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Summer 2018

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Send all manuscripts and related correspondence to the Editors. Information for "Seasonal Field Notes" should be sent to the Field Note Compiler for that season (see left column). Art work and questions about the art should be sent to the Assistant Editor for art (see left column). Manuscripts that deal with Wisconsin birds, ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and WSO activities are considered for publication. For detailed submission guidelines, please refer to "Guidelines for Authors and Artists," found near the back of this and following issues.

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Front Cover: For this issue's cover, David Franzen shared this striking image of an adult male Eastern Bluebird carrying food in Vilas County in late June.

Keeping Engaged in a Trying Time

I write this column in the hopes that I won't completely give up. I'm extremely discouraged with the current massive attacks on natural resources and their protections, along with the apparent lack of interest or concern by our public at large about why these resources are important.

Maybe a little history will help put things in perspective for me. I've been a WSO member for 50 years. And I've been a small actor in the incredible environmental crusade that's occurred over that time.

When I was young, Aldo Leopold's writings were becoming very popular. My mentors clued me into his work. One passage in his Round River essay stood out and has stayed with me to this day: "One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds." He continued by saying: "Much of the damage inflicted on the land is quite invisible to laymen."

At the time when these passages were new to me, I was a high school student with an incredible love of birds, but still focused on watching them and doing some initial research about habitat needs. When I start college in the early 1970s I thought I wanted to focus on research. I showed up at the UW-Madison when the "Environmental Movement" in the U.S. was still young. During college I shifted away from basic ornithological research to focus on what I could do to help preserve and enhance bird life. That research interest has stayed with me, even though I wasn't working directly in that field.

As a young student I caught the environmentalism bug. Leopold's words about a "world of wounds" were indeed true. Rivers were catching fire, the air was dangerous to breathe, population growth put increasing pressure on our landscapes, and many of our bird populations were in severe decline from pesticides poisoning. The "wounds" were many and widespread.

While "wounds" were everywhere you looked, the environmental movement was spreading. In particular, Leopold's lament on these being "quite invisible to laymen" was beginning a long-term change.

A particular success of the movement was the stepping up of environmental education, both formal and informal. Our friends and neighbors, not just the experts, were learning about resource threats. And, importantly, large numbers of them were starting to care. The "laymen" were becoming knowledgeable and engaged.

As the levels of concern rose in the general public, policy makers started paying attention. Huge steps were taken to protect our resources. Laws regarding clean air, clean water, waste disposal, pesticide use, endangered resources, and much more were enacted and expanded. And we saw marked improvements. And I was in small ways a part of that.

Fast forward to today. We're seeing protection after protection criticized, rolled

back or eliminated, both at the state and federal level. I don't want to imply that all resource protections put into place over the last 40 years were well thought out, some probably went too far or were not set up to actually accomplish what was desired. The overall attitude of many in today's governments seems to be, however, that if it relates to the environment, it needs to go. This attitude, and the resulting policy actions, are what is so disturbing to me these days.

What happened? Did the environmental movement really go too far? Were we, in our youthful enthusiasm, wrong? Or did we do so well that those that followed didn't experience the widespread "wounds" that we grew up with? I bet most of our current soccer moms don't remember rivers catching on fire.

Going forward, I have to remind myself that we can indeed reverse many of our current setbacks, that we can, and must, continue to protect and enhance our natural resources. We need to reinforce environmental education, we need to remember why we fought so hard for our past gains, and to continue to support resource protection. And WSO has a continuing role to play, as our mission is to "promote the enjoyment, study and conservation of Wisconsin's birds."

—Michael John Jaeger, President



A Trumpeter Swan adult swims with two cygnets in this early June photo taken at Crex Meadows in Burnett County by Michael Huebschen.

50 Years Ago, in *The Passenger Pigeon*

by Nancy Nabak

Excerpts from Summer 1968, Volume 30, Number 2

Our Changing Environment by Professor Jacob Shapiro, Wisconsin State University Oshkosh

Talk given May 18, 1968 at the 29th Annual WSO Convention at Green Bay, WI:

“Everyone today is conscious of the deterioration of our environment, as even our newspapers give us such words as Eutrophication, Biocides, Conurbation, Ecology, Biological Oxygen Demand and Radioactive Contaminants. There is emphasis on environment in state and federal policies through such programs as Beautification, Pollution Abatement, Anti-Litter Campaigns, Regional Planning and Conservation Education. The public is beginning to face the reality that we must decide what kind of environment we want in the future. We must choose whether we would rather limit the number of people who want the materials of the affluent society, or whether we want to lower the standard of living in order to accommodate more people. There has to be a balance between man and land; harmony between population and environment . . .”

Letter to the Editor: (Dr. Charles A. Kemper)

“Dear Dr. Kemper:

Here at Cornell’s Laboratory of Ornithology we read with great interest in the Spring 1968 issue the tribute to John Emlen, when he was made an Honorary Life Member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. It was delightful, and no one deserves this more than Johnny.

But we have a complaint. Nowhere did you indicate **where** he got that Ornithological Ph.D.! Johnny received his degree from Cornell’s Laboratory of Ornithology under the late professor Arthur A. Allen, who considered him one of the finest students he ever had. His son, Dr. Stephen Emlen, following in his father’s ornithological footsteps, is Assistant Professor of Zoology at Cornell, and a faculty affiliate of the Laboratory of Ornithology. We take considerable pride in John Emlen—and are sorry that Cornell’s role in his ornithological training was not mentioned.

Sincerely, (Mrs.) Sally Hoyt Spofford

Bear Predation on Robin Nests. June 6, 1968, predation of a robin’s nest by a “medium-sized” black bear (sex unknown) was observed in Rusk County by the Chippewa River, Thonapple Township, T35N, R7W, Sec. 16. About 10:15 am, the bear approached the cabin apparently attracted by odor of food. It moved directly from cabin to a robin’s nest situated in a white spruce 3 feet from the ground about 50 feet from the cabin. The bear was not frightened by me and the location of the nest was not a random search. The nest was ripped out of the tree, and the eggs (number unknown) consumed on the ground. I was about 5 feet from the bear at this observation. The bear returned to the cabin with me at a leisurely pace (my 12-gauge shotgun may have deterred his entrance). After about 20 minutes of searching the immediate area of the cabin (including the outdoor toilet), the bear left the area.—R.J. Dicke, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin Madison.



David Lund captured this striking image of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher with its tail spread in late July in Marinette County.

The Summer Season: 2017

Darwin Tiede

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OVERVIEW

This was the third summer season of the five-year Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project and field activity continued at a high level. Observers recorded a total of 277 species during the 2017 season. A new species, buff-bellied hummingbird, was added to the state list after review and approval by the records committee. A Tropical/Couch's Kingbird visited Bayfield County and represented only the third state record. Atlas volunteers confirmed 201 species breeding in the state during the June through July period.

WEATHER

It was the record wettest and third warmest January to August period on record for the United States. No state had a below-average temperature and only three states had below-average precipitation for the period. Temperatures across the entire Midwest region were near normal for the period but June was characterized by a very warm first half and a very cool second half, while July was near to slightly above normal. Precipitation varied widely across the Midwest region. June and July were consistently wet across northern portions of the Midwest from Wisconsin

southeast to Ohio. Daryl Tessen recorded 7+ inches of rain in June and 5.5 inches in July at Appleton.

The first six months of 2017 was the second wettest on record for Wisconsin. The two-week period of 11–23 July saw two major thunderstorm complexes bring heavy rain and flooding to southern Wisconsin. This was enough to make 2017 the wettest year on record for Wisconsin through the end of July. The heavy thunderstorms late 11 July through the morning of 12 July caused flooding in Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth counties. More than four inches of rain fell in several locations with a record crest of the Fox River at Burlington (Racine and Walworth County). This was followed by additional thunderstorms during the 20–23 July period with seventeen counties declared in a state of emergency due to flooding in the west-central, southwest, and south-central regions of the state.

[Sources: NOAA State of the Climate Report, Midwestern Regional Climate Center, and Wisconsin State Climatology Office.]

SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

The total species reported for the summer season was 277. This compares to 275 species for the previous summer

season. The average species total for the ten previous summer seasons is 270. Reports also continued for Great Tit and European Goldfinch, two introduced species that are not yet on the official state list. The only hybrid reported this summer was an American Black Duck × Mallard. Sixty-two species were observed in 70 or more counties during the season, and most of these were likely present in all 72 counties but randomly missed here and there.

The highlights of the summer season included two one-day wonders that are more likely to be found along the coast of Texas than in the Midwest. The most unlikely of the two was a hummingbird that appeared at a personal residence in Ozaukee County on 17 June. Luckily, the observer was able to obtain photographs and add a new species to the official Wisconsin state list—a buff-bellied hummingbird! The other was a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird found near the northern tip of Bayfield County on 14 June. This was the third state record (and second consecutive year!) for Tropical/Couch's Kingbird in Wisconsin. Equally amazing is the fact that the observer was able to capture a photograph of this rare visitor sitting on a wire between a Western Kingbird and Eastern Kingbird! The appearance of a California Gull in Sheboygan on 14 July became only the second summer record for the state.

Thirteen species from the state review list were reported this summer. In addition to the aforementioned three species, the other review species included White-winged Dove*, Chuck-will's-widow, Yellow Rail*, King Rail*, Little Gull*, Laughing Gull, Arctic Tern, Great Gray Owl*, Western Kingbird*, and Blue Grosbeak*.

[*NOTE: The Wisconsin Society for Or-

nithology Records Committee (WSORC) revamped the review process for rare bird records as of 1 March, 2018. Species noted with an asterisk here (as well as others) have since been removed from the review list because they appear annually or near-annually and have relatively straight-forward ease of identification.]

There was a report of a Black-billed Magpie visiting and photographed at a feeder near Little Sturgeon Bay in Door County on 11 June. A second-hand report was posted to the Wisconsin Birding Network but no documentation was submitted to eBird or WSORC. It appears that this would have been a new county record and only the second summer season record for Wisconsin. It is not included in any season totals in this report since formal documentation is lacking.

There were only two noteworthy misses for the summer period. There were no reports of Gray Partridge for the second consecutive summer even though field work for the atlas is at a high level. This is likely a combination of declining populations and their inconspicuous nature during the summer season. There were also no summer reports of Prairie Warbler for the first time since 2009. That string of reports for each summer season between 2010–2016 was largely due to the continuing detection of a singing bird in the Kettle Moraine SF of Waukesha County during those years.

STATEWIDE COVERAGE

The level of statewide reporting has increased substantially due to the more widespread use of eBird. This has been especially so during the recent field effort for the Wisconsin breeding bird atlas which has its own eBird data sub-

mission portal. The eBird database is the major source of data for the species summaries that follow. For the 2017 summer season there were 25,539 eBird checklists submitted from a total of 1,482 observers. There were a handful of additional observers that submitted their observations by other methods.

The top five observers for number of eBird checklists submitted for the season were Peder Svingen (754), Aaron Stutz (553), Jim Frank (388), Nick Anich (312) and Matthew Berg (270). The top five statewide species totals by individual observers for the summer season were Tom Prestby (195), Kay Kavanagh (184), Jim Frank (181), Jeff Baughman (174), and Michael Gray (172).

A more detailed analysis of the eBird reports shows this data to follow the expected Pareto principle with 80% of these checklists coming from 20% of the observers. More than half of the 1,400+ observers submitted fewer than five checklists during the period with 400+ submitting just a single checklist. This is the main reason that the editorial decision was made to conserve space and not include all of the eBird observer names in the seasonal reports. The names included at the end of this report are limited to those individuals or groups that are mentioned in the detailed species accounts for the season. Whether your name is cited for this particular season or not, all your eBird reporting contributes to a valuable database of birdlife in Wisconsin.

REGIONAL LEVEL COVERAGE

The highest species totals came from the east-central, northwest, and south-central regions of the state with 236,

215, and 200 species, respectively. The average species per region across all nine regions was 197. The following regional statistics are provided to give an estimate of relative level of coverage and results, and to recognize regional leaders in total species recorded, total species confirmed, and number of checklists submitted for the season.

Central includes the eight counties of Adams, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood. 208 observers submitted 1,700 checklists totaling 187 species with 134 confirmed as breeding. Tom Schultz and Tom Reed each recorded 127 species. Randy Hoffman confirmed 83 breeding species. Michael O'Connell submitted 105 checklists.

East-Central includes the nine counties of Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Winnebago. 361 observers submitted 3,904 checklists totaling 236 species with 157 confirmed as breeding. Tom Prestby recorded 173 species. Stuart Malcolm confirmed 83 breeding species. Joel Trick submitted 212 checklists.

North-Central includes the nine counties of Ashland, Clark, Iron, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Price, Taylor, and Vilas. 240 observers submitted 2,505 checklists totaling 199 species with 143 confirmed as breeding. Nick Anich recorded 129 species and confirmed 77 breeders. Johanna Beam submitted 150 checklists.

Northeast includes the seven counties of Florence, Forest, Langlade, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, and Shawano. 146 observers submitted 2,210 checklists totaling 192 species with 138 confirmed as breeding. Joe

Stojak recorded 140 species. Kay Kavanagh confirmed 85 breeding species and submitted 216 checklists.

Northwest includes the nine counties of Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn. 277 observers submitted 4,177 checklists totaling 215 species with 156 confirmed as breeding. Matthew Berg recorded 143 species. Frank Nicoletti confirmed 120 breeding species. Peder Svingen submitted 754 checklists.

South-Central includes the six counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Jefferson, and Rock. 440 observers submitted 4,251 checklists totaling 200 species with 128 confirmed as breeding. Aaron Stutz recorded 127 species and submitted 263 checklists. Quentin Yoerger confirmed 71 breeding species.

Southeast includes the seven counties of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha. 321 observers submitted 2,790 checklists totaling 196 species with 127 confirmed as breeding. Jim Frank recorded 117 species and submitted 201 checklists. Tim Hahn confirmed 53 breeding species.

Southwest includes the seven counties of Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Sauk, and Vernon. 232 observers submitted 1,986 checklists totaling 160 species with 116 confirmed as breeding. Aaron Haycraft recorded 114 species. Dennis Kirschbaum confirmed 98 breeding species. Richard Ouren submitted 149 checklists.

West-Central includes the ten counties of Buffalo, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, and Trempealeau. 216 observers submitted 2,016 checklists to-

taling 186 species with 135 confirmed as breeding. Randy Hoffman recorded 138 species and confirmed 104 breeders. Lennie and Marie Lichter submitted 83 checklists.

COUNTY LEVEL COVERAGE

The number of counties reporting a given species remained elevated at the historically high levels noted during the 2015 and 2016 summer seasons. This result is attributed to the continuing statewide breeding bird atlas project. It will be interesting to compare pre and post atlas county level activity once that project is completed in 2019.

The number of counties reporting American Woodcock and Eastern Screech Owl both increased significantly this summer. A logical explanation would seem to be an emphasis by atlas volunteers on making the nocturnal visits required to fully complete an atlas block.

The number of eBird contributors per county this summer averaged 51 with a median value of 41. This ranged from a low of five in Menominee County to a high of 237 in Dane County. The only other counties exceeding 100 contributors were Dodge County (151), Sauk County (123), and Milwaukee County (101). Other counties with fifteen or less observers submitting eBird records included Pepin County (9), Lafayette County (13), Taylor County (13), and Clark County (15).

The average species total reported per county was 136. The top counties were Manitowoc County (185), Douglas County (179), Brown County (174), Oconto County (170), and Dodge County (167) tied with Fond du Lac County (167). Only two counties re-

ported less than 100 species for the season: Pierce County (95) and Pepin County (66).

The highest county species totals by individuals were achieved by Jeff Baughman (Fond du Lac County, 145), Frank Nicoletti (Douglas County, 142), Joe Stojak (Oconto County, 140), Randy Hoffman (Jackson County, 138), and Bob Domagalski (Manitowoc County, 138). Ten observers had the high county species total in multiple counties this season, led by Aaron Haycraft who topped the list in four counties (Iowa, Lafayette, Rock and Sauk). Others were Jim Frank (Dodge, Sheboygan, and Washington), Nick Anich (Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron), Tom Prestby (Brown, Door, and Menominee), Doug Kibbe (Buffalo and Trempealeau), Ellie Roark (Langlade and Shawano), Randy Hoffman (Jackson and Juneau), Shane Patterson (Grant and Richland), Ted Keyel (Chippewa and Taylor), and Tony Del Valle (Rusk and Sawyer).

The top five counties for checklist submission were Dane County (1,942), Douglas County (1,390), Milwaukee County (919), Door County (895), and Dodge County (792). The five counties with the lowest checklist submission were Waushara County (97), Marquette County (93), Taylor County (88), Menominee County (47), and Pepin County (21).

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS (WBBA2)

The main focus of Wisconsin birders at this time remains the breeding bird atlas work being conducted statewide. 2017 marked the third year of this five-year project (2015–2019). The number of species confirmed as breeding in Wisconsin during the 2017 summer sea-

son was 201 species. Regional summary of confirmed species and highest breeding confirmations by individuals has been summarized earlier in this article.

