the north-central section. Brown Creeper was again found in northernmost Wisconsin in January and/or February. Carolina Wrens were reported from 5 counties (Dunn, Waupaca, Winnebago, Dane, and Milwaukee), a high number, although in one of these counties (Waupaca) assistance by Janis Avis Hewitt in the form of cotton for roosting and grubs for food helped the bird survive. Bohemian Waxwing was reported in 18 counties in the northern half of the states and in Ozaukee County, with flocks of over 100 in Bayfield, Ashland, Vilas, Clark, and Door Counties. Robert McInroy in Polk County noted this species using melted snow puddles for bathing and drinking.

Figure 1. American Robin wintering at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, February 1999. Photo by F.Z. Lesher.

Winter finches were generally uncommon. Pine Grosbeak was reported from only 4 northern counties and Waupaca County; Purple Finch was generally absent from the bottom three tiers of counties; Red Crossbill was perhaps the exception with reports from 15 counties scattered throughout the state; White-winged Crossbill was reported from 5 northern counties and Shawano County; Common Redpoll was reported from just 4 northern counties and Portage County; Pine Siskin distribution was similar to that of the Purple Finch; and Evening Grosbeak was reported from 9 northern counties and Shawano and Waupaca Counties.

After the blizzard on 2–3 January, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting, all open-country birds, were present in high numbers, for example in Outagamie County as reported by Tessen. Some examples: 125 Horned Larks on 6 January, 300 Lapland Longspurs on 15 January, and 125 Snow Buntings on 15 January. In February, Tessen saw a huge flock of Lapland Longspurs on the 10th in Columbia County and one of Snow Buntings

Figure 2. Yellow-throated Warbler at Orion, Richland County, Wisconsin, 22 December 1998; the state's second winter record of this species. Photo by Al Cornell.

on the 17th in Outagamie County. He estimated 4,000 birds in each flock, the largest flocks of these species that he has ever seen. Polk in Eau Claire County noted the first migrant Horned Lark in January, a month early.

The "brief spring burst," as Korducki and Tessen expressed it in the *Badger Birder,* was represented by hundreds of waterfowl arriving in the Madison area, mainly at Mud Lake, during the second week of February, as reported by Ashman; thousands of Canada Geese arriving on 10 February in Dane, Columbia, and Washington Counties, as reported by Tessen and Domagalski; and flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and grackles arriving in Washington County on 11 February, as reported by Domagalski.

The return of the Ring-billed Gull was also part of this "spring burst." This species nests in the Kewaunee harbor, and spring migrants returned there by at least 25 February this period; their return could be regarded as an even earlier sign of spring than the return of the local Red-wings. Domagalski made this interesting observation of the Kewaunee Ring-bills: "When scoping some of these gulls that were on the ice and water of the harbor, I noticed many of them were a delicate but glowing pink . . . A few were such a deep shade of pink that it seemed they had been sprayed with paint guns." This pink coloration apparently is derived from oil in the preen-gland being coated on the feathers during preening (Grant, P. J. Gulls: A guide to identification. 2nd ed., 1986:20).

Spring migration was reported for these species: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron (?), Turkey Vulture, Greater White-fronted

Goose, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck (?), Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Shoveler (?), Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck (?), Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Common Snipe (?), Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Northern Saw-whet Owl (?), Horned Lark, Eastern Bluebird (?), American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing (?), Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird (?), Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Refer to the species accounts for details.

There were also these signs of spring: a Song Sparrow singing in Racine County on 15 February (Karl David); Northern Saw-whet Owl calling in Shawano County by "late in the month" (February), as reported in the *Badger Birder;* and American Tree Sparrow beginning to sing in Douglas County by the end of the period (Johnson).

Late fall migration was reported for Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, some of the diving ducks, and Killdeer. Refer to the species accounts for details.

A total of 106 people contributed reports or photos covering 59 counties. The counties with the most complete coverage (five or more contributors) were Columbia, Dane, Douglas, Iowa, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago. A total of 11 counties was covered by only one contributor per county: Adams, Ashland, Barron, Buffalo, Green, Green Lake, Iron, Monroe, Pepin, St. Croix, and Trempealeau. A total of 17 counties was covered by just two contributors per county: Bayfield, Burnett, Clark, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Langlade, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Pierce, Polk, Racine, Richland, Vernon, Waushara, and Wood. These 11 counties were not covered: Crawford, along the Mississippi River; Washburn, Sawyer, Rusk, Price, Taylor, Lincoln, and Florence in northern Wisconsin; Calumet in eastern Wisconsin; and Lafayette and Rock in southern Wisconsin.

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

These abbreviations are included with the species accounts: BOP, beginning of period; EOP, end of period; TTP, throughout the period; CBC, Christmas Bird Count(s); and m. obs., many observers.

Reports
(1 December 1998–28 February 1999)

Common Loon.—December records for 6 northern counties, the latest being 17 December in Bayfield/Ashland Counties (Verch); also reported for December for southern Wisconsin, with a maximum number of 35 on 3 December in Green Lake County (Tessen). Peterson found one on 1 January in Milwaukee County, Christensen on 20 January in Marquette County, and (presumably a migrant) Saur on 18 February in Dane County.

Pied-billed Grebe.—TTP, usually just one bird, in Oconto, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties, with January records for Kewaunee,

Brown, and Marquette Counties; one, presumably a migrant, on 25 February in Dane County (m. obs.).

Horned Grebe.—Noted during the CBC period in Milwaukee County, and (Tessen) one on 2 January in Brown County.

Eared Grebe.—Through 14 December in Milwaukee County (m. obs.), the first winter record since 2 December 1992.

Double-crested Cormorant.—TTP in Brown, Ozaukee, and apparently Milwaukee Counties, with a January report for Kewaunee County and through 12 February in Winnebago County; usually just one or rarely several birds (m. obs.).

Great Blue Heron.—After the CBC, one on 10 February in Racine County (Bielefeldt and Peters) and 16 February in La Crosse County (Lesher); migrants?

Turkey Vulture.—Reports for these counties: Jefferson, 31 January, 1 (Gorton); Sauk, 11 February, 2 (Bradley); Dane, 13 and 14 February, 1 (Heikkinen, Saur); and Waushara, 27 February, 1 (Malveg). The previous early arrival date was 20 February 1993, one in Racine County (Paul Sunby).

Greater White-fronted Goose.—On 3 December, 2 in Marquette County (Christensen), which ties the record departure in 1968 for Green Lake County. On 10 February, 3 in Columbia County (Tessen), and on 11 February, 7 in Dane County (Bridge), both dates being earlier than the previous early arrival date set just last year. In Dane County, Robbins noted a total of 50 on 14 February, and Bridge last saw this species on 26 February.

Snow Goose.—Reported in December and into the first week of January in 12 counties, the northernmost being Bayfield/Ashland where present through 17 December (Verch); 200 still in Columbia County on 16 December (Bridge). Kuecherer noted this species in La Crosse County through 22 December, then again on 19 February; migrants also in a few other counties in February (m. obs.).

Ross's Goose.—The first winter record was an early migrant on 29 February 1996 in Winnebago County; this winter single birds lingered at Goose Pond near Arlington in Columbia County, 1 and 16 December (Bridge), and in Tiedemann Pond and Stricker's Pond in Middleton, Dane County, 3 December (Bridge, Tessen), with one still at Stricker's Pond on 4 December (Saur).

Canada Goose.—TTP in at least 25 counties, north to Polk, Bayfield/Ashland, Portage, Shawano, Brown, and Door (m. obs.). Hale in Jefferson County noted this species through 4 January, with hundreds on 27 December, then again 9 February–EOP. Thousands were reported on 10 February in Dane and Columbia Counties (Tessen) and Washington County (Domagalski).

Mute Swan.—Reported from these counties: Douglas, TTP, maximum 10; Bayfield/Ashland, 7 February–EOP, maximum 2; Shawano, maximum 2; Door, maximum 11; Marquette, maximum 10; Dane, maximum 3; Jefferson, maximum 5; Washington, maximum 15; Ozaukee; Waukesha, maximum 2; and Milwaukee, maximum 3 (m. obs.).

Trumpeter Swan.—A total of 14 lingered in Vilas County until at least 11 December (Baughman), and birds were also noted into December in Forest, Marathon, and Langlade Counties (m. obs.). TTP in Polk County, maximum 25 on 20 February (Hudick). Also reported from Jackson County, 21 February–EOP, maximum 4 (Kuecherer), and Brown County, 26 February (Hansen).