A total of 710 observers submitted breeding confirmations during the two months of the summer season. The five observers with the most confirmed breeding species this summer were Randy Hoffman (127), Frank Nicoletti (121), Shane Patterson (116), Brian Collins (115), and Tom Prestby (111). Jim Frank, Aaron Haycraft, and Matthew Berg also exceeded the century mark for the season.

The top five counties for species confirmed as breeding during the 2017 summer season were Douglas County (127), Jackson County (110), Marinette County (108), Bayfield County (107), and Outagamie County (104). The average number of species confirmed per county was 79 species with a low of only six in Pepin County.

The atlas project uses various one or two-letter codes to classify bird behavior as possible, probable, or confirmed. I have included mention of some of the confirmed breeding codes in my detailed species commentaries. Perhaps as an interesting piece of trivia, there are twelve acceptable codes to confirm breeding behavior. During the 2017 summer season five species were documented as breeding by all twelve of these possible codes. These were American Robin, Chipping Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Indigo Bunting, and Red-winged Blackbird.

The top five most highly confirmed breeding species were American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Bluebird, House Wren, and Song Sparrow. There were seven species with only a single breeding confirmation this sum-

mer: Cattle Egret, King Rail, Boreal Chickadee, Bell's Vireo, Carolina Wren, Red Crossbill, and Connecticut Warbler.

The atlas team added point counts to this project during 2016 to help fill in the gaps in atlas block coverage and give better indication of numbers. The goal was to complete 16,000+ point counts in 500+ blocks during a 4-year effort (2016–2019). Each point count is conducted for ten minutes at a specified location during the period between late May and early July. The project is halfway timewise and on track with 8,000+ point counts completed in the first two seasons. During 2017 these counts tallied 114,920 individual birds of 190 species. Eventually this data will also be incorporated into the WBBA2 eBird portal.

Please refer to the WBBA2 eBird portal for continuing news articles and updates on this project at <http://ebird.org/atlaswi/news>. For more information on protocol and ways to get involved in the atlas project, please refer to the WSO website at <http://wsobirds.org/atlas>.

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES ACCOUNTS (1 June to 31 July, 2017)

The account summary uses eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relNov-2017. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. November 2017.

The taxonomic order used here is according to the 57th supplement to the AOU Checklist of North American Birds (The Auk: July 2016, Vol. 133, No. 3, pp. 544–560). Comments on new county atlas breeding records are based on eBird records from 1991–2017.

Any comments on state regional distribution use the same nine regional

areas as the 2014–2016 summer summaries. These are based on the delineation used by the Wisconsin State Climatology Office. Please refer to the section on regional coverage earlier in this article for a breakdown of counties included in each of the regions.

A dagger symbol (†) indicates species that require written documentation to be considered for acceptance as a state record by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Records Committee (WSORC). Documentation submitted to the WSORC, or lack thereof, is noted in brackets at the end of the species account.

The following abbreviations are used in the species commentaries.

BOP	Beginning of Period
EOP	End of Period
WDNR	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
SNA	State Natural Area
SP	State Park
SRA	State Recreational Area
SWA	State Wildlife Area
WBBA1	First Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (1995–2000)
WBBA2	Second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (2015–2019).
WSORC	Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Records Committee

Greater White-fronted Goose—Summer season records for this species are very few and far between. The only report this season was of a single bird with an apparent broken wing at the Great River State Park Trail in Trempealeau County on 6 June (Houdek).

Snow Goose—A single bird was reported through 15 June on Angle Road in Kewaunee County (Schwedler). This individual had no apparent injury and was observed flying with Canada geese.

Canada Goose—Reported from all 72 counties with breeding confirmed in 69. The maximum count was a conservative estimate of 750 geese at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County on 16 July (Domagalski).

Mute Swan—Observed in sixteen counties which is similar to last summer and significantly up from the five-year low of seven counties reported in 2015. The highest count was of seven birds found at the lakefront in Manitowoc on 4 June (Sontag). Confirmed breeding was noted with birds on nest in Outagamie County (3 June, Koss) and fledglings in both Ozaukee County (4 June, Zehner) and Walworth County (27 June, Myli). This was the first atlas breeding record for Ozaukee County. The breeding pair at the Outagamie County location is believed to be introduced/exotic (clipped wings).

Trumpeter Swan—Reported from 40 counties. The highest reported counts came from Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Burnett County (47 on 28 June, Java) and Necedah NWR in Juneau County (125 on 3 July, Caldwell). Breeding confirmed in twenty-five counties including first atlas records for Oconto County (8 June, Woodcock), Oneida County (19 June, B. Collins), and Trempealeau County (30 June, Kibbe and Goldthwait).

Wood Duck—Reported from all 72 counties. The high individual count was 265 birds in Collins Marsh SWA in Manitowoc County on 26 July (Domagalski). This was from a careful count in a limited section of the marsh so totals present throughout the area could have been as high as 1,000+ birds. Sixty-nine counties had confirmation of breeding for the atlas with the predominant code as fledglings.

Gadwall—The eleven reporting counties dropped slightly from the level of seventeen from last summer. Breeding was confirmed at two locations: Horicon NWR in Dodge/Fond du Lac Counties (many observers) and the Mack SWA in Outagamie County (Brinkman, Tiede). The breeding confirmations on 10 June in Outagamie County (Brinkman) and 16 June in Fond du Lac County (K. Johnson, Schwartz) were initial county atlas records. The high count (likely migrants) was 32 at Cat Island causeway in Brown County on 21 July (Prestby).

American Wigeon—Observed in seven mostly east-central counties with a maximum of twelve reported from the Horicon NWR auto tour in Dodge County on 18 June (Stojak). Breeding for this species remains to be confirmed for the second atlas project as of 31 July for the current season.

American Black Duck—Observers reported this species from twenty-two counties. The largest number recorded was nine in Iron County where a hen and eight ducklings were observed on 14 June (Bacon). Breeding was confirmed in three northern counties: Burnett (6 July, Saur), Iron (14 June and 7 July, Bacon and 26 July, Paulik), and Vilas (18 July, Spahn).

Mallard—Reported from all 72 counties with confirmed breeding in 65 of them. High count was 450 from Horicon NWR in Dodge County on 17 June (Paulios).

American Black Duck × **Mallard**—Single hybrids were reported from Barker's Island in Douglas County on 19 June (Svingen) and Manitowoc County on 7 July (Kearns).

Blue-winged Teal—Reported statewide from 53 counties with a high count of 45 birds observed in a flooded field in Winnebago County on 27 July (E. Giese). Confirmed breeding in twenty-nine counties including the first atlas records for Iowa County (17 July, Haycraft), Keewaunee County (11 June, Schwedler), and Richland County (3 July, Patterson).

Northern Shoveler—Migration of this species can continue into early June. Reports submitted from fifteen counties with only nine of these counties harboring putative summering birds after mid-June. Breeding confirmation came from fledgling observations in three counties between 7 June and 10 June: Outagamie (Swelstad), Shawano (Brinkman), and Waushara (Christensen). These were the first atlas confirmations for Shawano and Waushara County. The highest number reported was ten at Horicon NWR in Dodge County on 1 June (Younger) and in Outagamie County on 8 June (Swelstad).

Northern Pintail—Wisconsin lies on the southeastern fringe of the breeding range for this species. Burnett County and Brown County had the only two breeding confirmations during the first atlas. This rare state breeder has yet to be

confirmed as breeding for the second atlas project.

Pintails were reported from only four counties, down from the nine reporting counties during the 2016 summer period. Two lingering hens were noted at the Cat Island Causeway in Brown County on 9 June (Prestby). Multiple individuals were noted at Horicon NWR in Dodge County in late June and July with a maximum of nine on 9 July (Judy). An adult male was present in emergent wet meadow habitat in Rusk County on 13 June (Del Valle) and a single hen was seen in a Jackson County cranberry flowage on 22 June (Hoffman).

Green-winged Teal—The number of reporting counties (mainly north and central) remained at twenty-six this summer matching the previous high from 2013 and 2016. The largest concentration was 40 birds tallied in late July at Cat Island in Brown County as wanderers and early migrants began to join summering birds (Prestby). Breeding was confirmed at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County with a peak count of thirty on 16 July (Domagalski). Other confirmed breeding reports included a hen with ten juveniles in Polk County on 5 July (Berg), distraction display in Washburn County on 17 July (Berg), and fledglings in Price County on 28 July (Krakowski). These were the first atlas confirmations for both Polk and Washburn County.

Canvasback—Reports returned to the average county level of five following only a single reporting county in summer 2016. One to two individuals were reported from Brown County between 18 June (Prestby) and 29 July (J. Trick, P. Trick), single birds in both Dodge (14 July, Jackson) and Fond du Lac County (26 July, J. Giese) portions of Horicon NWR, and at Timm's Lake in Marinette County on 15 June (Swelstad). A high count of five birds came from Vernon County on 17 June (Sack).

Redhead—Observations came from twelve counties with a high count of 130 birds at Rush Lake in Winnebago County on 16 June (Ziebell). The most northerly report was of a pair on Phantom Lake in Burnett County on 3 June (Hoefler). Breeding was confirmed at five locations: Horicon NWR in Dodge/Fond du Lac County, Schoeneberg Marsh in Columbia County, Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County, Mack SWA in Outagamie County, and Navarino SWA in Shawano County. The confirmations in Manitowoc County

on 6 July (Domagalski) and Shawano County on 8 July (Grossmeyer) were the first atlas records for those counties.

Ring-necked Duck—Reported from twenty-nine counties with a high count of 40 birds on 17 June at Crex Meadows SWA in Burnett County (Haughney, Stewart). Breeding confirmed in fourteen mostly northern counties. The most southern location of confirmed breeding was of adult birds on nest in Jefferson County during June (Schumacher, Stutz).

Greater Scaup—Sporadic observations came from three Lake Michigan counties (Brown, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan) throughout the period. These birds are presumed to be a combination of late northbound migrants during the first few days in June and non-breeding summer visitors. Sightings were mostly individual birds but totals up to five were reported both at Cat Island on 6 June (Prestby) and the Manitowoc impoundment on 20 June (Surya).

Lesser Scaup—"Bluebills" were reported from ten counties as in 2016, which is average for recent summers. The only location reporting ten or more birds was the Manitowoc lakefront with a high count of fifteen there on 7 July (Kearns). Most reports in counties away from Lake Michigan were of single birds during the month of June. The only other reports greater than one or two individuals were for three seen in Brown County on 6 June (Prestby) and the same number in Douglas County on 15 June (Richardson). The only breeding confirmation for this species during the first atlas was from a cranberry marsh in Oneida County. There are no confirmations of this rare state breeder to date through the first three years of the second atlas project.

Long-tailed Duck—A drake in breeding plumage lingered at the Manitowoc impoundment during the first three days of June and was enjoyed by nine observers. This follows a single report from the previous summer of an injured hen at the same location. There are ten other summer records with the next most recent dating back to 2003.

Bufflehead—Marty Evanson and Jim Schwarz reported a single male at Lacy Road pond in Dane County between 9 June and 13 June with a pair present at Shoveler's Sink on 25 July (Schwarz). The only other report was of five birds

in Manitowoc County on 11 June (Hoeltke). There were no reports of confirmed breeding activity this summer following a few probable reports from the spring period.

Common Goldeneye—The reports from nine counties were mainly from east-central and northern locations. Unusual was a single individual reported from Picnic Point in Dane County on two separate days in early July (Bailey). Breeding was confirmed in three northern counties with an adult female and six young in Sawyer County on 5 June (Schaefer, Szymczak), a family of six in Douglas County on 15 June (Richardson), and ten birds including fledglings in Bayfield County on 18 July (Buehler). This was the first atlas breeding confirmation for Douglas County.

Hooded Merganser—Reported from 62 counties statewide. Breeding was confirmed in 48 counties with a high count of twenty-eight birds in Manitowoc County on 23 June (Shiraef). A breeding confirmation on 14 July was the first atlas record for Grant County (Kirschbaum).

Common Merganser—Reported in seven-teen mostly northern counties with a high count of 37 birds at Trout Lake in Vilas County on 20 July (Stone). Breeding was confirmed in eight northern counties plus several locations in northern Door County.

Red-breasted Merganser—Wisconsin is along the southern edge of the breeding range, and this is an uncommon summer resident in the north (Robbins 1991). Roy Lukes (Lukes 2006) further delineated its summer breeding range as north of a diagonal line running from Superior to Sturgeon Bay.

Sightings this summer came mostly in June from seven counties bordering Lakes Superior and Michigan plus Price County. The observation of two birds at Doctor's Park in Milwaukee County on 14 July (Zehner) is unusual for that date and location. A raft of 75 birds was counted at Marquette Park in Kewaunee County on 4 June (Schwedler). Observations of adults with fledglings confirmed breeding at two locations in Door County: Jackson Harbor Ridges SNA on 21 June (D. Benson) and Newport State Park on 25 June (Regnier).

Ruddy Duck—Observed in twenty-three counties with most of these records from the cen-

tral and southern parts of the state. The most northern reports were of a single male in Rusk County on 4 June (Schaefer, Szymczak), a single bird in Oconto County on 1 July (Stojak), and a pair in Polk County on 5 July (Berg). High counts were of 90 from Rush Lake in Winnebago County on 16 June (Ziebell) and 74 at Lake Maria in Green Lake County on 21 June (T. Schultz). Breeding confirmations (all by fledgling code) were submitted for the following three counties, all observations occurring between 7 July and 20 July: Columbia (B. Smith, Kinzer, M. Martin, S. Martin), Fond du Lac (Maertz, K. Kavanagh), and Jefferson (Scherer).

Northern Bobwhite—Wisconsin is at the northern edge of the bobwhite range. Most bobwhite reported in the state are of unknown origin with significant sources being escapes from game farms or quail released at dog field trials. These two sources are distributed across all regions of Wisconsin making it difficult to assess the true nature of birds sighted. Further decline of this species was seen in the WDNR whistle-stop survey results when comparing 2017 to 2015 (Dhuey 2017). The average for 2017 whistling males per stop declined to half of the 2015 result, although it should be noted that both numbers are very low and a small fraction of long-term averages.

This summer there were reports from nine counties which is close to the previous ten-year average. Reports from these seven counties are within the historical Wisconsin range noted by Robbins (1991): Columbia (Jaeger), Dane (Henrikson, S. Miller), Iowa (Henderson), Kenosha (Lally, Willard), Marquette (W. Schultz), Rock (Cullum, Haycraft), and Sauk (Holschbach). The Kenosha County reports were from Richard Bong SRA, and although this is within the historical range for state bobwhite, this is a known site of quail release for dog trials. Reports from Washington Island in Door County (many observers) and Douglas County (Walton) are extreme outliers from historical range, with the latter also a known location for quail release for dog trials.

Ring-necked Pheasant—Reported statewide from 54 counties. The highest number reported was of eleven birds including fledglings in Pierce County on 4 July (Wieland) and Door County on 30 July (Walsh). Eighteen counties had confirmed breeding including the first atlas record for Washburn County (1 July, Berg). The 2017 WDNR spring rooster survey showed a slight in-

crease in numbers compared to the previous year (Pollentier 2017). This survey uses 83 permanent routes in twenty-nine counties which comprise the core pheasant range. About 70% of the rooster abundance estimate was in seven counties in the west-central portion of the state.

Ruffed Grouse—Birds were reported in 44 counties with all but three of these located in the central and northern regions of the state. Breeding was confirmed in 33 of these counties. The most southern breeding location was at Caves Prairie restoration where John Kivikoski recorded the first atlas record for Iowa County on 2 June. He had a close encounter with a hen leading four chicks and noted that “she was not happy that I surprised her. At first, she ran at me making loud hissing noises, then tried to lead me away by making herself appear to be an easy target. When I didn’t follow her, she began pacing back and forth making a sort of cluck sound”. Three hens accompanied by seventeen juveniles were encountered in Bayfield County on 2 July (Beam, Minor). The 2017 annual WDNR drumming survey indicated slightly higher numbers statewide than in 2016 (Dhuey 2017).

Spruce Grouse—Observations came from three northern counties with breeding confirmed by observation of fledglings in two of them. Individual birds were noted in Forest County between 7 July (Sloan) and 31 July (B. Kavanagh, K. Kavanagh) with no breeding activity detected. Brian Collins encountered a female with five juveniles in Oneida County on 3 July while traveling on foot between point counts. He provides a beautiful description of the habitat where he flushed the birds “at the border of wet sedge meadow and a small island of blueberry, Labrador tea, sphagnum and spruce tamarack pine amid a mosaic of swamp conifer islands and open wet sedge meadow”. Aaron Stutz and Nancy Richmond were rewarded with the sighting of a female and two juveniles on 8 July after canoeing up Indian Creek in Oneida County and hiking in a red pine “island” surrounded by spruce and jack pine. Robert Spahn observed an adult with two fledglings in Vilas County on 16 July, and Nancy Richmond had a similar observation in the same county on 24 July.

Sharp-tailed Grouse—Three counties in the northwest region of the state reported grouse, with breeding confirmation (fledglings) in two. Last summer there were no breeding con-

firmations in the summer season. Nick Anich and Ryan Brady reported single birds from Bayfield County in June, putative dispersals from the Moquah Barrens reintroduction project. The Washburn Ranger District reported three fledged young with a hen at Moquah Barrens on 31 July and a single bird in Douglas County on 10 July. In Burnett County, James Hoefler recorded a dozen birds in the north unit of Namekagon Barrens SWA on 1 June, and Edward Saur reported individual birds there in both June and July. A hen flushed and then was observed returning to three juveniles at Reed Lake in Burnett County on 24 July (Berg).

Greater Prairie-Chicken—Reported in the expected grassland locations in the central part of the state in Adams and Portage counties. The only observation in Adams County was a single bird observed during the WSO atlas field trip on 24 June. There were four reports from the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County: two birds on 3 June (Milender), seven birds on 17 June (Lally), a single bird on 18 June (Pendergast), and seven birds including young on 7 July (Haycraft, Yoerger).

Wild Turkey—Reported from all 72 counties. Breeding was confirmed in 64 counties with the FL (fledgling) code making up 95% of the confirmations recorded. The high count was thirty birds (combined adults and fledglings) in Columbia County on 13 June (Otto).

Pied-billed Grebe—Reported from a record high 59 counties statewide upping last summer’s record of 56. The high count came from Rush Lake in Winnebago County where 123 birds (56 adult/67 young) were noted on 16 June (Ziebell). Confirmed breeding took place in 35 counties with dates spread through the entire period including first county records for Adams County (22 July, Szymczak) and Rusk County (18 July, Del Valle).

Horned Grebe—Thomas Wood found an adult in full breeding plumage on 5 June at the Manitowoc impoundment. Charles Sontag also reported this bird swimming with redheads and scaup at the mouth of the Little Manitowoc River on 19 June and once more in the same location on 21 June.

Red-necked Grebe—Observed in six counties and confirmed breeding in Burnett County

and Columbia County. A pair was noted nest-building at Crex Meadows in Burnett County on 6 June (Glover). Eight additional observers reported one to three birds (no breeding codes noted) at this location throughout June and July. Sixteen observers noted this species at Schoeneberg Marsh in Columbia County with a maximum of five birds (two adults with three young at nest) on 19 June (Evanson). Tom Ziebell counted eight adults and ten young during his annual survey at Rush Lake in Winnebago County on June 16. All other reports are of single birds at various locations and short duration: One was observed by a group of about 20 birders at Uihlein Marsh in Winnebago County on 4 June. Another was reported from Douglas County on 4 June (J. Kraemer, L. Kraemer). Another on 4 July (T. Schultz) and 5 July (Roti Roti) on Lake Maria in Green Lake County. Sue Ascher found an adult bird in breeding plumage at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County on 16 July and the bird was enjoyed by six others that day.

Eared Grebe—A single adult was observed in a pothole in Polk County on 2 June (Olson). This species is considered a later spring migrant for waterfowl, sometimes lingering into June. Summer season reports have been filed in only three of the previous ten years with the last report from June of 2014.

Rock Pigeon—Reported from 70 counties with confirmed breeding in 47. The leading atlas code category (55+%) for the summer period breeding confirmations was ON (On Nest). The high count of 350+ came from the same location as last summer, the grain elevators at Superior in Douglas County on 26 June (Svingen).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Present through the season with reports from twenty counties mostly across the southern third of the state and extending north and west along the Mississippi River corridor. There were reports of individual birds as far north as Rusk County (Schaefer, Stutz, Szymczak) and Barron County (Berg, B. Collins). Confirmed breeding in three counties: Grant County with a bird gathering nesting material on 18 June (Holschbach) and birds on nest on 1 July (Ouren), Green County where juveniles were seen begging from adults on 18 June (Yoerger), and at Wrightstown in Outagamie County where the high count of nine adults and young was reported the first week in July (anonymous

eBirder). These were the first atlas confirmations for both Grant County and Green County.

White-winged Dove[†]—Individual birds were reported from backyards in Onalaska in LaCrosse County on 1 June (Stratton) and Oshkosh in Winnebago County on 7 June (Schumann). This marks the seventh consecutive summer season for this species, and the third summer in a row with more than a single county report. [† Both sightings were reviewed and approved by the eBird team. No documentation submitted to WSORC.]

Mourning Dove—Reported from all 72 counties with breeding confirmation from 67. A conservative count of 200 doves in Dunn County on 21 July was the highest number reported (Rucker-Keegan).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Reported from 60 counties across all regions of the state. The Milwaukee County Parks Natural Areas Staff reported a high count of five birds in Milwaukee County on 14 June. Kelly McKay found that same number in Grant County on 15 June. Breeding confirmed in sixteen counties including the initial atlas records for Fond du Lac (28 July, Baughman), Marinette (23 June, Wenzel), Outagamie (15 June, Mosquito Hill Nature Center), Polk (11 July, Maercklein), and Wood (19 July, Reed). The main breeding code (70+%) for the confirmation of this species this summer was CF (carrying food).

Black-billed Cuckoo—Reported from 69 counties, which matches last summer season's record high. The maximum count of five birds came on 9 June in Marathon County (Beam). Breeding was confirmed in twenty-four counties including the first atlas confirmation for Kewaunee County (2 July, Prestby). The main breeding code for the confirmation of this cuckoo species was also CF (carrying food).

Common Nighthawk—Present throughout the period and reported from 41 counties which is up slightly from 2016 (37) but still down considerably from the record high 48 counties noted in the 2015 summer season. This species is a late spring migrant and the high count for the season was 75+ birds seen heading north in Burnett County on 1 June (Saur). The largest number seen outside these late migrants in early June was a dozen birds flying over a clear-cut in Vilas

County on 10 July (Spahn). This species presents a challenge to confirm as breeding as evidenced by only four county confirmations this summer. Breeding was confirmed at two locations in Adams County (9 June and 10 July) by Ashley Hannah, both being a nest with eggs (code NE). The Washburn Ranger District provided confirmation of a nest with eggs in Bayfield County on 22 June. A third confirmation came from Crawford County on 10 July where Dennis Kirschbaum observed juveniles following adult birds while feeding in flight. Another breeding confirmation was in Milwaukee County on 1 July where two nestlings were found by a roofing contractor (per Scott Diehl).

Chuck-will's-widow[†]—For the sixth consecutive year this goatsucker species spent part of the summer in the Kettle Moraine on both sides of the county line between Jefferson and Walworth counties along Young Road. The bird was present at the beginning of the period having arrived during mid-May. Nine birders filed an eBird report during June with the last report of the season on June 26 (Lally, Mendenhall). The time that the bird generally started calling (noted by several observers) was near 20:45. [† Documentation submitted by Wood and approved by WSORC. Other reports had eBird review only.]

Eastern Whip-poor-will—Reported from 46 counties. The only estimates of fifteen or more birds calling came from Douglas County in early June (Anich, Nicoletti). Breeding was confirmed in only two counties: Grant County on 5 June where a nest with two eggs was found after flushing an adult in a restored burr oak savanna (Coglan), and Waushara County on 30 June where a total of four birds (including young) was noted by Tom Schultz.

Chimney Swift—Reported from 70 counties with confirmed breeding in 34. The highest percentage of the breeding confirmations for this species were coded as ON (Occupied Nest) as birds were observed entering or leaving their chimney nest sites. The highest number of swifts reported was an estimated 230 birds entering a chimney in Madison, Dane County, on 11 July (Zenker).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—Reported from all 72 counties with a high count of 52 birds on 24 June during banding operations in Washburn County (Bridge). There were 100+ confir-

mations of breeding across 37 counties with the leading code (40+%) being ON (On Nest).

Buff-bellied Hummingbird[†]—The most exciting and perhaps unexpected sighting of the summer was the appearance of this species at the backyard feeder of Jeff Rusinow in Ozaukee County in late morning of 17 June. Jeff observed and photographed the bird during two feeder visits in the morning, and then it appeared briefly again for the last time in the early afternoon (Rusinow, Grossmeyer). [† Documentation submitted by Rusinow and Grossmeyer and accepted by WSORC.]

This is the first state record and newest addition to the Wisconsin checklist. This species breeds near the coast of the Gulf of Mexico from southern Texas to Mexico and disperses to the northeast along the Texas and Louisiana coast. There are no other eBird records from the Midwest with the most northerly records prior to this from Arkansas (fall/winter 1992–1993) and North Carolina (fall/winter 2015–2016).

Yellow Rail[†]—The only report for this secretive species was of a single bird heard calling in the Oconto Marsh very late in the evening on 2 June by Bill and James Buckingham. This is a more typical expectation following the unusually high level of reporting from three counties last summer. [† Reviewed and approved by the eBird team. No documentation submitted to WSORC.]

King Rail[†]—There was a highly cooperative pair that arrived during May and made a showing close to the auto trail at Horicon NWR in Dodge County. That was a new species confirmation for Wisconsin atlas work, since breeding was not confirmed during WBB1. Reports of a single bird continued at this location into June. An adult was observed carrying food to five chicks and photographed there on 4 July (Pitula). Jeff Bahls heard one while doing a marsh bird survey in the Mud Lake area of southern Dodge County on 14 June. [† Bahls and Pitula submitted reports that were accepted by WSORC.]

Virginia Rail—Reported from 48 counties matching the record high from the previous summer. This rail species was confirmed as breeding in fifteen mostly centrally located counties, predominantly by the FL (fledged) code, but with a few by carrying food (CF) or feeding young (FY). This included the first atlas confirmations for Ashland County (24 July, Nicoletti), Jackson

County (14 July, Hoffman), and Sheboygan County (1 July, A. Raddatz, J. Raddatz). The maximum count of nine birds (two sets of adults with young) was reported on 5 July from Dodge County at the Horicon NWR (Howski).

Sora—Present throughout the period and reported statewide from 53 counties with Sauk County the only one from the southwest region. Breeding behavior was confirmed in fifteen counties, mostly by FL (fledged) code as might be expected for rails in general. The high count of eight birds came from the Dodge County portion of the Horicon NWR on 7 June (G. Tucker, V. Tucker).

Common Gallinule—Birds were reported from a record high number of seventeen counties. The most northerly report was of two birds in Polk County on 5 July (Berg). This more secretive marsh dweller was confirmed as breeding in eight counties, none outside the summer range expected from Robbins (1991). A max high of eighteen (14 adult/4 young) was reported from Rush Lake in Winnebago County on 16 June (Ziebell).

American Coot—Reports came in from thirty-two counties statewide except for no reports from the southwest region of seven counties. Breeding was confirmed in fourteen counties as far north as Chippewa County and Oconto County, including the first atlas record for Rock County (24 June, Haycraft). Tom Ziebell counted 185 adults and 123 young at Rush Lake in Winnebago County on June 16.

Sandhill Crane—Reported from 71 counties with 68 providing confirmed breeding this summer. The high count was at Crex Meadows SWA in Burnett County with an estimated 150+ birds on 15 June (Gyllenhaal, Rice).

Whooping Crane—Reports were filed by 64 observers from a combined total of only six counties as compared to sixteen counties in 2016 and nine in 2015. The majority of the reports were from Necedah NWR (Juneau County) or Horicon NWR (Dodge County and Fond du Lac County). Additional reports were submitted from Adams County, Dane County and Marathon County. The maximum number noted was twelve at Necedah NWR in Juneau County on 14 July (Richter). The Whooping Crane Eastern Part-

nership reported at least 85 cranes confirmed in Wisconsin as of 1 August.

Black-necked Stilt—The Horicon NWR was again the hotspot for this species with over 100 birders reporting them at that location throughout the period. The number of stilts reported from the marsh peaked at 30 to 35 birds on 27 July (Tessen). Stilts were also reported from several locations outside their expected stronghold at Horicon. Two adults with three juveniles (presumed to be a family that had nested at Horicon) were reported in the Oakfield Water Production Area a few miles north in Fond du Lac County on 18 July (Baughman). Breeding was confirmed at another location in Dodge County two miles southeast of Reeseville on 22 June (Bahls). Three individuals landed briefly at Marquette Park in Kewaunee County on the morning of 11 June before taking flight again (Sinkula). Two birds were seen at Cat Island in Brown County on 17 June (J. Trick).

American Avocet—Reported from six counties this season. An individual bird on 1 June at the lakefront in Manitowoc County is considered a spring migrant (Sontag, R. Anderson, Palines). The late June departure range for state records is between 10 June and 30 June. Three sightings fell into this range: An individual bird in Dunn County on 13 June (P. Campbell), another individual in Jefferson County on 16 June (Stutz, Schneider), and two birds in Kewaunee County on 22 June (Zenner). July birds are considered early southbound fall migrants. These include an adult in full breeding plumage in Brown County on 5 July (Prestby), a single bird in Jefferson County on 11 July (Boyle), one in Chippewa County on 12 July (Polk), and another in Manitowoc County on 19 July (Gray, K. Kavanagh, Maertz, Rohrer, Sontag).

Black-bellied Plover—Late spring migrants were reported between 1 June and 9 June from Horicon NWR in Dodge County (Tessen), Cat Island in Brown County (Prestby, Swelstad), Marquette Park in Kewaunee County (Schwedler, Sinkula, Zenner), the lakefront in Manitowoc County (Sontag), and at Seagull Bar SNA in Marinette County (J. Campbell, Thonne). In late June/early July a mix of five to six birds in both adult and basic plumage arrived at Cat Island in Brown County (Prestby). Individual birds in basic or transition plumage were noted near the end

of the season in Brown County (Watson, J. Trick) and Dodge County (Brasser, Wood).

American Golden Plover—The only report this season was an early southbound fall migrant on 31 July at Horicon NWR in Dodge County (Hoyland).

Semipalmated Plover—Daryl Tessen found 35 late northbound birds in Dodge County on 1 June. Birds still considered spring migrants through 22 June were noted in fifteen counties. Four birds noted at Cat Island in Brown County on 25 June (Prestby) fall in the category of late June spring departure records. There were no reports after 25 June until 16 July when the fall migration officially kicked off with four birds noted in Dodge County (Bahls). Southbound migrants were noted in twelve counties through the end of the period.

Piping Plover—The state list classifies piping plovers as a species of greatest conservation need with endangered status. Observers submitted reports from four counties with confirmed nesting in two. A bird present in Manitowoc County on 20–21 June was believed to be the same individual noted there in May due to leg band pattern (Sontag). A banding trip to Long Island in Ashland County on 5 July yielded three pairs of adults and nine chicks (Matteson). The species also bred successfully at Cat Island in Brown County again this summer with fledged young noted on 18 July (E. Giese). Two juveniles were found at North Beach in Racine County on 30 July (Goldberg, Wenzel).

Killdeer—Reported from every county except Menominee County where the last summer report goes back to 2009. Confirmed breeding was noted in 69 counties. The overwhelming code used for confirmed breeding was FL (fledged) at 60+%. However, as you might expect for this species, another highly used code was DD (distraction display) at 30% of the confirmations.

Upland Sandpiper—This state-threatened species was reported in eighteen counties scattered across all regions. The high count of a dozen came from the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County on 25 June (D. Sehloff, K. Sehloff). Confirmed breeding was noted in the north in Bayfield County (Anich, Frank) and Douglas County (Hoeg, Nicoletti), and in the

south in Lafayette County (Dadisman) and Rock County (Cullum, Wagner).

Whimbrel—In previous summer seasons the bird has most often been seen as a northbound migrant in early June. That was the case again this year with the only two observations both occurring on 1 June. Ryan Brady found one feeding in a short grass field in Bayfield County. Rick Anderson saw three birds flying northbound over Lake Michigan in Manitowoc County.

Hudsonian Godwit—Three birds in breeding plumage were noted at Cat Island in Brown County on 2 June (Swelstad). A late-departing individual bird in breeding plumage continued at this location between 25 June through 1 July (Prestby). Two late July observations join only a half dozen other previous July early fall arrival records. Two birds in basic plumage were found at Horicon NWR in Dodge County on 26 July (Wood). On that same late July date, five birds were found a few miles south of Pickett in Fond du Lac County (Malcolm, T. Ward).

Ruddy Turnstone—June northbound migrants were noted in five counties with a high count of eighteen birds in Brown County on 1 June (Seeger). The first southbound bird was noted on 18 July in Brown County (Prestby) with additional fall migrants found in Door County (19 July, Walsh), Sheboygan County (19 July, Kress), Kenosha County (22 July, Lally), and Manitowoc County (28 July, Sontag).

Red Knot—An adult in breeding plumage showed up at Cat Island in Brown County on 27 July (Prestby). This increasingly uncommon migrant is sometimes noted as northbound in early June or southbound in late July of the summer period. The species was noted in only three of the previous ten summer seasons (2014, 2009 and 2007).

Stilt Sandpiper—Late spring migrants lingered at Horicon NWR in Dodge County on 1 June (Younger, Tessen) and at the Mead SWA in Marathon County on 4 June (Hurlburt). The first fall migrant was reported from Horicon NWR in Dodge County on 3 July (Nicolaisen, Gray). Seven additional counties reported early fall movement south with a high count of 50 birds in Dodge County on 27 July (Tessen).