Tundra Swan.—December records for 14 counties, the northernmost being Bayfield and Ashland Counties, where a total of 385 was noted on 13 December (Verch), and Oconto County, where a total of 397 was reported for 27 December (Smiths). Diehl estimated a total of 500 on 16 December in Columbia County. Single birds in January in Dane and Racine Counties, and one also in Racine County (Fox River) on 25 February (Bielefeldt and Peters). Lesher in La Crosse County found this species through 26 December, with a maximum of 8,000 on 8 December; then again on 22 February, a total of 35.

Wood Duck.—One TTP in Dane, Winnebago, and Ozaukee Counties; also La Crosse County, 8 February (m. obs.). Migrants (?) on 26 February in Dane County.

Gadwall.—Wintering birds in Dunn, Winnebago, Columbia, Dane, Jefferson, Washington, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties (m. obs.). Gamache in Dunn County reported a maximum of 16 on 22 February, and Bridge in Dane

County reported a maximum of 380 on 26 February.

American Wigeon.—Records for Dunn County, 14 January, 1; Dane County, TTP, with an increase on 26 February; Milwaukee County, 20 January–1 February; and Racine County, TTP (?).

American Black Duck.—Reports from 16 counties scattered throughout the state (m. obs.), other than the southwest quarter.

Mallard.—TTP in approximately 25 counties scattered throughout the state (m. obs.), other than the southwest quarter. Schimmels in Langlade County noted this species through 12 December, then again 15 February.

Northern Shoveler.—TTP in Dane and Manitowoc Counties, with January records for Winnebago and Ozaukee Counties (m. obs.). Bridge reported a maximum of 200 on 10 February in Dane County, and this species was also noted on 27 February in Milwaukee County; migrants (?).

Northern Pintail.—Dane County through 5 December, then 10 February–EOP; spring migrants also in February (28th) in Outagamie and Brown Counties (m. obs.).

Green-winged Teal.—TTP, 1, in Winnebago County. Migrants in Dane County on 27 February (Ashman); Waupaca County, 13 February, 2 (Tessen); and Racine County, 25 February, 2 (Bielefeldt and Peters).

Canvasback.—Lesher estimated a total of 60,000 on 3 December in La Crosse County. After the CBC, reports for these counties: Dane, through 19 December, then 10 February–EOP, maximum 70 on 25 February (Bridge); Manitowoc, 23 January, 2 (Sontag); Ozaukee, several TTP (m. obs.); Milwaukee, TTP (m. obs.); and Racine, 19 January, 8–10 (David).

Redhead.—After the CBC, reports for these counties: Douglas, 24 February, 4 (Putz); Winnebago, 13 February, 3 (Tessen); Manitowoc, TTP, maximum 4 (Sontag); Ozaukee and Milwaukee, TTP (m. obs.); and Dane, TTP (?).

Ring-necked Duck.—Dane County, through 14 December, then again 11–26 February, maximum 40 on 20 February (m. obs.). February records also for Pierce, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, and Racine Counties (m. obs.). TTP in Milwaukee County (m. obs.).

Greater Scaup.—TTP in Lake Michigan, north to Door County; also in Winnebago County (m. obs.).

Lesser Scaup.—TTP in these counties: Dane, Winnebago, Brown, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee (m. obs.). Migrants in La Crosse County on 15 February, in Dane County by 25 February, and in Winnebago County on 13 February (m. obs.).

Harlequin Duck.—One in Marinette County, 10 December (Regan); at least 2 females in Sheboygan County, BOP–13 February (m. obs.); and TTP in Milwaukee County, maximum 8 (6 female/juvenal plumage and 2 male) on 19 December (m. obs.).

Surf Scoter.—Noted after December in Lake Michigan for the fourth consecutive winter. These records: Milwaukee County, 25 January, 1 (Tessen); Ozaukee County, TTP, maximum 50 on 1 December (Tessen), with 12 on 26 February (Domagalski); Sheboygan County, 12 December (Brassers); and Manitowoc County, 17 January, 1 (Sontag).

White-winged Scoter.—These records for Lake Michigan: Ozaukee County, TTP, maximum 50 on 1 December (Tessen), with 22 on 26 February (Domagalski); and Milwaukee County, through at least 14 January (m. obs.). Also these reports: Vernon County, 4–12 December, 3 (Kuecherer, Lesher); La Crosse County, 4 December, 3 (Kuecherer); and Bayfield/Ashland Counties through 13 December, 2 (Verch).

Black Scoter.—On Lake Michigan, reported only for Ozaukee County, where TTP (Domagalski), with a maximum of 50 on 1 December (Tessen). Also these reports: Vernon County, 4 December, 2 (Kuecherer); and Marathon County, 2 December, 3 (Ott).

Oldsquaw.—TTP in Lake Michigan, from at least Milwaukee County to Door County (m. obs.), and in Lake Superior (Bayfield and Ashland Counties) through 13 December, 1 (Verch). This species is rare away from the Great Lakes; in Vernon County, Kuecherer found 1–2 from 2–10 December.

Bufflehead.—TTP in these localities: Dane County, Winnebago County, and Lake Michigan, from at least Milwaukee County to Door County (m. obs.). Verch reported this species in Bayfield/Ashland Counties through 17 December, with a maximum of 68 on 8 December. For Wash-

ington County, Domagalski reported it from BOP to EOP.

Common Goldeneye.—TTP in these localities: western and northwestern Wisconsin, for example Pierce, Dunn, Polk, Douglas, Bayfield, and Ashland Counties; the Wisconsin River, from Sauk and Dane Counties to Marathon County; Lake Michigan, from at least Milwaukee County to Door County; and Winnebago County (m. obs.). Maximum counts from 15–25 February in Dunn, Dane, Jefferson, and Washington Counties indicate spring migration (m. obs.).

Barrow's Goldeneye.—A male in Lake Michigan, Ozaukee County, for the fifth consecutive winter (m. obs.). There may have been a second bird, as Gustafson on 1 January, at Virmond Park in Ozaukee County, saw single birds in different areas but not simultaneously.

Hooded Merganser.—TTP in these localities: Portage County, Dane County, Winnebago and Outagamie Counties, and Lake Michigan, apparently from Racine County to Kewaunee County; 1–2 birds in all cases (m. obs.). February dates, from the 14th through the 27th, suggest spring migration (m. obs.).

Common Merganser.—TTP in these localities: Bayfield and Ashland Counties; the Wisconsin River, from Dane and Sauk Counties to Marathon County; Winnebago County; and Lake Michigan, from at least Milwaukee County to Door County (m. obs.). February dates, from the 10th (5th?) to EOP in Douglas, Oneida, Pierce, Sauk, Dane, Jefferson, Washington, and Racine Counties suggest spring migration (m. obs.).

Red-breasted Merganser.—TTP in Lake Michigan, from at least Milwaukee County to Door County (m. obs.).

Ruddy Duck.—Tessen reported a total of 500 on 3 December in Green Lake County. TTP in Dane, Winnebago, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee Counties, with January records for Racine County (1 on the 1st in the Fox River) and Brown County (from the 2nd through the 16th) (m. obs.). Possible migrants in the last week of January and February in several eastern counties (m. obs.).

Bald Eagle.—TTP in some 30 counties, including the northernmost tier of counties, at least from Douglas County east through Vilas (Forest?) County. Departing at least some southern counties by EOP (m. obs.).

Northern Harrier.—Unusually late for Bayfield/Ashland Counties was one through 17 December (Verch). TTP in Marquette, Dane, Manitowoc, and Ozaukee Counties (m. obs.). Migrants (or probable migrants) 3 February–EOP, mainly 13–22 February, in Eau Claire, Jackson, Waushara, Marquette, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, and Oconto Counties (m. obs.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk.—After the CBC, reports for 19 counties, north to Douglas County (24 January, "unusual" in winter, Johnson), Langlade County, and Door County (m. obs.). One in Jefferson County on 15 February a likely migrant.

Cooper's Hawk.—After the CBC, reports for 27 counties, north to Dunn, Clark, Marathon, Langlade, Oconto, and Kewaunee Counties (m. obs.).

Northern Goshawk.—Exclusive of the CBC, reports for these counties: Bayfield/Ashland, Forest, Door, Marathon, and Marquette (12–23 December, 1) (m. obs.).

Red-shouldered Hawk.—TTP in Marquette and Ozaukee Counties. Also reported in Dodge County on 10 January, and in Dane County on 3 February (m. obs.).

Red-tailed Hawk.—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Douglas, Clark, Marathon, Oconto, and Door (m. obs.). Kuecherer saw a total of 16 on 21 February in Jackson County.

Rough-legged Hawk.—Peak numbers generally in February, for example a total of 43 on 21 February in Jackson County (Kuecherer).

Golden Eagle.—Exclusive of the CBC, these reports: Eau Claire County, an immature on 13 February (Betchkal); Jackson County, 2–4 (more?) in the Bear Bluff area in January and at least through 10 February (m. obs.); and Vilas County, an adult in Conover, 7 January (Spahn).

American Kestrel.—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Barron, Clark, and Door (m. obs.). These records for February, which likely include migrants: 14th in Douglas County (Putz), 22nd in Oconto County (Smiths), and the 27th-28th in Dunn County (A. Holschbach).

Merlin.—Exclusive of the CBC, reports for these counties: Douglas, TTP (?); Bayfield and Ashland, TTP; Oconto, 6 January; and Dodge, 1–3 December (m. obs.).

Peregrine Falcon.—Douglas, Brown, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, and Dane Counties (m. obs.).

Gray Partridge.—Reports for Clark, Outagamie, Brown, Door, and Manitowoc Counties (m. obs.). Maximum numbers only 6–7; "exceptionally scarce" in Outagamie County (Tessen).

Ring-necked Pheasant.—Northward to Polk, Barron, Clark, Marathon, Oconto, and Door Counties (m. obs.).

Spruce Grouse.—Oneida County, where Domagalski noted a total of 8 on 22 February.

Sharp-tailed Grouse.—Reports for 2 counties: Jackson, maximum 19, 25 February; and Douglas (m. obs.).

Greater Prairie-Chicken.—Reports for 4 counties: Clark, maximum 14 (Decker); Marathon, maximum 59 (Belter); Buena Vista Marsh in Portage, maximum 253 (Hall); and Juneau, maximum 10 (Peterson).

Wild Turkey.—Reports for 31 counties, north to Polk, Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Marathon, Langlade, and Door Counties (m. obs.).

Northern Bobwhite.—Duerksen found a maximum of 15 on 5 February in Richland County, and Christensen a maximum of 18 on 20 January in Marquette County. Also in Vilas County (Reardon); see the introductory section of this season's summary.

Virginia Rail.—Again at the western end of Lake Wingra, Dane County, 2 on 12 December; this species has been found here in 5 of the last 6 winters (Ashman).

American Coot.—TTP in Dane County, Winnebago County, and the counties bordering Lake Michigan from Milwaukee County to at least Manitowoc County and possibly Kewaunee and Brown Counties; 22 February in Walworth County (m. obs.).

Sandhill Crane.—Unusually high numbers on the CBC, for example 2,500 on 19 December in Walworth County. Robbins in *Wisconsin Birdlife* (1991:249) reports this species in winter to be "Rarely present north to Marquette and Brown counties." This boundary may have been nudged slightly north this winter, as cranes were reported TTP in at least several counties, possibly including Waushara County, where Tessen found one on 30 January. February records as follows: the 5th in Marquette County; the 6th in Racine County; the 10th in Dane, Jefferson, and Dodge Counties; the 22nd in Jackson County; and the 28th in Milwaukee, Washington, and Ozaukee Counties (m. obs.).

Killdeer.—Exclusive of the CBC, these reports: 1 December, a total of 32 in Grant County (Domagalski) and a total of 8 in Ozaukee County (Tessen); through 5 December in Dane County (m. obs.); 26 December, 1 in Milwaukee County feeding on algal mats (Gustafson and Korducki); and 26 January, 1 in Kenosha County (David). Migrants in Dane County on 26 and 27 February (m. obs.), and in Milwaukee County on 28 February (Lubahn).

Greater Yellowlegs.—This species had never been reported in winter before this season; now there are records for 3 counties: Dodge, 1 December, 2 (Tessen); Ozaukee, 4 December, 1 (Lubahn, Uttech); and Vernon, through 14 December, maximum 3 on 2 December (Kuecherer).

Ruddy Turnstone.—Wisconsin's first winter record for yet another shorebird: one in Sheboygan County, 13 December–1 January, discovered and documented by Wood, also documented by Domagalski, Gustafson, Peterson, and Tessen.

Baird's Sandpiper.—One among snipe on the mudflats at the mouth of the Platte River in Grant County, 1 December (Domagalski), was the state's second winter record for this species; the first was 1 December 1990 in Eau Claire County.

Purple Sandpiper.—From 29 December–1 January, 1–2 in Sheboygan County (Lubahn, Brassers); first winter record since 13 December 1994. Also in Sheboygan County.

Common Snipe.—On 1 December, Domagalski found a total of 54 in Grant County and Tessen saw 2 in Ozaukee County. January records for Buffalo, Shawano, Columbia, and Waukesha Counties (m. obs.). One February record: 2 (migrants?) on the 20th in Marquette County (Shillinglaw).

Franklin's Gull.—On 4 December, Domagalski saw one in Jefferson County, the state's fifth winter record.

Bonaparte's Gull.—A record number of reports. December sightings in 7 counties: on the 1st, 1 in Grant and Manitowoc (Domagalski, Tessen); on the 3rd, 130 in Green Lake (Tessen); on the 6th, 1 in Marathon (Belter, Ott); on the 11th, 2 in Winnebago (Tessen); and through the 19th, 2 in Bayfield/Ashland (Verch). Also these reports of single birds: 16 January, Milwaukee County (Lubahn); 19 January, Ozaukee County (Lubahn, Uttech); and 9 February, Kewaunee County (Lesher, Tessen).

Mew Gull.—Reports for 2 counties: Douglas, at the Superior landfill, an adult on 17 December (Bardon and Svingen); and Milwaukee, a first-winter bird on 12 December (Lubahn, Korducki) and a second-winter bird on 13 February (Lubahn).

Ring-billed Gull.—Bardon and Svingen surveyed the Superior landfill in Douglas County on a total of 15 dates, including 1 March, during the period; they found this species through 17 December, with a maximum of 50 on 2 December; "unusual" in winter, according to Johnson. In Bayfield/Ashland Counties, this species was found through 12 January; in Barron County through 14 December; while in Eau Claire County it occurred TTP. Also TTP in Marquette County, Dane County (?), and Washington County. Domagalski in Washington County found about 20–25 in December and January, then approximately 1,000 on 25 February. Also on 25 February, he found about 1,000 in Kewaunee County, where there had been only 25 in December and January. For Lake Michigan, TTP north to Kewaunee County, with birds last seen in Door County on 29 December (m. obs.).

Herring Gull.—Bardon and Svingen surveyed the Superior landfill in Douglas County on a total of 15 dates, including 1 March, during the period; they found this species TTP, with peak numbers (3,000–4,000) on 10 December, 2,500 on 28 December, 600–900 on 4 January, approximately 300–400 for the remainder of the month and into February, 180 on 15 February, 390 on 22 February, and 520 on 1 March. Also TTP in Bayfield and Ashland Counties (Verch). For southern and eastern Wisconsin, TTP in Marquette County, Winnebago County, and Washington County, and TTP in Lake Michigan from at least Milwaukee County to Door County (m. obs.). Sontag in Manitowoc County reported a maximum of 550 on 20 February, and migration was also indicated in Dane County by Ashman, who reported this species through 18 January and then again on 14 February.

Thayer's Gull.—For the Superior landfill in Douglas County, which was surveyed by Bardon and Svingen on a total of 15 dates, including 1 March, this species was found on 13 dates, with a maximum of 10 on 10 and 17 December. For Lake Michigan, reports for these counties: Brown, maximum 2; Kewaunee, maximum 5; Manitowoc, 1; Sheboygan, at least 2; Ozaukee, at least 5; and Milwaukee, 4–7. Dates for Lake Michigan TTP (m. obs.).

Iceland Gull.—Bardon and Svingen surveyed the Superior landfill in Douglas County on a total of 15 dates, including 1 March, during the period; they found from 1–4 individuals of this species on all dates. For Lake Michigan, reports for these counties: Brown, 1; Kewaunee, 2; Manitowoc, 1; Sheboygan, 2; Ozaukee, at least 2; and Milwaukee, at least 3. Dates for Lake Michigan from 7 December–EOP (m. obs.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull.—Reports for 3 counties: Kewaunee, 18 January–12 February, at least 2 (Regan, Sontag); Milwaukee, 28 January–25 February, at least 3 (m. obs.); and Dane, BOP–20 December (Robbins, Ashman).

Glaucous Gull.—Bardon and Svingen surveyed the Superior landfill in Douglas County on a total of 15 dates, including 1 March, during the period; they found from 1–11 individuals of this species on all dates. For Lake Michigan, reports for these counties: Brown, maximum 3; Kewaunee, maximum 21 on 3 February; Manitowoc, 10+; Sheboygan, 1; Ozaukee, at least 3; and Milwaukee, 1. Dates for Lake Michigan from 4 December–EOP (m. obs.).