Sanderling—Reported from ten counties during the summer period. June northbound migrants found in six counties with a maximum of fifty birds in Marinette County on 1 June (J. Campbell, Thonn) and the last spring departure date noted in Manitowoc County with twenty-two birds on 17 June (Northeast Wisconsin Bird Club). A 4 July report of two birds in Oconto County (Stojak) matches the date for the only other early July fall arrival record (1983, Sontag). Fall migrants were reported from five counties by the end of the period with a high count of 35 in Brown County on 27 July (Prestby).

Dunlin—Reported from twelve counties with lingering spring migrants through 22 June and a high count of 120 birds in Dodge County on 1 June (Tessen). An assumed summer wanderer in alternate plumage appeared on 30 June in Manitowoc County (Sontag), the ninth record for the “late departure/summer wanderer period”. Sontag reported the “same bird in the same place” between 1–3 July, 11–12 July and 17 July. A fall migrant in adult plumage appeared at Cat Island in Brown County near the end of the period on 27 July (Prestby).

Baird’s Sandpiper—Reported from six counties in the southeast quadrant of the state. Birds still moving north to their arctic breeding grounds were noted between 1–4 June in four of these six counties with a high of seven in Sheboygan County on 1 July (Frank). The two adults seen in Brown County on 20 July (Prestby) marked the beginning of fall arrivals heading south for their winter grounds. Four of the six counties reported fall migrants in July.

Least Sandpiper—Present at BOP in twenty counties. Reported from a total of thirty-one counties for the full summer season, the highest county total over the last decade. Birds still considered spring migrants were noted in six counties through the middle of June with a high count of fifty birds in Dodge County on 1 June (Younger). Sightings were added in two additional counties by the end of June. Apparent fall migration began late June/early July. Birds were reported from thirty counties in July with a high count of 100+ birds in Dodge County on 9 July (Pope, Thiessen). Present at EOP in twenty-four counties as fall movement continued.

White-rumped Sandpiper—Birds moving through fourteen counties in June were

still considered spring migrants with a maximum count of 60 birds in Brown County on 2 June (Prestby). Two birds in breeding plumage continued in Brown County on 4 July (Prestby). A single bird continued to be reported in Manitowoc on 3 July and 9 July (Sontag). There were no additional reports through the end of the season.

Pectoral Sandpiper—Found present in twenty-two counties through the full summer season. Five of these counties had reports of late spring migrants (18 June cut-off date) with the latest being six birds in Dodge County on 17 June (Wiskowski). The single birds noted in Brown County and Manitowoc County between 21–25 June fall into that gray area of late June departures or summer wanderers. The fall migration commenced in July with reports from nineteen counties. High counts in July included 45 birds in Winnebago County on 29 July (Malcolm) and 65 birds in Dodge County on 30 July (Schumacher).

Semipalmated Sandpiper—Reported from a total of twenty-eight counties for the full summer season. Observations through 22 June fall in the range for spring migrants. Twenty-three counties had reports during that period with a maximum of 410 birds in Dodge County on 1 June (Tessen) and 250 birds still in Brown County as late as 9 June (Prestby). Three counties reported birds during the transition period between 23 June and 1 July. This included lingering (summering?) birds in Brown County at greatly reduced numbers less than forty birds, and single birds in Dodge County (McCaw) and Manitowoc County (Domagalski) on 25 June. Early fall arrivals (after 1 July) came from fourteen counties with a high count of 72 reported in Fond du Lac County on 28 July (Baughman).

Short-billed Dowitcher—The first fall arrival was a solo bird that showed up in Manitowoc County on 30 June (Sontag). Fall migrants were noted in twelve counties by the end of the period with 58 birds on 24 July in Dodge County as the high count (Tessen).

Long-billed Dowitcher—A single bird found at Cat Island in Brown County on 6 June (Prestby) joins the short list for June spring departure records. The first fall migrants appeared at Horicon NWR in Dodge County with three birds on 9 July (Pope, Thiessen). Four (Hurlburt)

to eight (Schwarz) birds were also found at that location on 23 July. Prestby provided additional reports from Brown County with a single bird on 21 July and four on 27 July.

Wilson's Snipe—Found statewide in 38 counties in all regions but in only a single county from the southeast region (Ozaukee). Breeding was confirmed in the following three counties: Douglas (9 July, Nicoletti), Iowa (16 July, Ouren), and Vilas (20 June, B. Collins). The Iowa County confirmation was the first atlas record for that county. The high count of seventeen birds was at the Mack SWA in Outagamie County on 15 July (J. Giese).

American Woodcock—The number of counties reporting this summer continues very high due to the continuing statewide atlas effort. The county list jumped to a record high 57 this summer following 47 and 48 reporting counties in summer 2016 and 2015, respectively. This may be related to increased nocturnal visits to atlas blocks which are one of the requirements for completion. Tom Prestby found six birds on 15 June feeding, drinking and bathing in puddles on a sandy road in Dunbar Barrens SNA (Marinette County) while a seventh bird continued "peenting" and displaying. Randy Hoffman also encountered a group of seven birds in a wetland restoration in Douglas County on 9 June. Breeding was confirmed in one to three counties across all nine regions of the state with a statewide total of seventeen counties.

Spotted Sandpiper—Reported across all regions from 64 counties. Breeding was confirmed in twenty-three counties including the first records from either atlas project for Iron County (14 July, Anich) and Juneau County (6 July, Hoffman). The high count for the season was 50 birds in Brown County 14 July (Prestby).

Solitary Sandpiper—Reported from 39 counties during the total summer season. Late spring migrants were noted in Ozaukee County and Door County with the last departure from Toft Point SNA in Door County on 8 June (Noeldner). The first southbound migrant found was (appropriately?) a solitary bird in Taylor County on 22 June (Merkel). The high count for July arrivals was fourteen birds in Winnebago County on 26 July (Malcolm).

Greater Yellowlegs—Reported from twenty counties for the full season, including two county reports for June. A single bird in Dodge County on 15 June (Hahn) still falls into the range of late spring migrant. The bird on 24 June in Marinette County (J. Campbell) may have signaled the start of fall movement although there were no other reports until 2 July at Horicon NWR (Gitre, Maxwell, Kaufmann). Reported from nineteen counties in July with a high count of 42 birds at Horicon NWR in Dodge County on 17 July (Moretti).

Willet—The first bird of the fall showed up at Cat Island in Brown County on 24 June (J. Trick, P. Trick). The last observation for the season was in Manitowoc County on 26 July (Sontag).

Lesser Yellowlegs—The only report deemed a late spring migrant report came from Dodge County with a single bird on 8 June (Watson). Fall migration commenced about ten days later with twenty-eight counties reporting during the period. The high count of 130 birds was at Horicon NWR in Dodge County on 25 July (Stutz).

Wilson's Phalarope—Reported from eight counties with a max count of seven birds at Horicon NWR in Dodge County in late June (T. Schultz). There were numerous reports (30+ observers) from both the Dodge County and Fond du Lac County portions of the refuge spread through the entire season. The other six county reports included one to two birds in Brown County (many observers), one in Chippewa County on 8 June (Polk), one to three birds in Manitowoc County (many observers), a bird with juvenile plumage in Outagamie on 5 July (Tiede), one in Rusk County on 4 June (Schaefer, Szymczak), and one in Winnebago County on 29 July (Malcolm). Breeding was confirmed in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) and Brown County (Prestby) with the latter being the first confirmation there for either atlas.

Red-necked Phalarope—Spring migrants were lingering through the first five days in June with one to three birds noted in both the Dodge County and Fond du Lac County portions of Horicon NWR (many observers), plus a single bird in St. Croix County (Badger). The only other report was the early fall arrival of a female in breeding plumage at Cat Island in Brown County on 9 July (Prestby).

Bonaparte's Gull—Reported from thirteen counties with eight of these in the east central region bordering the waters of Lake Winnebago and Lake Michigan. The highest single count estimated in this region was 1,100 birds in Manitowoc County on 4 June (Sontag).

Little Gull[†]—This species is considered rare but regular along Lake Michigan with reports from twenty-five observers and two counties this season. There was one report of a single bird in Kewaunee County on 21 June (Sinkula). All the remaining reports came from the city of Manitowoc where birds were present at the beginning of the period with the last report on 25 June (Sontag, T. Ward). The high count was of four birds there on a 17 June field trip of the Northeast Wisconsin Bird Club. [† Documentation submitted by Sinkula and Hurlburt and accepted by WSORC.]

Laughing Gull[†]—Reported from three counties along Lake Michigan during the period. Individual birds had first appeared in Sheboygan County and Ozaukee County between 21–23 May. The next reports were not until the summer period on 5 June in Sheboygan County (Brasser) and 14 June in Ozaukee County (Wood). The only other report from Sheboygan County was over a month later on 9 July (Kearns). The bird frequenting Coal Dock Park in Port Washington, Ozaukee County, was last observed on 19 June (B. Baumann, Grossmeyer). Another individual appeared in Manitowoc County during the period of 2–12 June (2 June arrival, Shiraef) and again between 2–13 July (13 July departure, Sontag). The only report of two individuals was on 7 June in Manitowoc County (Hurlburt). [† Documentation is required by WSORC only if report is away from Lake Michigan.]

Franklin's Gull—A single bird was reported at Cat Island in Brown County on 17 June (J. Trick) and was joined by a second bird the next day (Prestby). A single adult/near adult bird was noted in Sheboygan County on 6 June (Wood) and another (same?) bird was seen there between 14 July (Ayyash, Gyllenhaal) and 19 July (Gray, K. Kavanagh, Maertz). Birds were present in Manitowoc County throughout June and into early July with reports from nineteen observers. The peak count there was 14 birds on 3 June (Sontag). The only report away from Lake Michigan was from Lake Altoona in Eau Claire County on 13 June (Polk).

Ring-billed Gull—Present throughout the period across all regions and reported from 52 counties. Peak counts were estimated at 4,000 in Brown County (2 June, Prestby); 8,500 in Manitowoc County (8 July, Sontag), and 5,280 in Sheboygan County (14 July, Ayyash, Gyllenhaal). Observers were able to confirm breeding for the atlas in eight counties, including new atlas records for Outagamie County on 22 July (Hill per O' Connell) and Racine County on 11 July (Goldberg).

California Gull[†]—Amar Ayyash and Ethan Gyllenhaal made this exceptional and rare find at Sheboygan early afternoon on 14 July. It was described as an adult type intermediate in size between herring and ring-billed gulls, with darker gray upper parts (than adjacent ring-billed gulls), dullish gray/green legs and a dark iris. This is only the second summer record for the state following one found in Kenosha County in 10–17 July, 2009. It is the fourth county record following three previous fall records. [† Documentation submitted by Ayyash and accepted by WSORC.]

Herring Gull—Reported from twenty-eight counties with 2,000 birds estimated at Cat Island in Brown County in both June and July (Prestby). Nesting confirmations were made in nine counties.

Iceland Gull—The only report was an individual in Sheboygan County on 5 June (Brasser). Individual birds have been recorded in Manitowoc and/or Sheboygan in five of the previous ten summer seasons.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—Reported from five counties. This species was present at the beginning of the period in Sheboygan County with up to eleven birds reported in May. That same number was still present on 6 June with eight first-cycle, two second-cycle and one third-cycle (Wood). That number swelled to a high of 69 birds on 14 July (Ayyash, Gyllenhaal). The last report of the season from Sheboygan was of an individual on 29 July (Murkowski). These gulls had also arrived in May in Manitowoc County with up to five birds reported. Sightings continued there into the summer with a maximum count of three birds on 3 June (Frank, Sontag) and the last report for the season on 19 July (Gray, K. Kavanagh, Maertz, Rohrer). Single reports of solo birds included a third-cycle bird in Kenosha County (29

July, Lally), Kewaunee County (1 June, Nolan and 8 June, Zenner), and Ozaukee County (14 June, Wood).

Glaucous Gull—All reports were from Sheboygan County with a lingering first-cycle bird on 5–6 June (Brasser, Wood). A more surprising find considering the summer rarity of this species was of two separate individuals there on 14 July (Ayyash, Gyllenhaal). Structure, sharply bi-colored bills, and the extent of white helped them rule out super-bleached herring gulls.

Great Black-backed Gull—An individual was found in Kewaunee County on 1 June (Nolan). Another individual was reported from Manitowoc County sporadically during the summer with the last report on 21 July (Rohrer). Also reported from Sheboygan County with a high count of four birds on 21 July (Herwood) and the last summer report on 24 July (Coulter).

Caspian Tern—Reported from twenty-one counties located mostly along the eastern edge of the state with no reports from any counties in the southwest and west central regions. The annual WDNR and Fish & Wildlife Service survey on Gravel Island (Door County) on 1 June tallied 2,576 adult terns and 1,288 nests, most with 2-egg clutches (Matteson, O' Dell). Breeding was confirmed in five counties including new county atlas records in Winnebago County on 19 July (Malcolm) and Milwaukee County on 24 July (Kellerman), both by fledged young.

Black Tern—This species was present from the beginning to end of the summer season and reported from 40 counties. Daryl Christensen tallied 70 or more terns in three different counties while conducting early June surveys for a black tern monitoring project. Tom Ziebell found 24 adults at Rush Lake in Winnebago County on 16 June. Confirmed breeding in twenty-six counties with a new county atlas record coming from Peshtigo Harbor SWA in Marinette County on 27 June (J. Campbell).

Common Tern—Reported from twelve counties split between the east central and northern regions of the state. The high count was 70 terns at Cat Island in Brown County on 6 June where 48 chicks were banded later in the period (Prestby). In addition to Brown County, nesting was confirmed in Winnebago County where a

bird was observed nest building on 4 June (R. Mueller, Nussbaum).

Arctic Tern[†]—There were two reports of this species with both accepted unanimously by the WSORC. The first report was from Manitowoc County on 2 June where Gloria Shiraef observed a bird for about one hour during the late afternoon. The second report was from Brown County a week later and 40 miles to the northwest where Tom Prestby also observed an individual for about an hour in late afternoon on 9 June. There are ten previous summer records for this species. [† Documentation submitted by Shiraef and Prestby and accepted by WSORC.]

Forster's Tern—Present through the season in sixteen counties. High counts were of 63 birds on 29 June in Brown County (Weber) and 75 birds and eleven nests on Rush Lake in Winnebago County on 16 June (Ziebell). Breeding was confirmed at several locations along Green Bay in Brown County (Prestby, Weber, Howe, Webster), Horicon NWR in Dodge County (Paulios, Bahls, Evanson), Lake Puckaway in Green Lake County (Christensen), the Bark River unit of Paradise Valley SWA in Waukesha County (Dabey), and Terrell Island in Winnebago County (Malcolm).

Red-throated Loon—Two early June reports from Wisconsin Point in Douglas County where birds were still en route to their breeding grounds in coastal and far northern Canada. The first report was an individual bird on 6 June (L. Kraemer, J. Kraemer) followed closely by a report of two birds in breeding plumage on 10 June (Reed).

Common Loon—Reported from 38 counties with breeding confirmed in nineteen northern counties and south to Jackson County (Otto, Hoffman) and Waupaca County (Roark). The high count was sixteen loons (fifteen adults and a chick) on 9 June on the Chippewa Flowage in Sawyer County (Schaefer, Szymczak).

Double-crested Cormorant—This species was seen in 47 counties across all regions. The largest cormorant number estimates were reported from Cat Island in Brown County peaking at 2,000 on 21 July (Prestby) and from Terrell Island in Winnebago County at 1,200+ on 31 July (Knispel). Confirmed breeding reports came from six counties

American White Pelican—Reported from 40 counties across all regions of the state. Seen throughout the period at Cat Island in Brown with Prestby estimating a peak of 3,000 birds in the colony in mid-July. Breeding confirmations came from four counties: Brown (J. Giese, Prestby), Dodge (J. Bartholmai, H. Bartholmai), Door (D. Benson, Walsh), and Winnebago (Malcolm).

American Bittern—Reported from 45 counties across all regions. A count of seven birds was submitted from the Horicon NWR in Dodge County on 7 June (G. Tucker, V. Tucker). Breeding was confirmed in three counties: Dodge (26 July, Malcolm, T. Ward), Douglas (2 July, Nicoletti), and Green Lake (8 June, Christensen) with the latter a new county atlas record.

Least Bittern—Noted in twenty-five counties from all regions except the southwest. Atlas participants confirmed breeding in six counties including the first county atlas record for Waupaca County on 18 July (Christensen). The highest individual count was of six birds seen while canoeing a wetland restoration in Columbia County on 20 July (M. Martin, S. Martin, B. Smith).

Great Blue Heron—Reported from all 72 counties in the state with twenty counties providing confirmed breeding reports. The high count of 40 came from a rookery in Devil's Lake SP in Sauk County on 3 June (Heikinen, Joslyn).