Great Black-backed Gull.—Bardon and Svingen surveyed the Superior landfill in Douglas County on a total of 15 dates, including 1 March, during the period; they found a first-winter individual of this species on a total of 5 dates in December between the 10th and the 31st, and on 23 January, but did not find this species on 4 dates in February (they did find an adult on 24 March). For Lake Michigan, reports for these counties: Brown; Kewaunee, maximum 14–15 from 24 January–3 February; Manitowoc, approximately 6; Sheboygan, 1; Ozaukee, several; Milwaukee, at least 2; and Racine, 1. Dates for Lake Michigan TTP (m. obs.).

Black-legged Kittiwake.—A first-winter bird in Port Washington, Ozaukee County, on 1 December (Lubahn) and again on 1–5 February (discovered by Uttech); also Milwaukee County on 6 February (Mueller) (same bird or more than one bird?) The only other February record

for this species was one in Milwaukee County on 1–4 February 1938.

Ivory Gull.—Wisconsin's fifth winter record, an immature in Sheboygan County on 21 December (Frank); for the other records, see the introductory section of this winter summary.

Common Tern.—One at Lake Wausau in Marathon County on 6–7 December (Belter, Ott). This may be the latest date for this species in Wisconsin (see Robbins, *Wisconsin Birdlife* 1991:316).

Rock Dove.—Northward to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas, Bayfield/Ashland, Iron, Vilas, and Door (m. obs.).

Mourning Dove.—Northward to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas, Bayfield/Ashland, Vilas, Forest (28 February, 1), and Door (m. obs.).

Eastern Screech-Owl.—After the CBC, reports for Waupaca, Winnebago, Washington, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, and Dane Counties (m. obs.).

Snowy Owl.—After the CBC, reports for just 7 counties: Douglas, 5 and 24 February, 1; Bayfield/Ashland, 1 TTP; Langlade, 14 January; Brown, 7 and 16 January; and Kewaunee, 17 January–4 February, at least 2 (m. obs.).

Northern Hawk-Owl.—No reports for the second consecutive winter.

Great Gray Owl.—Apparently TTP in Bayfield County (m. obs.).

Long-eared Owl.—From 15–20 on the Brice Prairie in La Crosse County, 15–19 February (Kuecherer, Lesher). Lesher commented that numbers this high in one location had not been seen since the 1960s (Figure 3). Also these reports: Brooklyn Wildlife Area in Green County, 9 January, 2; Dane County, 19 February, 1 (Ashman); Waukesha County, 1 and 25 January and 15 February (m. obs.); and Milwaukee County, 11–27 January, 2 (Diehl).

Short-eared Owl.—After the CBC, reports for these counties: Langlade, Door, Winnebago, Milwaukee, and Columbia; latest date 24 January, and highest numbers 2–10 in Winnebago County (m. obs.).

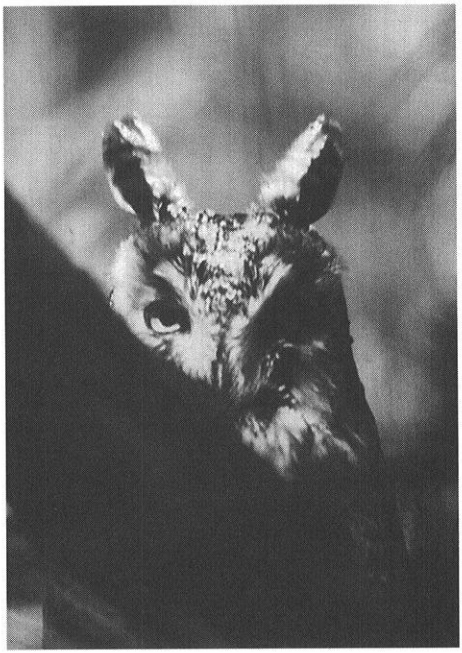

Figure 3. Long-eared Owl on Brice Prairie, north of La Crosse, Wisconsin, February 1999. Photo by F. Z. Lesher.

Boreal Owl.—No reports for the second consecutive winter.

Northern Saw-whet Owl.—Reports for these 9 counties: Douglas, Bayfield/Ashland, Marathon, Shawano, Door, Brown, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee; the telescoping of the dates—from 21 January to 23 February—suggests migration (m. obs.).

Belted Kingfisher.—After the CBC, reports for 11 counties: Pierce, Buffalo, Jackson, Portage, Oconto, Shawano, Waupaca, Marquette, Dane, Washington, and Sheboygan (m. obs.).

Red-headed Woodpecker.—After the CBC, reports for 13 counties, a relatively high number in recent winters: Racine, Ozaukee, Dodge, Dane, Sauk, Marquette, Winnebago, Brown, Outagamie, Shawano, Portage, Juneau, and Pierce (m. obs.).

Red-bellied Woodpecker.—Northward to these counties: Polk and Barron, TTP; Bayfield and Ashland, 1, TTP; Clark, TTP; Marathon, 14 February; and Door, TTP (m. obs.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.—30 December, 1 at a feeder in Iowa County (Evanson).

Black-backed Woodpecker.—Douglas and Forest Counties (m. obs.), and, somewhat south of its resident range, Menominee County, a female on 20 January (Tessen).

Northern Flicker.—After the CBC, reports for 10 counties: Dunn, Portage, Waushara, Sauk, Columbia, Dane, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, and Kenosha (m. obs.). Tessen found a total of 15 on 10 February in Columbia County.

Northern Shrike.—Generally uncommon. After the CBC, reports for 31 counties, south to Pierce, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, Dane, Winnebago, and Kenosha Counties (m. obs.).

White-eyed Vireo.—One in Dane County, 19–20 December (Fallow and Jon Peacock), Wisconsin's third winter record; see the introductory section of this winter summary.

Gray Jay.—Excluding the CBC, reports for these counties: Douglas, Iron, Vilas, Oneida, Forest, and (via Joan Williams) one coming to a feeder in Wausau, Marathon County, for at least several weeks in late November and into December, at least through the 10th.

Blue Jay.—Tessen saw 50+ on 18 February in Menominee County.

Common Raven.—Southernmost records: Jackson County, maximum 8 (Kuecherer); Juneau County, TTP (m. obs.); and Marquette County, TTP, maximum 4 on 30 December (Christensen).

Horned Lark.—TTP in these counties: Pierce, Dunn, Winnebago, Marquette, Richland, and Dane (m. obs.). High counts from 6 January–22 February (m. obs.).

Tree Swallow.—One in Winnebago County on 1 December (Ziebell), apparently the first winter report since 1968, when J. Greenberg found one in Racine County on 7 December.

Barn Swallow.—One in Kenosha County on 18 December (Hoffman) and 19 December (Sedloff), a record departure date; the bird was seen flying over a sewage treatment plant in the city of Kenosha, presumably feeding on midges. This is Wisconsin's third winter record; others in Dane County 9–15 December 1984, and 16 December 1993.

Boreal Chickadee.—Excluding the CBC, reports for Vilas, Oneida, and Forest Counties (m. obs.).

Tufted Titmouse.—Excluding the CBC, reports for 9 counties: Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Vernon, Richland, Grant, Iowa, Dane, and Marquette (m. obs.).

Red-breasted Nuthatch.—TTP in much of northern Wisconsin (m. obs.); scarce or absent in the southern third of the state.

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

Brown Creeper.—After the CBC, northernmost reports for Douglas County, 1, TTP (La-Valleys) and 3, 19 January (Putz); Vilas, TTP (Baughman); and Forest, 20 January (Tessen).

Carolina Wren.—Exclusive of the CBC, these reports: Dunn County, 1 at a feeder 21 January–EOP (Gamache); Waupaca County, 1 at a feeder TTP with human assistance (see the introductory section of this winter summary); Dane County, 14 February (Domagalski); and Milwaukee County, 1–2 at a feeder 19–26 December (Gustafson).

Winter Wren.—One in Waukesha County on 16 January (Bielefeldt and Peters).

Golden-crowned Kinglet.—After the CBC, reports for 7 counties: Vilas, Forest, Door, Shawano, Waupaca, Winnebago, and Dane. TTP in at least Door, Shawano, Winnebago, and Dane Counties (m. obs.).

Eastern Bluebird.—After the CBC, these reports: Trempealeau County, 18 January (Betchkal); Brown County, 4 January (J. J. Hansen); and Ozaukee County, TTP (?), with possible migrants on 14 February (Frank).

Townsend's Solitaire.—No reports.

Hermit Thrush.—After the CBC, reports for these counties: Winnebago, 26 January, 1 (Knispel); and Dane, 7 February, 1 (Bridge).

Wood Thrush.—One on the Madison CBC, 19 December (Denniston), was Wisconsin's second winter record; the first was one in Milwaukee County on 8 December 1996.

American Robin.—Very likely a record winter for this species, both in numbers and geographic range. Reports for over half of Wisconsin's counties from throughout the state, with flocks of 20–80 being common, even in far northwestern Douglas County, and flocks of 200+ reported in 6 counties (m. obs.). One wonders how much of this was related to the weather and how much to the fruit and berry crop, and what percentage to yet other factors. Migrants apparently by EOP in Racine County (David).

Varied Thrush.—December reports for these counties: Burnett, Vilas, Clark, Door (through 5 January, 3 males), and Washington (also 8 February, none at feeders). Also an adult male in Iowa County, early January–21 February; a male in Outagamie County at a feeder 10–11 January; and a female eating flowering crab fruits 3–13 January (m. obs.). Total number of reports was approximately a dozen.

Northern Mockingbird.—One near Lake Park in Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, 23 January–EOP (m. obs.; documented by Lubahn).

Brown Thrasher.—One in Manitowoc County, TTP? (J. and A. Holschbach).

European Starling.—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Douglas, Bayfield/Ashland, Iron, Vilas, and Door (m. obs.). Migration indicated by these reports: TTP in Dunn County, maximum 300 on 29 January (Gamache); an influx into Washington County on 11 February (Domagalski); and TTP in Richland County, maximum 220 on 22 February (Duerksen).

American Pipit.—Reports for these counties: Grant, 13 December (Bridge); Marquette, 10–18 December, 1 (Christensen); and Milwaukee, 20 January (Lubahn); rare in winter.

Bohemian Waxwing.—Reports for 18 northern counties and Ozaukee County, with flocks of 25+ (up to 410 in northern counties) being usual (m. obs.). Distribution and numbers similar to last winter.

Cedar Waxwing.—After the CBC, northernmost reports from Douglas County, 30 January–14 February, maximum 36 on 9 February ("unusual" in winter, Johnson); Langlade County on 4 February; and Door County through 14 January (m. obs.). High counts in several southern and central counties on various dates in February suggest migration.

Yellow-rumped Warbler.—Fall birds lingered in Milwaukee County in Wauwatosa until 26 December and in Whitnall Park until 29 December (Gustafson).

Yellow-throated Warbler.—One at a feeder in Orion, Richland County, 22 December (Cornell, Figure 2), for Wisconsin's second winter record.

Common Yellowthroat.—One lingered until at least 12 December in Milwaukee County's Whitnall Park (Gustafson).

Eastern Towhee.—One in Dane County on 5 December (E. Hansen).

American Tree Sparrow.—Ranging farther north than usual: Douglas County, TTP (LaValleys), with 10 on 30 January (Putz); Bayfield/Ashland Counties, TTP, maximum 4 on 8 December (Verch); Langlade County; Oconto County, BOP and EOP; and Door County.

Savannah Sparrow.—One in Port Washington, Ozaukee County, on 1 December (Cowart) and on 1 January (Gustafson); same bird?

Fox Sparrow.—One TTP in Jefferson County, noted on 18 February (Domagalski); and one at a feeder in Winnebago County on 21 February (Harriman).

Song Sparrow.—TTP in counties bordering Lake Michigan, for example Milwaukee and Ozaukee. Also TTP in Dane County, with mid–January records for Iowa and Jefferson Counties (m. obs.). Birds in Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties from 2–27 February probably included some migrants (m. obs.).

Swamp Sparrow.—After the CBC, these reports: Walworth County, 5–6 January, 1 (Parsons); Waukesha County, 16 January, 1 (Bielefeldt and Peters); and Ozaukee County, 13 January (Uttech).

White-throated Sparrow.—TTP in these counties: Polk, 1 at a feeder (Hudick); Outagamie, 2 (Tessen); and Milwaukee, a total of 6 at a feeder (Diehl). Also 1 on 2 January in Shawano County (Peterson).

White-crowned Sparrow.—Reports for these 4 counties: Brown, 28 February (J. J. Hansen); Sauk, 4 February, 2 (Tessen); Dane, 9 January (Ashman, E. Hansen); and Kenosha, 2 im-

matures at a feeder throughout February (David).

Dark-eyed Junco.—Northward to these counties: Douglas, TTP; Bayfield/Ashland, TTP, maximum 29 on 22 December (Verch); Vilas, through 1 January (Baughman); Oconto, BOP and EOP; and Door, TTP.

Lapland Longspur.—Exclusive of the CBC, reports for 20 counties; mainly from the western bulge of the state, the south central and southeast, and the east and northeast (m. obs.). After December, flocks of approximately 100–350 in these counties: Dunn on 13 January, Pierce and Pepin on 13 January, Outagamie on 15 January and 17 February, and Manitowoc on 15 January (m. obs.). Saur found a flock of 500 on 20 January in Columbia County. Huge flocks were noted in February: 4,000 on the 10th in Columbia County (Tessen), and 1,000 on the 16th in Door County (Lukeses).

Snow Bunting.—After the CBC, reports for 28 counties, south to Jackson, Dane, Walworth, and Ozaukee Counties (m. obs.). Flocks of approximately 100–400 in these counties: Pierce on 1 February, Bayfield and Ashland on 31 January, Portage on 21 January, Oconto on 10 January, Jefferson on 25 January, and Washington on 26 January (m. obs.). Tessen found a flock of 700 on 16 January in Kewaunee County. Tessen also reported the largest flock, a group of approximately 4,000, on 17 February in Outagamie County.

Northern Cardinal.—Northward to these counties: Douglas, 1 on 30 January (Johnson, Putz); Bayfield and Ashland, TTP, maximum 14 on 17 February (Verch); Marathon, TTP (m. obs.); and Door, TTP (Lukeses).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—One at a feeder in Pike Lake State Park in Washington County on 30 December (via Domagalski), Wisconsin's 10th winter record.

Indigo Bunting.—An immature netted by Kemper in Chippewa County on 8 December, Wisconsin's third winter record; this bird was malnourished and did not survive.

Red-winged Blackbird.—TTP in these counties: La Crosse, Sauk (?), Dodge, and Winnebago (m. obs.). Spring migrants from 10 February–EOP, especially 11–13 February, mainly in the easternmost three tiers of counties, north to Oconto County on the 14th and Brown County EOP. Highest count of 1,000+ reported on 13 February in Dodge County; also "flocks" on 11 February in Washington County, with Common Grackles. Migrants reaching La Crosse County by 16 February (m. obs.).

Rusty Blackbird.—TTP in Dodge County, 18 January in Iowa County, and 4 February in Sauk County (m. obs.). Migrants (4) in La Crosse County, 16 February–EOP (Kuecherer, Lesher).

Brewer's Blackbird.—TTP in Dodge County, with a post–December maximum of 10 on 21 January (Tessen). Also January and early February records for Sauk, Ozaukee, and Kewaunee Counties (m. obs.). Domagalski in Jefferson County on 18 February saw a total of 112, which likely included migrants.

Common Grackle.—TTP in Dodge County, with a post–December maximum of 25 on 21 January (Tessen); also TTP, 1–2, in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Parsons saw 2 in Walworth County on 11 January. Spring migrants in southeastern Wisconsin from 11 February–EOP, especially on the 11th when Domagalski saw "flocks" in Washington County with Red-winged Blackbirds.

Brown-headed Cowbird.—TTP in Dodge County, with a post–December maximum of 35 on 21 January (Tessen). Also January and early February records for Walworth, Dane, and Sauk Counties (m. obs.). Later records for Ozaukee County (12 February) and Brown County (28 February) undoubtedly included migrants (m. obs.).

Pine Grosbeak.—Reports for 5 counties: Bayfield and Ashland, TTP (Verch); Iron, maximum 8 (Tryggeseth); Forest, 3 on 20–21 February (Domagalski); and Waupaca, 1 on 17 January (Tessen).

Purple Finch.—Reports from 23 counties, south to Richland, Dane, Winnebago, and Kewaunee Counties (m. obs.). High counts of approximately 25–60 in Shawano County on 5 February, in Marathon County on 19 February, in Douglas County on 14 February, and in Forest County on 28 February (m. obs.).

House Finch.—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Douglas, maximum 5 on 14 February (Putz); Bayfield and Ashland, maximum 81 on 19 December (Verch); Vilas; Langlade; Oconto; and Door (m. obs.).