Great Egret—Reported from 38 counties. A report from Burnett County where it is rare that far north in June was of interest (16 June, Gyllenhaal). There were reports of confirmed breeding activity from four counties: Marinette County (9 June and 13 July, Hurst), Walworth County (17 June, Ganfield), Winnebago County (19 July, Malcolm), and Racine County (13 July, N. Collins). The last was a new county confirmation for atlas work. The highest number reported was 190 at Horicon NWR on 2 July (Dasher).

Snowy Egret—Reported from two counties. Robert Domagalski encountered one perched on a dead branch overlooking Point Creek in Manitowoc County on 5 June. Raymie Miller observed one flying over Bay Beach in Brown County on 9 June.

Cattle Egret—The Brothertown area in Calumet County was the most productive area for

seeing these egrets this summer. Three birds were first reported from this area on 12 June (Brasser). The peak count at that location occurred on 30 July when Joel and Patti Trick counted fifteen birds. Egrets were also present across the lake in Winnebago County (Malcolm, T. Ward). Breeding was confirmed in that county with two birds observed on nests on Long Point Island on 16 June (Schwartz). There was also a report of a single bird near Reeseville in Dodge County on 22 June (Bahls).

Green Heron—Reported from all counties with a max of eleven birds at Sensiba SWA in Brown County on 1 June and again on 26 June (J. Giese). Breeding was confirmed in twenty-four counties including the first county atlas record for Ashland County (20 July, Anich).

Black-crowned Night-Heron—Sightings were reported from a new high of twenty-four counties. Ziebell tallied an impressive 700 birds (550 adult/150 young) and 450 nests at Rush Lake in Winnebago County on 16 June. Breeding was confirmed in six counties. There was one report from the western side of the state – a single bird in Trempealeau County on 29 July (Herwood). This is the first summer period eBird record for that county since 1999.

Turkey Vulture—Reported from all 72 counties with a high count of 267 vultures in Grant County on 13 July (McKay). Breeding was confirmed in twelve counties including these six which were first atlas records for that county: Brown (30 July, Houston), Columbia (4 June, Skaar), Douglas (22 June, Nicoletti), Florence (29 June, K. Kavanagh), Grant (14 July, Kirschbaum), and Monroe (27 June, L. Lichter, M. Lichter). Some of the interesting nest sites reported this year included a deer blind, a trailer in the woods, and an old factory building.

Osprey—Ospreys were reported from 63 counties with most of the missing counties located in the southwest and west central parts of the state. Breeding was confirmed in 46 counties including the first atlas record for Buffalo County on 23 June (Reid).

Bald Eagle—Reported from all counties except Racine County. Forty-four counties confirmed breeding activity this summer. Waukesha was the only county of the seven in the southeast

region with a confirmed breeding report (Hahn, Korkor).

Northern Harrier—Reported from 57 counties with no reports exceeding five birds. Breeding was confirmed in twenty counties representing all regions except the southwest. This included the first confirmed atlas record from Rock County at the Evansville SWA on 14 July (Perlberg).

Sharp-shinned Hawk—Reports were received from twenty-eight counties representing three-fourths of the counties in the northern tier, one-third of the counties in the central tier, and no counties in the southern tier. Confirmed breeding was noted in three counties: Douglas (Hoffman, Nicoletti), Jackson (Hoffman), and Oneida (Patterson). No observations exceeded three birds.

Cooper's Hawk—Reported from 64 counties and was well distributed across all regions of the state with no report exceeding five birds. Breeding behavior was confirmed in twenty-seven counties including the first atlas record for Grant County on 27 June (Kirschbaum).

Northern Goshawk—Seven observers reported birds from six counties: Ashland County on 19 June (Brady) and 3 July (Anich), Forest County on 18 June (D. Baumann) and 14 July (Goldberg), Vilas County on 30 June (B. Collins), two in Oneida County on 6 July (B. Collins), three in Price County on 13 July (Patterson), and Lincoln County on 21 July (Brehm).

Red-shouldered Hawk—John Jacobs provided comments on the annual reproduction survey for this species. It appears that this species is stable at low population numbers with the major concerns being low reproduction, relative scarcity of good nesting habitat, frog population trends, and increased competition and depredation from great-horned owls and red-tailed hawks. He stated that during the 1990s it was typical to find 50 to 60 nests per year, whereas the last eight years of the survey (2010–2017) this has dropped to a level of 35 to 45 nests per year. The 2017 survey checked 140 known sites with 71 occupied, and 37 active nests were found. Fifteen of these nests were successful (41%) with a total of 38 young at banding time.

eBird reports for this species remained at a high level of 38 counties following the record high of 40 from last summer. This compares to a pre-atlas average level of twenty-five. About 80% of these reporting counties were split between the central and northern tiers of the state. Breeding was confirmed in five counties with the following dates and observers: Adams (7 June, O' Donnell), Dunn (3 July, Polk), Juneau (6 July, Hoffman), Marinette (24 June, Watson), and Waupaca (11 June/22 July, O' Connell). Four individuals were seen in Waupaca County on 22 July during a club kayaking trip on the upper Chain-O-Lakes (Northeast Wisconsin Bird Club).

Broad-winged Hawk—As in the case for the Red-shouldered Hawk, county reports for this species have also risen significantly with atlas field work. Reports came from 53 counties this summer compared to a more typical pre-atlas average of less than 40. The highest numbers reported were 40 birds in a kettle of late migrants in Ashland County on 4 June (Anich) and twenty-five on the same date in Door County (Bahls). Breeding confirmations came from eighteen counties including new county atlas records for Fond du Lac County (1 July, Baughman), Richland County (20 June, Patterson), and Waupaca County (9 July, Gray).

Red-tailed Hawk—Reported from 71 counties with a high count of fourteen in Sheboygan County on 2 July (Collison). A total of 70+ observers submitted 115 separate confirmed breeding observations for the summer across a cumulative 42 counties.

Eastern Screech-Owl—This species was located in twenty-nine counties, the highest summer season total to date for the first three years of atlas work (versus twelve counties in 2015 and eighteen in 2016). This may be due to increased nocturnal effort as atlas volunteers sought to complete their block requirements. Robbins (1991) classified the status as a rare resident in the north. Reports from this summer outside his resident range map included Ashland County, Bayfield County, and Forest County. Breeding was confirmed in the following five counties, all by the FL (fledged young) code: Brown (2 July, anonymous eBirder), Buffalo (27 June, Kibbe, Goldthwait), Dane (6 June, Hottman), Dodge (24 June, Schrab), Richland (3 June, Richland Atlas Administrator), and Winnebago (9 July, M. Benson).

Great-horned Owl—Reported from 52 counties in all regions of the state. No reports exceeded a count of four birds. Breeding was confirmed in twenty-four counties.

Snowy Owl—There was one report with a photo of a bird observed near Kaukauna in Outagamie County on 29 June (Olivier).

Barred Owl—Reported from 64 counties which matches last season's total. Breeding was confirmed in twenty-two counties including county atlas records for Lincoln County (3 June, Edlund) and Barron County (12 June, Carlsen). Brian McCaffery reported eight owls calling at various stops along Porcupine Road in Bayfield County on 2 June.

Great Gray Owl—The presence of a Great Gray Owl was captured on a stationary wildlife camera on Otter Island in Ashland County on 10 July incidental to a carnivore project in progress there (Burkman). This is the first observation noted for the WSO summer season summary since Bayfield County sightings in the summer of 2007.

Long-eared Owl—Randy Hoffman reported birds calling at four separate locations in Jackson County over the period of 7 June to 14 July. This follows an absence of any reports of this species from last summer. Atlas work to date has confirmed breeding in seven counties over the months of April to July: Dane and Portage counties during WBBA2 and Eau Claire, Marathon, Outagamie, Ozaukee, and Lafayette counties during WBBA1.

Short-eared Owl—The only reports this season were from two locations in Portage County. Rob Pendergast was surprised to find one on the evening of 2 June at the Portage County Business Park, an area where he has noted grasshopper sparrows and meadowlarks previously. The other report was from the traditional Buena Vista Grasslands on 11 July (Wroblewski).

Northern Saw-whet Owl—This diminutive forest owl was reported from eight counties. All reports were by late evening/early morning detection of call notes between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. There were no confirmed breeding reports. Randy Hoffman reported probable breeding in two counties, with singing birds at the same location a week apart (atlas code S7)

in both Douglas County and Jackson County. [*Trivia tidbit: The species name of the saw-whet, acadicus, refers to Acadia (Nova Scotia) where European explorers first discovered this owl.*]

Belted Kingfisher—Reported from 71 counties with a high count of ten birds (2 males, 3 females and 5 juveniles) encountered by boat on the Mississippi River between Wyalusing Beach and Upper Bagley Bottoms in Grant County on 14 July (Kirschbaum). Breeding was confirmed in 45 counties with the primary atlas code of CF, for carrying food.

Red-headed Woodpecker—Reported from 60 counties with statewide distribution including all 47 central and southern counties except for Waupaca County. The high count of seventeen came from the Necedah NWR in Juneau County on 29 June (Martinez). Breeding was confirmed in 38 counties this summer

Red-bellied Woodpecker—Reported in 69 counties. Interesting to note that there are no existing eBird records for this species in June or July in Ashland County. Confirmed breeding was reported in 58 counties including the first summer period atlas confirmation for Price County on 8 July (Parker). The high count for the period was twenty-five in Grant County on 15 June (McKay).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Reported from 60 counties included all twenty-five counties in the three northern regions. There were no reports at all from the southeast. Kelly McKay counted sixteen of this species in Grant County on 29 June. Breeding confirmed in 48 counties including the first atlas record for Green Lake County (15 July, W. Schultz).

Downy Woodpecker—Reported from 71 counties with breeding confirmed in 68 counties. The high count came from Eagle Valley NP in Grant County on 13 July where Kelly McKay counted twenty-two birds.

Hairy Woodpecker—Reported from 71 counties with breeding confirmed in 58 counties. The high count was thirteen birds in Dane County on 23 June (Bailey).

Black-backed Woodpecker—Reported from three northern counties. Randy Hoffman noted bark flaking and then was able to observe a single adult male in the Empire Swamp SNA of Douglas

County on 9 June. Bruce Matasick heard the distinctive call and observed a flyover on 15 June in the Conover area of Vilas County. The final report was of a bird heard by Drew Goldberg by the Pine River the morning of 15 July in Forest County. This species was a confirmed breeder in seven counties during WBBAA1. Through three years of the second atlas the only confirmed breeding report so far came from Vilas County in July of 2015.

Northern Flicker—Reported from all 72 counties with confirmed breeding in 62 counties. Frank Nicoletti reported counts of twenty or more individuals on four dates at different locations in Douglas County in July.

Pileated Woodpecker—Reported from 69 counties with confirmed breeding in twenty-six of them. The high count was eight at Eagle Valley NP in Grant County on 29 June (McKay).

American Kestrel—Reported from 69 counties. Tom Lally visited four nest boxes in the Buena Vista Grasslands of Portage County on 17 June and observed a total of twenty birds (six adults and fourteen nestlings). Breeding was confirmed in 50 counties.

Merlin—At the time of the definitive book on Wisconsin birdlife (Robbins 1991) the merlin was considered a rare summer resident in the north with fragmentary nesting evidence. Wisconsin's first atlas project (1995–2000) found nesting confined to ten northern counties. WBBAA2 results to date continue to indicate a southward expansion of the merlin's breeding range since the initial atlas work. Through the first three years of WBBAA2 this species has been confirmed as nesting in thirty-one counties as far south as Dane County and Milwaukee County.

Thirty-five counties harbored merlin this summer. There were only two reports from the southern third of the state. Confirmed as breeding in sixteen total counties, mostly in the north with a few central and one southern county. These included new atlas breeding records for Burnett County (11 July, Russell), Dane County (5 July, Kreitinger), Polk County (8 July, Stangroom), Washburn County (28 July, Svingen), and Winnebago County (13 June, Welch).

Peregrine Falcon—Reported from twenty-seven counties from combined eBird and Falconwatch (Septon 2017) records for the season.

Breeding was confirmed in twenty-three counties including the first atlas record for Door County. The Door County location is a new nesting site located on the dolomite cliffs at Rock Island State Park. Two females about 17–18 days old were banded there on 7 June. This is believed to be the first successful nesting on the Door peninsula since the 1950's. The 2017 Wisconsin Falconwatch nesting season report concluded that 117 young were produced at 36 nest sites in the state. This infers a conservative estimate of at least 72 adults present statewide just at monitored nest sites.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—Reported from twenty-seven counties during the full two-month season which includes late northbound migrants through mid-June. Seventeen counties that reported individual birds in the period from 1 June to 14 June are outside the expected breeding range and are considered to be cases of late northbound migrants. After 14 June, the only reports came from seven northern counties within the expected breeding range: Bayfield, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Oconto, Oneida, and Vilas. No reports exceeded a total of two birds. There were no reports outside the expected summer range of counties by the end of July to indicate any early fall movement.

Eastern Wood-Pewee—Reported from 71 counties. The high count of thirty-one was reported from Eagle Valley Nature Preserve in Grant County on 13 July (McKay). There were 57 counties with confirmed breeding this summer. The most often used confirmation code (35+%) was CF (carrying food).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—This uncommon summer resident was observed in twenty-two counties overall including a combination of migrant and summer resident reports. The breeding period suggested in the atlas guidelines includes just the last two weeks of June and the first three weeks of July. Outside that period is considered uncertain transition between migration or breeding.

Reports were received through 12 June from five counties outside and ten counties within the expected breeding range. After 12 June there were reports from sixteen northern counties in breeding range. Ryan Brady tallied the high count for the season with sixteen birds while doing atlas work in Bibon Bog in Bayfield County on 6 June. Breeding was confirmed in four coun-

ties: Douglas (Reed, Hoffman, Nicoletti), Iron (Matula), Rusk (Del Valle), and Vilas (B. Collins). An interesting report within the breeding date window but outside expected range was a report of a singing male on 24 June in tamarack/conifer bog habitat in the Deer Creek SWA in Outagamie County (Abel). A report of a single bird in Adams County on 1 July is also unexpected for date and range (Ray). The individual reported from Grant Park in Milwaukee County on 28 July is presumed to be an early fall migrant (Lantz, Matthews).

Acadian Flycatcher—Reported from a new high of 34 counties. The observations were equally distributed from east to west over central and southern regions. The most northern reports came from Barron County (B. Collins) and McMillan Marsh SWA in Marathon County (Belter, Backus). The season high sixteen individuals came from Eagle Valley NP in Grant County on 13 July (McKay). Confirmed breeding in eleven counties including first atlas records for Barron County (31 July, B. Collins), Jackson County (14 July, Hoffman), and Richland County (4 July, Patterson). The Barron County breeding record is the farthest north for either atlas to date.

Alder Flycatcher—Alders were reported from 61 counties with three-quarters of the reports split between northern and centrally located counties. Many of the early June reports from the southern half of the state are likely migrants based on the distribution of counties that confirmed breeding. Confirmed breeding took place in twenty counties with the most southern location at Cedarburg Bog in Ozaukee County where a bird was observed carrying food on 22 July (O'Donnell). Tom Reed provided the first atlas record of confirmed breeding for Wood County on 19 July. The highest number count came from Burnett County on 1 June where James Hoefler tallied fourteen birds in a unit of the Namekagon Barrens SWA.

Willow Flycatcher—Reported from 55 counties. The regional distribution of the Willow is just the reverse of the Alder so in this case we find three-quarters (plus) of the reports split between the centrally located and southern counties. The most northerly report was of an individual bird at the Osaugie Trail in Douglas County between 20–22 June (L. Kraemer, J. Kraemer, Svingen). The high count came from atlas work in Waushara County on 2 June where fourteen birds were noted (Nussbaum). Confirmed breeding took

place in twenty-nine counties with the most northern location at Casey Lake SWA in St. Croix County on 4 July (Persico). The breeding confirmation in Waupaca County was the first atlas record for that county (9 July, Gray).

Alder/Willow Flycatcher—Forty-six counties reported both the alder and willow flycatcher. The only two counties in which both were confirmed breeding this summer were Jackson County (Randy Hoffman) and Waupaca County (Michael Gray).

Least Flycatcher—Reported from 69 counties. The bird becomes more common in summer north of the vegetative tension zone in the mature forests of the northern highlands. Confirmed as breeding in 34 counties with 60+% of these from the three northern regions. These confirmations included the first atlas breeding records for two counties in the south: Green County on 23 June (Dike) and Milwaukee County on 5 June (Milwaukee County Parks Natural Areas Staff). The high count of twenty was estimated during atlas work in a priority block in Jackson County on 7 July (Otto).

Eastern Phoebe—Reported from all counties with confirmed breeding in 68 counties this summer. Kelly McKay reported a combined tally of seventeen birds in Grant County on 15 June. Occupied nest code (ON) was the leading category among all breeding confirmations.

Great-crested Flycatcher—Reported from 71 counties with breeding confirmations in 53. The high count of sixteen birds was noted by Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger while kayaking the Sugar River in Green County on 16 June.