Red Crossbill.—Exclusive of the CBC, reports for 15 counties, south to these counties: La Crosse (30 January), Dane (25–26 February), and Racine (6 in early December). Peterson reported the largest flock, a group of 50+ on 7 January, in Shawano County.

White-winged Crossbill.—Exclusive of the CBC, reports for these counties: Douglas, Bayfield and Ashland, Forest, Menominee, and Shawano; from 1–4 in all cases, except for a group of 5–10 in Menominee County (m. obs.).

Common Redpoll.—Reports for just 5 counties: Douglas, 14 and 27 February, maximum 4 (Putz); Bayfield and Ashland, TTP, maximum 55 on 21 January (Verch); Menominee, 2 on 20 January (Tessen); and Portage, 48 on 23 January (Hall).

Pine Siskin.—After the CBC, reports for 19 counties, south to Pierce, Jackson, Marathon, Shawano, and Manitowoc Counties, with one record for Dane County on 10 February (m. obs.), hence absent from much of the state. Maximum numbers 20–40 in Douglas, Forest, and Menominee Counties (m. obs.), except for a flock of 200+ in Shawano County on 7 January (Peterson).

American Goldfinch.—Northward to these counties: Douglas, TTP, maximum 60 on 6 February (Putz); Bayfield and Ashland, TTP (Verch); Iron, 100+ in January and February (Tryggeseth); Vilas, TTP (Baughman); Forest, 20 December; and Door, TTP (Lukeses).

Evening Grosbeak.—After the CBC, reports of 11 counties: Bayfield/Ashland, Iron, Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Langlade, Oconto, Menominee, Shawano, and Waupaca. TTP in at least Bayfield/Ashland, Iron, and Vilas Counties (m. obs.). The largest flocks (approximately 50–80) seen in Iron County, mid-December–EOP (Tryggeseth); in Forest County, 28 February (Lesher); and in Menominee County, 20 January (Tessen).

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

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"By The Wayside"

Winter 1998–99 sightings are documented of Ross's Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Mew Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Ivory Gull, and Great Gray Owl.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

1 December 1998, Goose Pond, Columbia County—This individual was very white with black wing tips and the general body shape was goose-like. It was very active and associated with many Snow Geese that were also present on Goose Pond. Identifying features which made me certain that it was a Ross's included a shorter and stubbier black bill than the nearby Snow Geese, a steeper forehead, and the head was rounder and the overall size was smaller (more compact).—*Peter Bridge, Madison, WI.*

3 December 1998, Tiedemann and Stricker's Ponds, Middleton, Dane County—After unsuccessfully locating any Ross's Geese at Goose Pond, I headed to the two "Middleton" ponds. Almost immediately, an adult Ross's Goose was found at the west end of Tiedemann Pond. After enjoying it for some time, I moved over to Stricker's Pond and was surprised to find another adult actively bathing along the east shore. Both were small white geese, with black outer primaries, a very short stubby bill with no grin patch, and a small head and neck. There was an amazing number of the small Canada race on both ponds, affording an excellent comparison. As I was about to leave, Sam Robbins and Bill Foster arrived, so we enjoyed the Stricker's Pond bird for some time.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

4 December 1998, Stricker's Pond, Middleton, Dane County—The bird was less than 30 meters from the shore, swimming with Giant Canada Geese and Mallards. This all-white bird with black wing tips was about half the size of the Giant Canadas and about the same size as the drake Mallards. The eye was dark, head smoothly rounded, beak quite short and orange with black close to the base. The black primaries did not appear to go past the end of its tail. The beak appeared triangular from the side. The forehead was quite vertical.—*Edward Saur, Windsor, WI.*

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

15 December 1998, Virmond Park, Ozaukee County—Among the many

scaup and Common Goldeneyes, I located the male Barrow's Goldeneye. This bird had darker sides, which was the easiest way to find it at a fairly great distance. The black feathering on the back extended well onto the sides and was interrupted by a white checkerboard pattern. The black extended well onto the breast in a comma-shaped pattern. The dark head had a large, elongated white spot on each side of the face. This bird had a different look due to the steep forehead and rounded, rather than peaked, crown of the head. It was a pleasant surprise to find the bird, as it hadn't been seen for several weeks.—*Mark Korducki, Milwaukee, WI.*

1 January 1999, Virmond Park, Ozaukee County—This bird was seen about 200 yards off Virmond Park. It had a dark head with a more steeply sloping forehead and a shorter bill than the nearby Common Goldeneyes. It had a white crescent-shaped area between eye and bill. Its back was darker than the nearby Common Goldeneyes. A row of five white spots could be seen on the back, and below this were two horizontal white areas.—*Mark Peterson, Caroline, WI.*

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

12 December 1998, Bradford Beach, Milwaukee County—Scanning the Ring-billed Gulls waiting to be fed at the parking lot, I noticed this first-winter gull that stood out from similar first-winter Ring-billed Gulls nearby. The very first thing that struck me was the size; this bird was shorter-legged, smaller, and appeared to be rounder and chunkier than the Ring-billed Gulls. The bill was very short and thinner than the Ring-bills, [with] the upper mandible rounding at the tip. The bill had a light pinkish base and a darker grayish/blackish tip. The eye was dark and appeared much larger compared to the Ring-bills. The head was very round, not having the same gradual sloping effect that is characteristic of Ring-billed Gulls. This gave the bird a more gentle or surprised look.

The neck, nape, and side of the breast were mottled with a brownish-gray. The head was slightly mottled as well, but remained mostly white, as well as the center of the breast and the belly. There was some dark smudging around the eye as well. The back was not much darker gray than the Ring-billed Gulls, but the wings showed more brown on the inner wing, mid-wing, and windows. The primaries and secondaries were black and there was a large black band on the tail. The rump was white, but slightly mottled. The legs were a very pale pinkish flesh color. I observed the bird in flight but did not hear it call, nor did it interact much with the other gulls.—*Steven Lubahn, Milwaukee, WI.*

12 December 1998, Bradford Beach, Milwaukee County—Among the Ring-billed Gulls was one bird with an obviously different look. The more rounded head and large eye gave the bird a different expression. The pink bill, tipped in black, was markedly shorter and a bit thinner. When standing next to the Ring-bills, this bird was noticeably shorter and not as stocky. This gull was a first-winter bird. The legs were pink and the eyes were dark brown. Head and underparts were dull white streaked lightly with brown. The mantle was pale gray, but the wings

were dirty brown. In flight, a wide tail band was noted. There was fairly extensive black running from the primaries into the secondaries. The bird loafed in the parking lot for a few minutes at close range and then flew out onto the lake. I briefly observed it swimming, but the flock dispersed and I could not relocate it.—*Mark Korducki, Milwaukee, WI.*

13 February 1999, downtown Milwaukee, Milwaukee County—This bird was standing on a thin layer of ice with several other Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. Clearly smaller than a Herring Gull, it was closer to the size of a Ring-billed, yet smaller still. This bird had smaller legs than nearby Ring-bills. The leg color was pale, almost colorless, with a hint of yellow and/or pink. The mantle was gray, similar in tone to the Ring-billed, but a slight shade darker. The belly, throat, and head were white, with the head only showing some very light spotting. The head was much rounder than Ring-bills, giving it a "less fierce" look. The eye was all dark and appeared larger than the Ring-bills. The tail was white with a light, broken, "black" tail band. The wing tips were black with no sign of windows. The bill was thinner and shorter than a Ring-billed, and also came to a rounder, pointier tip. The bill color was yellow with a dark tip.

I observed the Mew Gull for about an hour, getting great views of it standing and preening. I saw it take flight as well as interact with other gulls. This bird mostly kept to itself.—*Steven Lubahn, Milwaukee, WI.*

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucoides*)

7 December 1998, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County—Between 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M., I located two different Iceland Gulls on or near Wisconsin Point. A classic adult was seen standing on the ice in Alouez Bay, less than 100 yards from Moccasin Mike Road, which bypasses the Superior landfill. An adult or fourth-winter individual was seen flying across the Superior entry and into Wisconsin. Also present in the area were 3,000+ Herring Gulls, 30+ Ring-billed Gulls, 7 first-winter Thayer's Gulls, and several Glaucous Gulls.

The adult Iceland Gull was clearly a different bird than the adult/fourth-winter bird, with almost whitish wing tips and no dark markings on the bill. It was obviously smaller than the Herring Gulls. Its bill appeared dainty and unmarked, except for a reddish gonydeal spot. The irides appeared dark yellow. The legs were pale pink. Its head shape was smoothly rounded. The entire plumage was white, except for the light gray mantle; there was also sparse, light gray streaking around its eye, and on its hindcrown and nape. Its mantle shade was just paler than the adult Herring Gulls. The wing tips extended about one bill length beyond the tail. Its primaries were pale gray along the lower edge of the folded wing, while the wing tip appeared whitish. Eventually, an eagle flew overhead and flushed the bird.

The adult/fourth-winter Iceland Gull differed from the previous individual by the bill, which had a thin, partial, broken ring near the gonys that extended partway onto the upper mandible as a dark line. The folded wing tips extended one and one half bill lengths beyond the tip of the tail.—*Peder Svingen, Duluth, MN.*

6 February 1999, Milwaukee harbor, Milwaukee County—While scoping the

gulls along the Milwaukee breakwall, I found one small, buffy, round-headed bird that was so small and pale in contrast to the Herring Gulls that at the first instant I thought it could be a pigeon. It was distinctly smaller that the nearby Herring Gulls. The entire body was an even tone of pale buff. The one exception was the clear wing tips; these extended beyond the tail. The head was exceptionally round, giving me the dove-like impression. In the center of the head was a dark eye, set off by the pale coloring. The bill was small and entirely black. Several times the gull flew a short distance. At such time, I was impressed by the evenness of the pale beige color of the entire bird.—*Robert Domagalski, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

25 February 1999, Kewaunee harbor, Kewaunee County—While scoping the numerous Ring-billed Gulls in Kewaunee harbor, I found a pale Iceland Gull. It was intermediate in size between a Ring-billed and a Herring Gull. The overall color was a pale buff with pale beige mottling. Several times when the gull preened, the tail was shown to be the same color as the rest of the body. The wing tips were pure white and extended well beyond the tail. The head was quite round, and the bill seemed small and narrow in comparison to the head size.—*Robert Domagalski, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

28 January 1999, Milwaukee harbor, Milwaukee County—I located a dark-mantled individual swimming among the other gulls. This bird was charcoal gray and significantly darker than the Herring and Thayer's Gulls nearby. I noticed the slightly smaller size of the gull and the thin bill. I knew immediately that it was not the Great Black-backed Gull that had been seen here two days earlier. The proximal half of the upper mandible was marked with a dark smudge, indicative of a third-winter bird. The rest of the bill was dull yellow and there was a bright spot on the lower mandible. Although quite dark, the mantle was noticeably lighter than the black primary tips. Some dark streaking was present on the white head. As the bird took flight, the legs dragged behind initially and I saw that they were a bright yellow with a slight hint of orange. The Lesser Black-backed Gull flew up the river and did not return.—*Mark Korducki, Milwaukee, WI.*

30 January 1999, Kewaunee harbor, Kewaunee County—A single individual Lesser Black-backed Gull was found standing on the north breakwall in Kewaunee with a huge number of Herring Gulls and seven Great Black-backed Gulls. This bird was distinguished by its dark gray/black back and Herring Gull size. The yellow legs were observed after a long attempt looking into a very brisk and cold northeast wind. The bird had the "winter hood," giving a mottled appearance to the head. The head was not massive in structure and appeared less chisel-shaped than the Great Black-backed Gull.—*Charles Sontag, Manitowoc, WI.*

25 February 1999, Milwaukee harbor, Milwaukee County—A darker-backed bird was observed among a large group of gulls resting on the ice not far from shore. At first, I thought it might simply be shadows, but as the gull stood up and turned sideways, I could clearly

see that the mantle and wings were a dark charcoal gray, with the rest of the bird being white. The wings showed black wing tips. The black was darker than the dark gray of the rest of the wings. Overall size was slightly smaller than the adjacent Herring Gulls. The bill was also slightly smaller, yellow, and with an orange-red spot near the tip and a dark smudge near the nares on the upper mandible. The legs looked yellow-green or tan, depending on the light (but never pink).—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, WI.*

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

1 December 1998, Port Washington harbor, Ozaukee County—Scoping the harbor among all the Ring-billed Gulls, I came across a slightly smaller gull with all the distinct marking of a juvenile or first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake. This bird was in a standing position, offering great looks at its key characteristics. It had a thinner, pointed bill that was all black; a dark eye that had some dark smudging around the lores; and a smaller rounded head that was all white except for a dark black ear patch that was a little larger than the eye. The belly and breast were also white. The back was a slightly darker gray than the Ring-billed Gulls. Also noted was the black that extended from the primaries up to the shoulder. This bird also had a black tail band on a white tail and a distinct black bar on the hindneck. The legs were not black, but this is a characteristic of some juveniles.—*Steven Lubahn, Milwaukee, WI.*

2 February 1999, Port Washington harbor, Ozaukee County—Although standing on the muddy beach near Ring-billed Gulls and other waterfowl, the Black-legged Kittiwake never associated with them. Only slightly smaller in body size than the Ring-billed Gulls, the legs were very short. The eye was dark, with a dark ear spot behind the eye. The bill was black and narrow. There was a black half-collar across the nape. The back of the bird was solid pale gray with no brown coloring mixed with the gray. A rather broad, black band extended through the length of the otherwise gray wings. The primaries were black. Untrue to its name, it had faint pink legs.

When two people came to feed the birds, the kittiwake flew into the harbor. At this time, I was able to see the white tail with a narrow black terminal band as well as the wing pattern—the black outer primaries and the black carpal bar, bordering the broad white triangle of the inner wing.—*Robert Domagalski, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

3 February 1999, Port Washington harbor, Ozaukee County—This first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake was just slightly smaller than nearby Ring-billed Gulls. It was observed by Steve Lubahn, Daryl Tessen, Sue Kulinski, and myself. The bird was seen from every angle, both in flight and standing on the sandy shoreline at the north end of the harbor. The dark W pattern across the upper surface of the wings when in flight, plus the dark nape half-collar, the black spot behind the eye, and black bill and black eye were all easily seen. The bird had grayish legs and feet and a slightly forked tail with a dark terminal band. It was very buoyant in flight, with a distinctly long-winged appearance. It flew often, but always returned to the beach.—*William Mueller, Milwaukee, WI.*

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*)

21 December 1998, near Kohler-Andrae State Park, Sheboygan County—As we stood looking out the window, we noted a Herring Gull picking at a fish carcass on the beach. Suddenly, an all-white gull sailed into view from the northeast and landed on the beach. The initial "Glaucous" changed to "Iceland" as the size was obviously too small (more Ring-billed in size). Just as it wheeled to land, the black spots on the tail tip and trailing edge of the wings were evident. As it stood on the beach, the black legs, black facial smudge, and black bill with a yellowish tip became obvious. In less than a minute, the Ivory Gull flew north along the beach out of view. A minute later, it coursed back south across our view and appeared to keep heading south along the shoreline.—*James Frank, Mequon, WI*

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

12 December 1998, Cornucopia, Bayfield County—The owl was large, earless, and with yellow eyes. The flat facial disks had a concentric pattern of light and dark rings. The bill was yellow. The generally gray-brown body was highlighted by a white "bow tie."

The owl was perched on a red fire number marker. It was only three feet from the ground and some five feet from the road. It seemed undisturbed by the fast moving traffic only feet away.—*Robert Domagalski, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

WSO Records Committee Report—Winter 1998–1999

Forty documentations of 13 rare bird species were reviewed by the WSO Records Committee for the Winter 1998–99 season. Thirty-one of the reports were accepted. An additional three reports from the fall of 1998 were also considered. Observers were notified of committee decisions by postcard in the case of accepted reports and by personal letter in the case of reports not accepted.

Accepted

Ross's Goose—

#98–063 Dane Co., 3 December 1998, Bridge, Tessen (2); 4 December 1998, Saur.

#98–064 Columbia Co., 1, 16 December 1998, Bridge.

The individuals were small white geese, noticeably smaller than adjacent Canada or Snow Geese, closer to Mallard-sized. Black wing tips were evident, as was a smaller head with a more vertical forehead rise, and a shorter neck. The bill lacked the "grin patch" of the Snow Goose.

Barrow's Goldeneye—

#98–067 Ozaukee Co., 15 December 1998, Korducki; 1 January 1999, Peterson; 9 January 1999, Bontly.

This drake goldeneye had a shorter, dark bill and more abruptly rising forehead than the adjacent Common Goldeneyes. The white facial patch was crescent-shaped as opposed to round. The black back had white spots through the black scapulars instead of black streaks through otherwise white scapulars, making the Barrow's stand out in the flock of Commons on the basis of significantly greater black on the back. This black on the back extended partway down toward the water in the area between the upper breast and flank.

This is the fifth consecutive winter a Barrow's Goldeneye has wintered off Virmond Park in Ozaukee County.

Mew Gull—

#98–092 Milwaukee Co., 12 December 1998, Korducki, Lubahn.