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird[†]—Ben Baldwin came across one of the best sightings of the summer season on his way home from work on 14 June when he noticed two yellow kingbirds on a power line in Bayfield County. Further observation led to identification of one bird as a Western Kingbird and the other one as this rare visitor from the deep south. Documentation included one amazing photograph of the Western Kingbird and an Eastern Kingbird flanking this prize in the center of the same photo. [† This sighting was reviewed and approved by the eBird team only. No documentation was submitted to WSORC.]

This is the third state record and second summer season record for Tropical/Couch's. The first summer record was from Door County (5 June, 2011). The other previous record was from Bayfield County (10 May, 2016) and was identified down to species as Tropical Kingbird. The Tropical and Couch's were considered to be the same species for over 100 years but can be separated by voice and very subtle differences in field marks. The bird did not vocalize and so it remains to be determined if the photos and description provide the detail needed to confirm species.

Western Kingbird[†]—Several were present in the northwest part of the state on 31 May with two birds reported in Ashland County and another in Bayfield County on that day. There were two reports from that same area of the state in early to mid-June. Frank Nicoletti found one bird in Douglas County on 1 June. The second sighting came from Ben Baldwin on 14 June near the northern tip of Bayfield County on the same date and at the same location where he found the season's Tropical/Couch's Kingbird. [† Both sightings were reviewed and approved by the eBird team only. No documentation was submitted to WSORC.]

Eastern Kingbird—Reported from all 71 counties. Confirmed breeding in 68 counties. The high count of twenty-five was provided from Langlade County on 29 June (Weber).

Loggerhead Shrike—The "summer shrike" was reported from three counties spaced from north to south in the western part of the state. An individual was found in Douglas County in the northwest section of the state on June 16 (Richardson, Matteson, S. LaValley) and subsequently seen by others that day (Svingen, R. Johnson, Nicoletti). There were no additional reports of this bird. Reports also came from the west central region of the state in Dunn County on 4 June at the same location where a shrike had been seen earlier in April. On 9 June two adult birds were seen carrying food to a small, bushy tree to provide the first atlas confirmation for Dunn County (J. Campbell). The final reports came from Iowa County where Aaron Haycraft noted two birds on 3 June while following up to a previous observation from May. He observed a pair carrying food into their nesting place to confirm breeding on 15 June. Another shrike was found and observed by a group of sixteen during a Nat-

ural Resources Foundation field trip to the Barnveld Prairie SNA in Iowa County on 7 June.

White-eyed Vireo—An excellent summer season for this species with June reports from seven counties. No reports from July. Jeff Baughman reported a bird singing from a dense shrubby tangle behind the Ice Age Visitor Center in the northern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest in Fond du Lac County on 1 June. On that same day in Iowa County, Randy Hoffman relocated a singing male that had been reported two weeks previously by John Kivikoski. On 2 June, Tom Wood heard an atypical call and was eventually able to get a good look at a bird in Wyalusing SP in Grant County. Following closely on 3 June was a report of one singing along the Ice Age Trail in Jefferson County and detected by Karl Poetzl while running in the Kettle 100-mile race. A bird was seen and heard in that same general area on 18 June (Schaefer, Szymczak). On 6 June William Mueller heard an adult male singing in Ozaukee County and surmised that it may have been a lingering spring bird that overshoot its breeding grounds. On 9 June Poetzl heard and saw another bird at Big Hill Park in Rock County. Aaron Haycraft observed a pair of birds at that same location on 14 June. A single bird was seen and heard there again on 20 June (Erdman) with the last report of a heard-only bird on 21 June (Klubertanz). The final report came from Milwaukee County on 15 June when a bird was seen and heard singing in a small thicket by the Menomonee River at Jacobus Park (Milwaukee County Parks Natural Areas Staff).

Bell's Vireo—Reported from twelve counties with the only confirmed breeding report in Sauk County on 15 July (Haycraft). Ten of these counties fall in the expected summer range of the southwest part of the state. Farther north than typical were reports from Dunn County where single birds were reported as late as mid-June (16 June, P. Campbell) and into early July (4 July, Rucker-Keegan). Two birds had also been found singing in appropriate habitat in Dunn County in early June (4 June, Polk). Also unexpected was a bird found singing at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve in Ozaukee County on 15 June (W. Mueller) with additional reports at that location on 19 June (B. Baumann, Grossmeyer) and 23 June (Sommer).

Yellow-throated Vireo—This vireo species was found in 71 counties. Breeding was con-

firmed in twenty-eight counties from all regions including atlas county records for Brown County (4 July, Prestby), Price County (30 July, T. Miller), Richland County (15 July, Patterson), and Sawyer County (25 June, Nicoletti). The high count of twenty-two birds was reported from Grant County on 15 June (McKay).

Blue-headed Vireo—There were 32 reporting counties with well over half (65%) of the counties from the northern regions of the state. The high count of seven birds came from Price County on 13 June (Parker). Birds were noted in late June in two southern counties: Waukesha County (20 June, Mertins) and Sauk County (26 June, Barzen). It may be expected at this late date in Waukesha County where breeding has been confirmed in the Kettle Moraine Forest in both atlases. Unexpected in Sauk County in late June as this species has not been confirmed as breeding there during any atlas work to date. Breeding was confirmed in eight counties, all in the far north except for Jackson County where Randy Hoffman found a female feeding a juvenile on 10 July. Breeding was also confirmed in Jackson County during the first atlas project.

Philadelphia Vireo—Typically recorded only during the first week of June and that was the case again this season. There was one report of a late spring migrant on 1 June at the Mission Lake Road Bog in Marathon County (Hurlburt). This species was confirmed as breeding in only Pierce and Bayfield counties during WBBA1 and none to date for the first three years of WBBA2.

Warbling Vireo—Reported from all counties with breeding confirmed in 46 counties from all regions of the state. The major atlas codes (75+% combined) used to confirm breeding for this species were about equally split between ON (occupied nest), CF (carrying food), and FL (fledged young). The high number reported was twenty-five birds in Grant County on 15 June (McKay).

Red-eyed Vireo—Reported from 71 counties. Counts of forty or more birds were submitted for 17 June in Marinette County (Haas) and 22 June in Menominee County (Prestby). Breeding confirmed in 59 counties.

Gray Jay—Reported from six northern counties which is typical for the first three years of atlas activity. Confirmed as breeding in four counties.

All reported birds follow. Brian Collins located this species in three separate counties while conducting point counts for the atlas: two birds in Iron County on 13 June, a single bird in Oneida County on 25 June, and at three separate counts in Vilas County in late June/early July, with breeding confirmed at one of these in Vilas County. Ryan Brady reported Jays on 6 June and again on 11 July at Bibon Bog in Bayfield County, and Tyler Forks Muskeg in Iron County on 14 July with confirmed breeding for both. Breeding was confirmed by the observation of a family group in Forest County on 15 June (Baughman, T. Schultz, W. Schultz). Additional sightings included a bird in Sawyer County on 19 June (Del Valle), two birds in Forest County on 22 July (Milender), and two birds in Vilas County on 2 June (Besadny) and 10 July (Spahn).

Blue Jay—Reported from all counties with breeding confirmed in 67 of them. There were no reports of any late migrant groups moving north in early June. Sally Grames observed a Blue Jay attacking a Red-eyed Vireo nest in Douglas County on 22 June. Laura Coglean observed the tables turned on 29 June in Grant County where she observed a Blue Jay being harassed by a combination of gnatcatchers and vireos.

American Crow—Reported from all 72 counties with no reports exceeding eighty birds. Sixty-seven counties confirmed breeding.

Common Raven—Reported from a total of 44 counties including all twenty-five counties from the northern region. Found in northern Sauk County which is south of the expected summer resident range, but in the same area where breeding was confirmed this past May (Haycraft). No more than fifteen birds noted on any summer reports. Twenty-nine counties confirmed breeding with fledglings coded throughout the entire summer season.

Horned Lark—Reported from 55 counties surpassing the previous record high of 51 from last season. There were confirmed breeding reports from thirty-one counties including atlas records from Burnett County on 5 June (Hoefler) and Oconto County on 29 June (J. Smith, K. Smith). The Burnett County confirmation appears to be the farthest north for the summer period in either atlas to date.

Purple Martin—This species is listed as one of special concern and greatest conservation need. The number of counties reporting martins was 53 which matches the previous summer. Breeding was confirmed in 40 counties including a new atlas record in Eau Claire County (19 July, Geraghty) and a first summer season record for Vernon County (5 June, Damro). As one might expect with colony nesters, over half the confirmations for this species were coded ON (occupied nest). The high count of 298 martins was in Columbia County on 14 July where a banding operation led by Dick Nikolai banded 190 young from 46 nests. Another high total came from Marquette County where the martin colony landlord counted 76 adults and 181 chicks on 38 nests (10 July, per Christensen).

Tree Swallow—Reported from all 72 counties. The highest numbers for the season were estimated at 500+ birds at Zeloski Marsh in Jefferson County on 7 July (Scherer, Volenec, Stafford) and Horicon Marsh in Dodge County on 30 July (Carolyn G., John G.). Confirmed breeding in 70 counties. Trail box monitors for the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin reported 10,845 Swallow fledglings. This was about twenty-eight percent of the total birds of all species that fledged from the trail boxes.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Reported from 70 counties and confirmed breeding in 46. The only report exceeding a count of 40 birds was of 104 at Eagle Valley NP in Grant County on 13 July (McKay).

Bank Swallow—Reported from 66 counties. Several July counts of post-breeding flocks of adults and juveniles taken at the Cat Island site in Brown County were estimated at 1,200 to 1,800 birds (Prestby). Confirmed breeding in 39 counties.

Cliff Swallow—Reported from 71 counties. The largest estimate was of 300 birds at the UWGB Arboretum in Brown County on 6 July (J. Giese). Confirmed breeding in 65 counties.

Barn Swallow—Reported from 72 counties with confirmed breeding in 69. The largest estimate was of 200 birds at Horicon NWR in Dodge County on 27 July (Mertins).

Black-capped Chickadee—Reported in 71 and confirmed breeding in 70 counties. The

Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin trail box monitors reported 815 chickadee fledglings this season (Sample). This was about two percent of total birds of all species that fledged from the boxes.

Boreal Chickadee—The “brown-capped” chickadee was reported from only one county whereas two or three counties is more typical in summer. Ryan Brady found two adults feeding a young bird at Tyler Forks Muskeg in Iron County on 14 July. This was in a lowland bog with scattered black spruce and tamarack. This is the first breeding confirmation for Iron County for either atlas project and only the second confirmation for WBBA2 to date.

Tufted Titmouse—Reported from 42 counties which matches last summer. This season there was confirmed breeding in twenty-four counties including first atlas records for Buffalo County (27 June, Goldthwait, Kibbe), Dodge County (14 June, J. Bartholmai, H. Bartholmai), Juneau County (2 July, Haycraft), and Waushara County (8 July, R. Anderson). The high count was of a dozen birds at Eagle Valley NP in Grant County on 29 June (McKay).

Confirmed breeding has now expanded to 37 counties during WBBA2 as compared to only 21 counties in the first atlas project. The only county confirmed in WBBA1 which has not been confirmed to date for WBBA2 is Racine County.

Great Tit—This introduced species was noted in two counties. There were two observations in Ozaukee County with confirmed breeding behavior on 23 June at Harrington Beach SP (Sommer). Also reported from their usual haunts around Indian Mound Park in Sheboygan with a maximum of four birds on 25 June (Lubbers). This species is NOT included on the most current AOU North America or official Wisconsin state lists.

Red-breasted Nuthatch—Reported from 61 counties statewide but birds are more numerous as move north. Frank Nicoletti had twenty birds in Douglas County on 9 July. Breeding confirmed in 38 counties including the first atlas confirmation in Kenosha County (30 July, Vass). This is the most southerly record for any WBBA2 atlas work to date. The first atlas had confirmed this species breeding as far south as Waukesha County.

White-breasted Nuthatch—Reported from all counties and confirmed breeding in 64. No report exceeded fifteen birds.

Brown Creeper—Reported from a new record of 43 counties statewide representing about three-fourths of northern counties and half of the central and southern counties. No reports exceeded six birds. Nineteen counties were confirmed as having breeding birds including the first atlas records for Iron County (14 July, Anich), Juneau County (6 July, Hoffman), Milwaukee County (14 June, Milwaukee County Parks Natural Areas Staff), Ozaukee County (5 July, O' Donnell), and Washburn County (21 July, Berg).

There still have been no confirmations to date for WBBA2 in the bottomland forests along the Mississippi Wisconsin River corridors in the west and southwest parts of the state where it had been confirmed during the first atlas project. It remains to be seen if this is related to lack of field effort to date - possibly a lack of access due to water levels?

House Wren—Reported from all counties and confirmed breeding in 69. The Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin reported 4,037 wren fledglings which was about ten percent of the total birds of all species that fledged in bluebird boxes this season (Sample).

Winter Wren—Observed in 43 counties with a high count of a dozen Wrens at the Upper Kaubashine Creek SNA in Price Oneida County on 8 July (Keyel, Prestby). Breeding was confirmed in eighteen counties including first atlas records for Jackson County (Morrison Creek SNA, 10 July, Hoffman) and Outagamie County (Hortonville Bog, 15 July, Abel).

Sedge Wren—Reports were submitted from all 72 counties. Breeding was confirmed in thirty counties. Twenty-six birds were counted at Crex Meadows SWA in Burnett County on 17 June (Gyllenhaal, Rice) and the same number on 3 July in the floodplain grassland along Knapp Creek in Richland County (Patterson).

Marsh Wren—Reports were submitted for 61 counties distributed across all regions. Breeding was confirmed in twenty-one of these counties including a first atlas record for Ashland County where brood patches (atlas code PE) were noted on some birds that were banded in

Prentice Park on 24 July (Nicoletti). An adult Marsh Wren was also seen carrying food during the banding operations. Tom Ziebell estimated a total of 1,750 during his eight-hour survey of Rush Lake in Winnebago County on 16 June.

Carolina Wren—Reported from sixteen counties with a surprising far north find of one heard singing and then observed in Barron County on 30 July (Prestby). The only breeding confirmation was a first atlas record for Waukesha County on 2 June where Anne Moretti observed a pair feeding young in a nest built in a beached pontoon boat. The high count came from Eagle Valley Nature Preserve in Grant County where seven birds were reported on 29 June (McKay). There was no breakdown as to adults/young but this matches the existing eBird record of seven from Wyalusing SP in Grant County in 1992 (26 July, K. Kavanagh).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Reports came from 56 counties including close to half of the northern counties. The high individual count was seventeen birds at Eagle Valley NP in Grant County on separate counts on both 15 June and 13 July (McKay). Forty counties confirmed breeding including six counties in the three northern regions of the state. This included an observation of nest building in Burnett County on 5 June which is the most northern confirmed breeding location to date for WBBA2 (Schaefer, Szymczak).

Golden-crowned Kinglet—In general last summer (2016) this species was noted within its expected summer resident range in the north as far south as Marathon County. In the first year of the atlas (2015) they were confirmed as breeding all the way south to Racine County and Waukesha County.

This year they were found in twenty-one counties. Seventeen of those counties were located in their more expected breeding range to the north with confirmed breeding in fifteen of them. This included an atlas first for Menominee County (14 July, Prestby). This summer season these Kinglets were also found and confirmed as breeding in four counties in the central and southern regions of the state with all of these being new atlas records for those counties. In the southeast the record came from a thick spruce plantation in Washington County (20 June, O' Donnell, Reinartz). Over in the west central part of the state a confirmation came from Jackson County (21 June, Hoffman). In the east central part of

the state, the new county records came from Outagamie County (24 July, Abel) and Fond du Lac County (25 July, Frank). Ted Keyel and Tom Prestby reported “unbelievable density” from their extensive walk around Upper Kaubashine Creek SNA in Oneida County on 8 July. They noted at least ten family groups and a total estimate of 60 birds!

Ruby-crowned Kinglet—Reported throughout the season from ten northern counties within normal summer resident range. A mid-summer bird heard singing and seen in Dane County on 25 June is unexpected for that date and location (Krerowicz). There were no breeding confirmations this summer, but they were coded as probable in Ashland (Anich), Bayfield (Anich, Moldenhauer), and Vilas County (B. Collins, Parker). No reports exceeded a count of three birds.

Eastern Bluebird—Present and confirmed breeding in all counties except Pepin County where coverage was extremely low (reports from only nine observers and ten different dates).

Steve Sample of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW) reports 23,266 bluebirds fledged which is 60% of the total fledglings for all species that used the trail boxes. The balance of the fledglings was composed of tree swallows, house wrens, and black-capped chickadees.

Veery—Reports were submitted from 66 counties statewide with the bird ranging from common in the north to uncommon and more local in the south. The high count was twenty at the Coulee Experimental State Forest in LaCrosse County on 1 June (Calveti). The total number of counties confirming breeding was 33 including the first county atlas record for Shawano County (Navarino SWA, 1 July, Szymczak).

Swainson’s Thrush—There were reports of single late migrants during the first few days of June in Manitowoc and Milwaukee Counties. All other reports were from these five counties within the expected breeding range in the north (no breeding confirmations): Bayfield, Douglas, Iron, Marinette, and Vilas. The high count came from Rock Lake SNA in Bayfield County where Brian McCaffery found three singing males on adjacent territories on 11 July.

Hermit Thrush—Reported from 32 counties including most of the counties in the north and one-third of the central counties south to Juneau, Jackson, and LaCrosse County. Confirmed breeding took place in thirteen counties, mostly in the north but south to Jackson County (Hoffman). The high count in the central locations was eight birds in Jackson County on a 15 June breeding bird survey (Mehls). The high count from the north was twenty-two in Oneida County on 3 July (B. Collins).

Wood Thrush—Reported from all counties except Pepin County where there was very limited coverage. Twenty-three counties confirmed breeding including Rusk County for the first time in either atlas (27 July, Del Valle). The high count came from Eagle Valley NP in Grant County on 13 July with eighteen birds reported (McKay).

American Robin—Reported from all 72 counties with a breeding confirmation only lacking from Pepin County (low coverage). This was one of five species that was confirmed by all twelve atlas codes this summer. A total of 378 atlas volunteers confirmed breeding of our state bird during the period.

Gray Catbird—Reported from all 72 counties and confirmed breeding in every county except Pepin and Vilas. Aaron Haycraft and Quentin Yoerger counted thirty while kayaking the Sugar River in Green County on 16 June. This was one of five species that was confirmed by all twelve atlas codes this summer.

Brown Thrasher—Reported from all counties with breeding confirmed in 57 counties across all regions. The two main codes used to confirm breeding were carrying food (CF, 50%) and fledged young (FL, 30%). The high individual report was for twelve birds in Adams County on 3 June (Milender).

Northern Mockingbird—Reported from twelve scattered counties throughout the state including a pair with occupied nest in a Janesville cemetery in Rock County (24 June, Haycraft, Yoerger). This was the first breeding confirmation in that county for either atlas to date. A pair of adults with two juveniles was noted there on 8 July to document successful breeding (Hottman). The remaining reports are all of single individuals: In the northern part of the state they were found in Burnett County (Hoefer), Rusk County

(Malmquist), and Vilas County (M. Anderson). In central counties, birds were found in Trempealeau County (Jon G., Carolyn G.), Adams County (Watson), Wood County (Reed), Green Lake County (Roti Roti), and Sheboygan County (S. Brookens, D. Brookens). Reports in the south came from Lafayette County (Zarling), Ozaukee County (Grossmeyer), and Sauk County (R. Anderson, Hampton).

European Starling—Reported from all 72 counties with confirmed breeding in 70 of them. The high count of 350 birds came from Fond du Lac County on 30 June (Baughman).

Cedar Waxwing—Reported from all 72 counties. Confirmed breeding in 66 counties. The high count was an estimate of 60 birds seen while kayaking a 15-mile stretch of the St. Croix River in Burnett County on 14 July (Bowen).

House Sparrow—Reported from 71 counties with breeding confirmed in 64.

House Finch—Reported from 68 counties with reports lacking from the four northern counties of Iron, Taylor, Florence and Menominee. Breeding was confirmed in 57 counties.

Purple Finch—Observed in thirty-one counties with three-fourths of the total from the northern region and the balance from the central region. Nineteen counties confirmed breeding with two of these from the centrally located counties of Portage (30 June, Brown) and Waupaca (1 July, Gray). Jay Watson reported twenty birds in Marinette County on 23 June for the season's high total.

Red Crossbill—Reported from fourteen counties during the 2017 spring season. This uncommon migrant and rare summer resident was reported from eight counties this summer, usually by vocalizations of flyover birds. The 15 July report from Forest Beach Migratory Preserve in Ozaukee County was of six immature birds feeding in spruce trees (Dixon, Jackson, Pugh). Breeding was confirmed in Oneida County on 9 July where Shane Patterson observed a pair with a juvenile. The high individual count was fourteen birds in two small flocks flying overhead in Oneida County on 8 June (Murrell).

White-winged Crossbill—The season's only report was of a single bird in Vilas County on 10

July (B. Collins). This is the only species that was confirmed as breeding in more than five blocks during WBBA1 which has not yet been confirmed for WBBA2. During WBBA1 there were single block confirmations in the summer seasons of 1995 (24 June, Sawyer County), 1996 (25 June, Bayfield County), and 2000 (17 July, Douglas County). During the spring season of 1997 there was breeding confirmation in single blocks in Portage County (11 March) and Oneida County (15 March) plus two blocks in Vilas County (13 April, 26 April). Perhaps this nomadic species will turn up in Wisconsin to breed during the final two years of the second atlas project.

Pine Siskin—This nomadic finch is irregular and unpredictable. It was reported from nineteen mostly northern counties and south to Door County this summer. Breeding was confirmed in seven counties. Start of the fall movement was detected in Bayfield County on 27 July with several scattered flocks totaling 63 birds heading in a SSW direction (Brady).

American Goldfinch—Reported from all 72 counties with confirmed breeding from 54. The only report exceeding 50 birds was from Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Dane County on 23 July (Holschbach).

European Goldfinch—This introduced species was reported from two southeastern counties: Kenosha County with confirmed breeding on 1 July (Frank) and Racine County with confirmed breeding on 8 July (N. Collins). This species is on the AOU list for North America but not yet included on the official Wisconsin state list.

Evening Grosbeak—Reported from eight northern counties with breeding confirmed in three counties, all by FY (feeding young) code in July. David Franzen reported a high count of seven birds (five adults and two young) at his property in Vilas County and commented that there were three breeding pairs in the area. The other breeding confirmations came from two locations in Florence County (K. Kavanagh) and one in Vilas County (Jones).

Ovenbird—Reported from 70 counties. Kathy Mehls tallied 42 ovenbirds while conducting a breeding bird survey in Jackson County on 15 June. Breeding was confirmed in 39 counties from all regions but with a gradient from higher frequency in the north to lower in the south. This



The striking face of a Short-eared Owl stands out in this image by Michael Huebschen taken in mid-July at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County.



Michael Huebschen imaged this group of young Hooded Mergansers swimming with their mother in Crex Meadows in early June.



A Killdeer stands above its eggs camouflaged among the stones in this early June photo shot by Michael Huebschen at Crex Meadows in Burnett County.



Beverly Engstrom caught this Eastern Bluebird male on its way to feed young in late June.

summer brought the first atlas breeding confirmations to Brown County (13 June, Houston) and Richland County (4 July, Patterson).

Worm-eating Warbler—Two reports from one of their traditional locations at Pine Glen SNA in Sauk County. Rob Pendergast heard and observed a single bird there on 4 June. A week later on 11 July Rick Anderson heard two males singing at this location and had one of the birds give a good look from about six feet away.

Louisiana Waterthrush—Reports came from eleven counties as far north as Burnett County where it was confirmed as breeding in the first atlas. The high count of eight came from Eagle Valley NP in Grant County on 13 July (McKay). Breeding was confirmed in the following four counties: Grant (4 June, Haycraft, Yoerger), Waukesha (17 June, Winze), Vernon (5 July, Epstein), and Jackson (11 and 14 July, Hoffman). The Vernon County confirmation is the first for either atlas.

Northern Waterthrush—The new high of 34 counties is similar to last year and almost twice the level of pre-atlas reports. Breeding confirmation was noted in eleven counties which included first atlas records for Bayfield County (17 July, Brady), Iron County (23 June, B. Collins), Ozaukee County (5 July, O' Donnell), and Waupaca County (13 June, Roark). The breeding confirmation at Hortonville Bog in Outagamie County (Abel) was the first in that county for the current WBBA2 project and at a new location from the WBBA1 records.

Golden-winged Warbler—The 38 counties with reports exceeded last year's record high of 34. Twenty-four counties had breeding confirmations including new atlas records for Iron County (11 July, Anich) and Waupaca County (19 July, Roark). The high count was thirteen birds in Washburn County on 30 June (DeBardleben). See comments on overlap with blue-winged warbler in the next species account.

Blue-winged Warbler—Reported from 55 counties statewide in all regions with three-fourths of these in the central and southern tiers. High counts of fifteen were recorded in the Coulee Experimental State Forest in LaCrosse County on 1 June (Calvetti) and Fort McCoy in Monroe County on 7 June (Weissburg). Confirmed breeding in twenty-three counties includ-

ing a new atlas record for Langlade County (13 July, Roark).

There were twenty-seven counties that reported both the Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler this summer. Only eight of these central and northern counties had confirmed breeding for both species: Barron, Burnett, Jackson, Menominee, Polk, Shawano, Waupaca, and Wood. Nine observers were able to confirm both species in the same county. Two of these observers confirmed both species in two counties! Matthew Berg confirmed both species in Barron County and Burnett County. Ellie Roark accomplished the same feat in Shawano County and Waupaca County. No hybrids were reported during the 2017 summer season.

Black-and-white Warbler—Reported from 52 counties following a record high 56 from last year and including all twenty-five counties in the northern three regions. Shane Patterson counted fourteen birds from four broods in Oneida County on 4 July. Atlas workers confirmed breeding in thirty-one counties including new atlas records for Juneau County (23 June, Hoffman), Milwaukee County (3 July, Milwaukee County Parks Natural Areas Staff), and Outagamie County (14 June, Abel).

Prothonotary Warbler—Observed in twenty-one counties mostly in the southern half of the state. Dennis Kirschbaum recorded eighteen adults in Crawford County while boating the flooded woodlands near the Mississippi River on 9 June. Kelly McKay reported the same number nearby in Grant County on 15 June. Eleven counties confirmed this species as breeding including a new county atlas record from the Yellow River Oxbows SNA in Juneau County on 7 June (Hoffman). The most northern confirmation was at the Mead SWA in Marathon County with a bird on nest on 10 June (Sabatke). Quite unusual and enigmatic was an individual reported far to the north in Washburn County in late July (27 July, Fischer). This is the only approved eBird record for that county. The only other state records close to that far north are from Burnett County and near the Mississippi River.

Tennessee Warbler—Reported from seven counties which includes migrants on both ends of the season. Single late spring migrants were reported during the first four days of June in Dane County, Fond du Lac County, and Outagamie County. Unexpected is the 14 June report of late

migrants from Wyalusing SP in Grant County where Karen Lund heard and saw a total of six birds spread over three different locations in the park. There are only about a dozen June eBird records for this species after 10 June, and most of those are of single birds much farther north in the state.

The first fall migrants were noted with two birds in Douglas County on 21 July (Nicoletti) and five birds in Bayfield County on 23 July (A. Ludwig, T. Ludwig). On 18 July, Jim Frank found an individual singing in an ash and silver maple swamp in Dodge County. Perhaps this should be considered the first fall migrant of the season or perhaps a nonbreeding wanderer, but the singing at that late date is unusual.

Nashville Warbler—Reported from 42 counties including all northern counties and half of the central counties but as far south as Cedarburg Bog in Ozaukee County where it nested. Two reports exceeding thirty birds came from Bayfield County on 6 June (Brady) and Oneida County on 3 July (B. Collins). Breeding was confirmed in twenty-one mostly northern counties plus a few central counties. First atlas records occurred in Barron County (7 July, Berg) and Outagamie County (6 June, Abel).

Connecticut Warbler—This was a typical summer with five reporting counties. A single late migrant was noted in Walworth County on 15 June (Yoerger). Another single bird was found on that date in Rusk County (Del Valle) which is at the southern edge of their expected summer resident range. Birds within the expected summer resident range were reported from Bayfield County, Douglas County, and Jackson County. In Bayfield County a maximum of three birds were noted on 16 June (Rice, Gyllenhaal). The high count in Douglas County was of four birds on 11 June (Milender). Randy Hoffman was able to confirm breeding in the Deer Island SNA in Jackson County on 22 June, and William Mueller had a singing male in the same county on 1 July.

Mourning Warbler—Reported in 54 counties from all regions including every county in the northern tier, most counties from the central tier, and about half of the counties in the southern tier. The high number reported was eleven birds, consisting of three pairs feeding five fledglings on 14 July in Oneida County (Patterson). Confirmed breeding reports were filed from 32 counties, mostly north and central.

Kentucky Warbler—The only reports this summer came from several locations in Grant County. Eleven observers reported it from Wyalusing State Park with a maximum of three birds there on 14 June (K. Lund). Jason Thiele reported a single bird singing at Cassville Bluffs SNA on 3 June, where he stated that it is an annual summer resident. The other reports were from locations a short distance east and south of Wyalusing SP (Costanza and Kirschbaum) and from the Bertom Lake Unit of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (McKay).

Common Yellowthroat—Reported from all 72 counties with 68 having confirmed breeding activity. Shane Patterson counted 70 of them in Richland County on 3 July.

Hooded Warbler—Reported from twenty-three counties as far north as Menominee County (Steger) and Oconto County (Szymczak). The high count of eleven birds including nine singing males came from the Lapham Peak unit of the Kettle Moraine SF in Waukesha County on 25 June (Szymczak). Breeding was confirmed in five counties including a first atlas record for Oconto County where a nest was located with the female feeding young on 15 July (Szymczak). This is the most northern confirmation for WBBA2 to date. Other confirmed nesting observations took place in the Point Beach SF in Manitowoc County (J. Trick), Mangan Woods in Milwaukee County (Meyer), Yellow River Oxbows SNA in Juneau County (Hoffman), and Walworth County (Maran, Jacyna)

American Redstart—Reported from all 72 counties with breeding confirmation in 56. The high count of 118 birds came from Grant County on 15 June (McKay).

Kirtland's Warbler—Reported from five counties this summer. An individual heard singing in Jackson County in late June (W. Mueller) was the first summer report from that county since 2006. The other four counties where this species is monitored and was detected were Adams, Bayfield, Marinette and Vilas.

The following comments on this species account are drawn from the Wisconsin KIWA 2017 Nesting Season Report (Warner). This was the tenth year of monitoring in Wisconsin. The first arrival in Adams County was noted on 15 May. The 2017 statewide census for singing males (6–



Distance-to-image in this photo by David Franzen makes this late June Rose-breasted Grosbeak young look much larger than the male Grosbeak feeding it in Vilas County.



An adult Evening Grosbeak is feeding young, as imaged by David Franzen in Vilas County in late June.



Kristie Pinnow secured this image of a Red-eyed Vireo gathering berries in Vilas County in early July.



A House Wren carrying food poses on a branch for Kristie Pinnow in Vilas County in early July.

20 June) detected a total of thirty-one singing males (compared to thirty in 2016 and nineteen in 2015). A total of 53 individuals (33 male and twenty female) were confirmed across four counties. Nineteen pairs accounted for twenty nests of which five failed. The fifteen successful nests produced an estimated minimum of 49 to 63 fledglings. The oldest known male in Wisconsin completed his eighth round-trip to the Bahamas and back to nest again this year. This is an estimated 12,000 miles of total migration over those eight years!

Cape May Warbler—Reported from thirteen northern counties this summer. The highest number reported was five birds in Marinette County on 17 June (Haas). Breeding activity was confirmed in Douglas County (9 June and 13 July, Hoffman), Oneida County (7 July and 14 July, Patterson), and Vilas County (9–10 July, B. Collins, and 1 July, Peczynski).

Cerulean Warbler—Found in nineteen mostly south and central counties with one more northern report of single birds at two locations in Rusk County on 13 June (Del Valle). Breeding was confirmed in Rusk County during WBBA1, the most northern confirmation for any atlas work to date. The high individual counts both came from Grant County where Kelly McKay reported fifteen birds at Eagle Valley NP and sixteen birds at Nelson Dewey SP on 29 June. Breeding was confirmed in Grant County on 16 July (Patterson) and Outagamie County on 29 June (Olivier).

Northern Parula—Reported from twenty-three counties including fourteen where breeding has been confirmed in previous atlas work. The remaining nine counties had reports spanning dates from 6 June to 3 July and seem to represent a mix of late spring migrants and possible breeders. All July reports were from the expected summer range “north of a line running southeast from Danbury to Shawano and then east to Sturgeon Bay” (Robbins 1991). This indicates that fall movement had not begun before the end of the summer period. The high number reported was eleven birds in Vilas County on 9 July (B. Collins). Breeding was confirmed in five northern counties: Bayfield (Frank, McCaffery), Forest (B. Kavanagh, K. Kavanagh), Iron (Anich), Oneida (Patterson), and Vilas (many observers).

Magnolia Warbler—Reports came from twenty-one counties with a high count of eight

birds in Oneida County on 11 July (B. Collins). Sixteen of these counties fell within the expected breeding range in the north. Birds noted in three other counties during the first few days of June fall into the transition period and are assumed to be spring migrants. Two reports of singing males outside the northern resident range but within the expected breeding date range were from counties with no atlas confirmations to date. One was heard singing in Rocky Arbor SF in Juneau County on 26 June (Staffen) and another singing in Ozaukee County on 8 July (O’Donnell). Breeding was confirmed in eight northern counties included the first atlas record for Oconto County (30 July, Woodcock).

Blackburnian Warbler—Reported in twenty-seven counties with twenty of these spread across the northern tier where it is an expected summer resident. Reports of as many as ten birds came from Vilas County (B. Collins, Lapin, Putnam). Breeding was confirmed in sixteen mostly northern counties and south to the two central counties of Jackson and Juneau County. This is the first atlas record for Juneau County (27 June, Rueckheim).