#99–002 Milwaukee Co., 13 February 1999, Lubahn.

The December sightings were of a first-year bird, whitish but streaked

with brown overall. The mantle was grayish, the flight feathers dark brown or black. The more striking features were the smaller overall size relative to the Ring-billed Gulls; the smaller, rounder head; and the shorter, thinner bill. The bill was pink with a dark tip. A black tail band was also seen.

The February bird, in second-year plumage, was smaller than adjacent Ring-billed Gulls, with a slightly darker gray mantle, and a more rounded head shape, with a dark eye. The yellow bill was thinner than that of the Ring-bills, with a dark tip reported. The legs were yellowish. Although the wing tips were black, there were no "windows" evident. In addition, a broken black band was seen on the otherwise white tail.

Iceland Gull—

#98–093 Douglas Co., 7 December 1998, Svingen (2).

#99–003 Kewaunee Co., 25 February 1999, Domagalski.

#99–004 Milwaukee Co., 6 February 1999, Domagalski.

#98–104 Douglas Co., 14 November 1998, Svingen.

The December Douglas County report was actually of two birds. One was described as an adult, the second as a probable fourth-year individual. They were slightly smaller than Herring Gulls, with lighter gray mantles; white wing tips with the faintest hint of gray; and smaller, rounder heads than Herring Gulls. The suspected fourth-year bird had a yellow bill as did the adult, but retained a smudge of black near the gonys.

The February birds were also smaller than Herring Gulls, with smaller, more rounded heads, and wing tips extending beyond the tail. Overall coloration was a pale, uniform buffy tone with white wing tips and a smaller, darker bill than the Herring Gulls.

The November Douglas County bird was a second-year individual, smaller than Herring Gulls, whitish overall with no wing tip markings. The thin, pink bill had a blackish tip.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—

#99–005 Kewaunee Co., 2, 3, 12, 18–22 January 1999, Regan; 30 January 1999, Sontag.

#99–006 Milwaukee Co., 28 January 1999, Korducki; 30 January 1999, Bontly, Peterson; 5 February 1999, Domagalski; 7 February 1999, Heikkenen, Upson; 25 February 1999, Gustafson.

#98–103 Douglas Co., 14 November 1998, Svingen.

The Milwaukee bird was smaller than a Herring Gull, and had a charcoal gray mantle, in contrast to black primary tips. The bill was yellow with a red gonydeal spot. The proximal upper mandible was dark. The legs were yellow. The Kewaunee bird was marked similarly to the Milwaukee bird, but lacked the dark smudge on the upper mandible.

The Douglas County bird was in first-winter plumage, overall darker in color than a Herring Gull and exhibiting more contrast in the light and dark patterned markings. Its size was slightly less than that of a Herring Gull. Of note was the uniformly dark primaries and secondaries, demonstrating none of the lightening of the inner primaries seen on Herring Gulls. The dark greater coverts formed a second dark bar across the wing. The broad, dark tail band contrasted with the lighter upper tail coverts, again in contrast to

a Herring Gull. The bill was entirely black, the legs pinkish.

Ivory Gull—

#98–095 Sheboygan Co., 21 December 1998, Frank.

This small, slightly chunky, virtually all-white gull had short black legs and a black bill with a yellow tip. The white plumage was broken only by a few black spots on the folded primaries; a black tail band; and black spotting on the face, especially in front of the dark eye. The bird flew in off of Lake Michigan, landed on the beach briefly, and coursed up and down the beach once before heading south.

Black-legged Kittiwake—

#98–096 Ozaukee Co., 1 December 1998, Lubahn.

#99–007 Ozaukee Co., 2 February 1999, Domagalski; 3 February 1999, Tessen, Mueller, Hewitt, Sauer; 4 February 1999, Peterson.

#99–008 Milwaukee Co., 6 February 1999, Mueller.

These first-year birds were slightly smaller than Ring-billed Gulls and had gray mantles. The bill was black, as were the eye, eye spot, nape streak, terminal tail band, primaries, and carpal bar. The legs of the Ozaukee County birds were variously described as pinkish or grayish rather than black. The Milwaukee bird was not seen clearly enough to describe leg color.

Great Gray Owl—

#98–097 Bayfield Co., 12 December 1998, Domagalski.

This large, "earless" owl was gray-brown with yellow eyes, concentrically ringed facial disks, and a white "bow tie" on the upper breast/neck.

Barn Swallow—

#98–102 Kenosha Co., 19 December 1998, Hoffman, Sedloff.

Lingering at a wastewater treatment plant, this dark blue-backed individual had an apricot belly and a deeply forked tail.

Wood Thrush—

#98–100 Dane Co., 19 December 1998, Denniston.

This thrush was slightly smaller than an American Robin, with an olive-brown back and tail grading into a cinnamon to rusty head and neck. The breast was white with large dark spots on the breast. The dark eye had a narrow eye ring.

Summer Tanager—

#98–099 Brown Co., 28 November 1998, Wood.

An entirely red bird was observed at a feeder. The bill was stout, elongated, and straw-colored. It lacked the crest and black face patch of a Northern Cardinal and the dark ear patch of a Hepatic Tanager.

Not Accepted

Gyrfalcon—

#99–001 Iowa Co., 10 January 1999.

A large, whitish "falcon-shaped" bird is described in flight and sitting on a telephone pole. The identification is difficult, limited by too few details. A white-phase gyrfalcon would likely have had some dark spotting on the upperparts at rest or dark primary tips in flight. Neither of these traits is indicated by the description. The head was felt to be too small to be that of an owl. The other consideration is of an albinistic buteo or goshawk. Unfortu-

nately, the identification is not considered possible from this description.

Iceland Gull—

#98–094 Brown Co., 7–9, 28 1998.

#99–003 Brown Co., 21 January, 3 February 1999.

Birds of various ages were described at one time, leading to confusion in interpretation of what parts of the description went with which bird. The birds were smaller than a Herring Gull, with rounder heads and black bills with pinkish bases.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—

#99–006 Milwaukee Co., 30 January 1999.

Otherwise fitting an adult bird with its very dark gray mantle, white head and body, yellow bill and legs, one characteristic was inconsistent with the identification. Several times the tail was described as black with small white spots. If this was the case, this individual would seem to be an aberrant individual or a hybrid of some sort. If the tail hadn't been repetitively described this way, it might be considered that the primary tips were being described rather than the tail.

Black-legged Kittiwake—

#99–007 Ozaukee Co. 3 February 1999.

Undoubtedly the kittiwake reported by others, this report only mentioned a "W on the wings" and a black bill and feet. The report lacked any other size or plumage descriptions to confirm the identification.

Great Gray Owl—

#98–097 Bayfield Co., 7 December 1998.

The only description of the bird was that it had facial disks. Seen in flight almost colliding with the observer's car, the rest of the description was too sparse to confirm a probable Great Gray Owl.

Sedge Wren—

#98–101 Dane Co., 19 December 1998.

This "small" brown, tan, and white bird "scolded like a Sedge Wren." The habitat was a sedge meadow. Without a size comparison or color pattern indication, it is uncertain if this was a wren, without even beginning to consider the exact species.

Savannah "Ipswich" Sparrow—

#98–098 Ozaukee Co., 1 December 1998, 1 January 1999.

These very intriguing reports were the only two received on a different-looking bird seen by numerous other observers. The bird is best loosely described as a Savannah Sparrow, but it was larger than expected (no other individuals to directly compare it to) and lighter in overall brown color than is typical of Savannah Sparrows. The bill was described as "heavy" and "sparrow-like." This individual also had the consistent habit of running rather than hopping. The superciliary line was whitish, not yellowish. The breast streaking was described as heavy, but light in color. The tail was grayish, and the bird had a "smudgy" upper breast spot. The January bird was described as more lightly streaked on the breast, more limited to the sides of the breast. This bird's supercilium was yellowish.

These characteristics may mean that two different birds were being seen. Unfortunately, the racial descriptions of Savannah Sparrows fall heavily on one race being browner, grayer, lighter, or darker than the next. The apparent larger size and lighter overall

color of the December bird are intriguingly like the Ipswich Savannah descriptions. Of note also are the Large-billed Sparrows of the lower Pacific Coast of North America, recently split by some researchers from Savannah Sparrows. They are larger-billed, paler, and smudgier. The western prairie Savannah Sparrow race *nevadensis* is also described as the palest and grayest of the northern races. Without photos, and probably without a specimen in hand for measurements, this may be an identification beyond the realm of field ornithology. This type of sighting does keep things interesting, though.

Jim Frank
WSO Records Committee Chair

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