Yellow Warbler—Reported from 72 counties. Jack Fry estimated 75 birds at High Cliff SP in Calumet County on 5 June. Breeding was confirmed in 65 counties this season.

Chestnut-sided Warbler—Reported from 56 counties and all regions statewide including all of the northern counties. More uncommon in the southwest. Frank Nicoletti recorded thirty in the Whitefish Lake area of Douglas County on 9 July. Confirmed as breeding in 36 counties this season including a first atlas record for Fond du Lac County (2 July, Baughman).

Blackpoll Warbler—After no reports at all last summer season, this year was more typical with late spring migrants detected in the first few days of June in four counties: Milwaukee County on 1 June (Ambrose), Bayfield County on 3 June (Baldwin), Fond du Lac County on 4 June (W. Mueller), and Ozaukee County on 2–4 June (Sommer). There are occasional summer records in northern counties but no confirmed breeding records. This species is a later fall migrant and not expected back through the state until August.

Black-throated Blue Warbler—Reported from a new high of seventeen counties. Twelve of

these are in the expected summer resident range and counties where breeding has been confirmed in one or both atlases. Comments on the other five county reports follow. The pair of birds reported at Grant Park in Milwaukee on 6 June are considered late migrants. Early to mid-June reports from Door County could be migrants or summer residents since breeding was confirmed in that county in the first atlas. The mid-summer report of an individual male at Lion's Den Gorge in Ozaukee County on 30 June is interesting (Tennis). The bird was reported as chasing a Prothonotary Warbler through a thicket which seems like territorial behavior. Two birds were noted singing at Goodman County Park in Marinette County on 19 June during a WSO Convention field trip (many observers). Reports from that county continued through 27 June. There was also a report from Lincoln County on 9 July (K. Martin) with no additional details or comments. The season's high count was a mix of adults with chicks totaling nine birds in Menominee County on 14 July (Prestby). Breeding confirmations came from seven northern counties including a first atlas record for Sawyer County (28 July, Merkel). Probable breeding was noted in Marinette County where confirmation is lacking from either atlas even though this is within expected summer residence range.

Palm Warbler—This uncommon summer resident of the north was found in twelve counties. Eight of these counties already have confirmed breeding atlas records from previous atlas work. This season breeding was confirmed in six of the counties for which previous atlas records already exist: Bayfield, Douglas, Forest, Iron, Oneida, and Vilas. The high count of nine was observed in Oneida County on 7 July (B. Collins). Reports outside of confirmed breeding locations came from Door, Marinette, Oconto, and Rusk counties. Single birds were noted in Door County on 15 June (J. Trick), singing in Oconto County on 1 July (Szymczak), and singing in Marinette County on 14 July (M. Ward). Two birds were reported from the Bailey Road bog in Rusk County on 26 June, an area the observer commented might be one of the southernmost nesting locations in the state (Stutz). However, breeding has not been confirmed in Rusk County for either atlas to date.

Pine Warbler—Present at BOP in 37 counties and EOP in 11 counties across the state. Reported from 52 counties during the summer pe-

riod. This includes all counties in the northern tier and south to scattered areas of suitable pine habitat such as in the central sand counties of Juneau, Jackson, Wood and elsewhere. The high count of twenty birds was found in Oneida County on 6 July (B. Collins). Breeding confirmed in twenty-one total counties located in the north and central regions.

Yellow-rumped Warbler—Present at BOP in 39 counties. Reported from 33 counties during the summer season of which 26 have previous atlas records of confirmed breeding. Of the remaining seven counties with no previous breeding confirmation, three (Milwaukee, Outagamie, and Walworth) were early June reports deemed tardy migrants. Four other counties with no breeding confirmations to date had reports of singing birds into late June or July: Adams (Hannah), Burnett (Berg, Hoefler), Eau Claire (Mathews) and Polk (Justice). Tom Prestby and Ted Keyel counted twenty during an extensive walk through the Upper Kaubashine Creek SNA in Oneida County on 8 July. Breeding was confirmed in fourteen northern counties within the expected summer resident range plus Jackson County (Hoffman) in the west-central region. The only county within expected summer breeding range that is still lacking an atlas confirmation is Burnett County.

Yellow-throated Warbler—Ten observers reported this species from its usual haunts at Wyalusing SP in Grant County where it was already present at BOP. Last reported there on 2 July (Goldthwait, Kibbe, Pendergast). A singing male was reported from Richland County on 23 June (Kivikoski). Also present at Nelson Dewey SP in Grant County on 29 June (McKay).

Black-throated Green Warbler—Reports came from 36 counties with three-fourths of them from the east central and northern areas. The only county where this bird was noted in the west-central region was Jackson County (Hoffman, Staffen). There were reports exceeding fifteen birds from Door County on 16 June (Rohde), Ashland County on 27 June (Anich), and Vilas County on 8 July (B. Collins). Breeding was confirmed in sixteen counties, all of which have previous atlas records prior to this season.

Canada Warbler—Noted in twenty-six counties for the full period with close to three-fourths of those from the northern part of the state.



A male Common Yellowthroat is captured by Kristie Pinnow, calling from a branch in mid-July in Vilas County.



Kristie Pinnow spotted this usually difficult-to-find-in-the-open Black-billed Cuckoo regally inspecting its vicinity in Vilas County in late June.



David Franzen found this adult female Eastern Bluebird on its way to her nest with food in late June in Vilas County.



A young Dane County Eastern Screech Owl is depicted in this early June portrait by Greg Hottman.

Twenty-two of these counties are within the breeding range of this warbler. Outside the north, individual birds reported from Kewaunee County and Milwaukee County during the first few days of June are considered migrants. A singing bird noted in Hortonville Bog of Outagamie County as late as 19 June was in suitable habitat (Abel). Two birds noted in a bog area of Washburn County on 27 June were in expected breeding date and range. There is no record of breeding confirmation from either Outagamie County or Washburn County. The high count of ten birds came from Vilas County on 9 July (B. Collins). Confirmed breeding in twelve counties including a first atlas record for Burnett County (26 June, Hoefler) which brings total counties to seventeen for WBBA2 to date. This species was a confirmed breeder in twenty-six counties during WBBA1.

Wilson's Warbler—Present at BOP in thirty counties as spring migration was winding down. Twenty observers reported one or two of these late migrants from a total of eleven counties during the first few days of June. The last report was of a single bird observed during an Urban Ecology Center bird hike on 20 June in Milwaukee County. Fall migrants are not expected before August. There are only a handful of state records for July with the most outstanding being a pair feeding recently fledged young on Devil's Island in Ashland County on 26 July 1977.

Yellow-breasted Chat—Present at BOP in Dane County and Grant County and reported from six counties during the summer season. Reports of single birds continued into early July at Cherokee Marsh and Brooklyn WA in Dane County. A single bird was reported from Cassville Bluffs SNA in Grant County only on 3 June (Thiele). Reports from Mud Lake SWA in Columbia County began on 4 June (Fissel) and continued through 17 July (Otto) with as many as four birds but no confirmed breeding. There were single day reports of singing birds at multiple locations in Green County in mid-June (Perlberg, Heikkinen). Single birds were also found at Schurch-Thomson Prairie in Iowa County on 18 June (Preston) and again on 1 July (Bonk). Aaron Haycraft recorded one singing during a nocturnal outing in Lafayette County on 5 June.

Eastern Towhee—Present at BOP in 63 counties and reported from 69 during the full summer season. Frank Nicoletti had thirty birds

in Douglas County on a 23 July visit. Breeding was confirmed in 39 counties including a first atlas record for Kewaunee County (24 July, Zenner).

Chipping Sparrow—Reported from all 72 counties. High reports of thirty birds came from the Necedah NWR in Juneau County on 29 June (Martinez) and the Navarino SWA in Shawano County on 8 July (Grossmeyer). Kelly McKay reported a Grant County total of 86 birds on 15 June. Confirmed as breeding in 70 counties. This was one of five species that was confirmed by all twelve atlas codes this summer.

Clay-colored Sparrow—Found in 64 counties statewide with fewer reports from the south and west. Ryan Brady found two nests with eggs and many family groups with an estimated total count of forty birds at block level in Bayfield County on 22 July. Breeding confirmed in 38 counties including a new atlas record for Racine County (27 June, Kinzer).

Field Sparrow—Reported from a new high of 66 counties with all but one of the unreported counties located in the north-central part of the state where the preferred open habitat is more limited or lacking. The highest number of individuals reported was 37 on 13 July at Eagle Valley NP in Grant County (McKay). Forty-one counties had confirmed breeding reports including only Clark County (Dadisman) and Price County (Krakowski) in the north-central part of the state.

Vesper Sparrow—Reported from a new high of 65 counties. The season high count of twelve came from Dunbar Barrens SNA in Marinette County on 19 June (Kinzer, Moretti). Observers confirmed breeding in twenty-five counties including first atlas records for Barron County (21 July, B. Collins) and Washburn County (21 July, Berg).

Lark Sparrow—Nineteen counties reporting this species with half of those in the southwest and west-central regions. Thirty-one observers reported birds at the Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County with a maximum estimate of twenty birds on 8 June (Hampton). There were reports of single birds as far north as Burnett County (21 June, Hoefler) and Price County (15 June, Vickery). WBBA1 confirmed breeding only as far north as locations along the St. Croix River but WBBA2 work to date has extended this range farther north to Crex Meadows in Burnett County

(2015). Breeding was confirmed in nine counties this summer including first atlas records for Jackson County (14 July, Hoffman) and Lafayette County (14 July, Haycraft). The latter was feeding a fledged cowbird.

Savannah Sparrow—Same as last summer, found in all counties except Menominee, a county where no summer season records exist in eBird. The high season count of 47 birds was at the Leola Marsh SWA in Adams County on 16 June (Reed). Breeding was confirmed in 55 counties evenly distributed across all regions.

Grasshopper Sparrow—Present at BOP in 28 counties. There were 50 reporting counties which matches the total from last summer. A high count of sixteen birds was reported while driving the prairie at Fort McCoy in Monroe County on 30 June (Weissburg). Breeding confirmations came from twelve counties including a first atlas record for Washburn County (1 July, Berg).

Henslow's Sparrow—Present at BOP in twenty-five counties. Summer season reports came from 45 counties, located mostly south and central but also reported as far north as Sawyer County (20 June, Del Valle). The high tally of twenty-five birds came from the Millville WA in Grant County on 18 July where Dennis Kirschbaum walked through mowed hay fields and native prairie plantings and found that “the grass was alive” with them. Breeding was confirmed in nine counties including first atlas records for Eau Claire County (20 June, Polk), Richland County (18 June, Patterson), and Winnebago County (27 June, Malcolm).

Le Conte's Sparrow—Reported from ten counties including five counties where it has been confirmed either during WBBA1 (Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Vilas) or WBBA2 (Jackson). The other five counties were Burnett, Lincoln, Rusk, Sawyer and Wood. In Burnett County, James Hoefler had two birds at Reed Lake Marsh on 31 May with counts of three to four birds continuing there into early June. Aaron Stutz reported two birds with agitated behavior in Rusk County on 22 June. Other reports were single birds on single days in Lincoln County (Milender, Sloan), Sawyer County (Del Valle), and Wood County (Matteson, Christensen). There were no breeding confirmations this summer season. This species was confirmed breeding in nine counties during WBBA1. The only confirmation to date

for WBBA2 is a first atlas record for Jackson County in the recent spring season (25 May 2017, Hoffman).

Nelson's Sparrow—An individual was heard singing in the same location at Crex Meadows in Burnett County on the two evenings of 25–26 June (Fettig, Hodapp). The only breeding confirmation for this species in WBBA1 was at Crex Meadows. It has been noted as probable at that same location during WBBA2 but with no upgrade to confirmed status to date.

Song Sparrow—Reported from all counties with breeding confirmation in 70. Counts of 50 or more birds were reported from Zeloski Marsh in Jefferson County on 3 June (Stutz) and Green County on 25 June (Haycraft, Yoerger). This was one of the most confirmed breeding species with records submitted by 240 atlas volunteers.

Lincoln's Sparrow—Reported from nineteen counties. Milwaukee County harbored a late migrant on 1 June. A Langlade County report of two birds at Pickerel Lake Dam on 16 July (Goldberg) is the first summer report for that county since 2010. This is a species that was recorded as a probable breeder at seven different locations in Langlade County during WBBA1 but with no coded birds in that county to date for WBBA2. Brian Collins detected the high season count of eleven birds on two separate point counts in Iron County on 22 June and the same number on a point count in Oneida County on 3 July. Atlas volunteers confirmed this species in eleven counties including first atlas records for Oconto County and Outagamie County. In Oconto County, Andrea Szymczak first noted birds singing on 1 July and was able to confirm breeding with birds on nest during a return visit on 9 June. In Outagamie County, Dan Abel made the difficult trek into the Hortonville Bog and observed adults carrying food on 6 June. Subsequent visits led to a count as high as eight birds in the bog on 19 June.

Swamp Sparrow—Reported from 68 counties. The high count for the season was 40 adults with fledglings at Terrell Island in Winnebago County on 19 July (Malcolm). Forty-seven counties provided breeding confirmations.

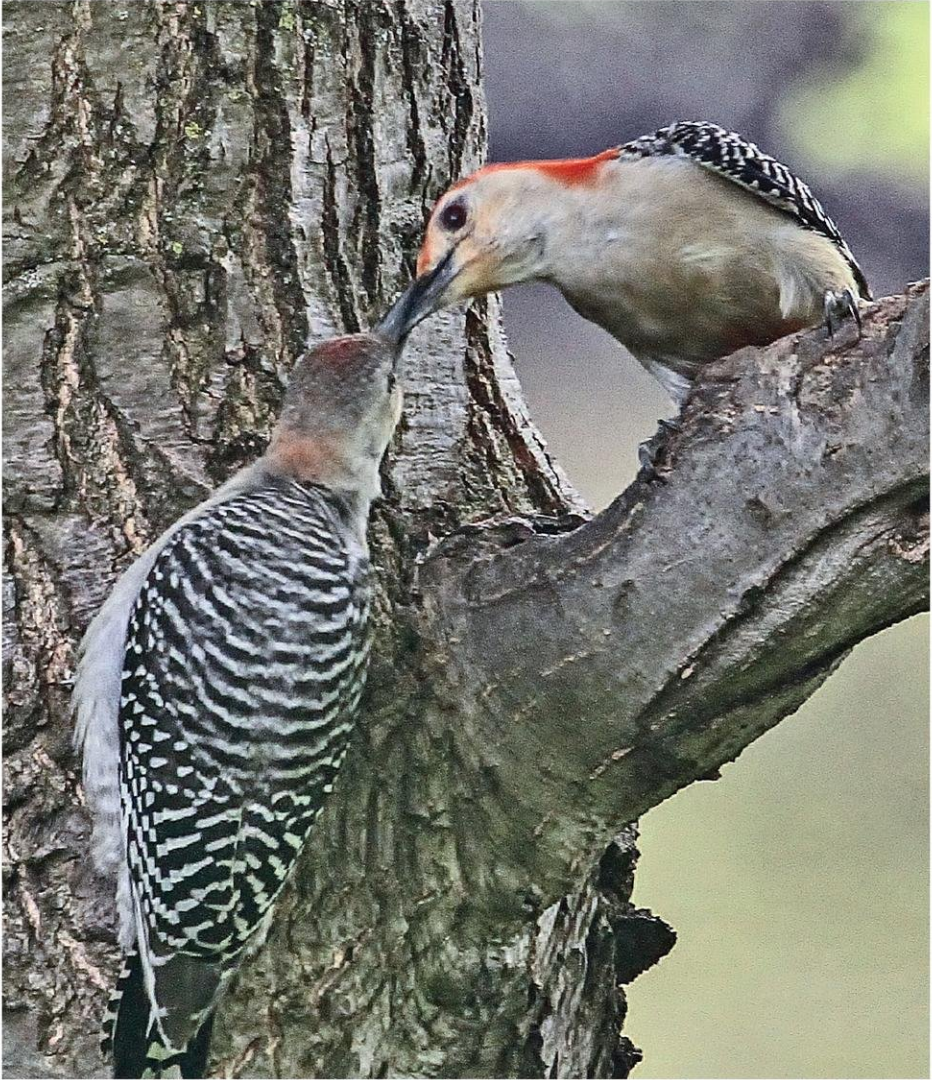
White-throated Sparrow—Reported from thirty counties in the expected north and central summer resident range with additional reports



An adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird hovers while feeding on nectar in Dane County in mid-June in this photo by Greg Hottman.



Greg Hottman captured this photo of an adult female Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeding one of her late June young in Dane County.



Beverly Engstrom imaged this adult Red-bellied Woodpecker feeding young in early July.

from three southern counties. Two late migrants lingered in Crawford County in early June (Sandstrom), a bird was seen feeding along the roadside in Green County on 19 June (Yoerger), and also reported through the summer at Cedarburg Bog on Ozaukee County where it nests. Reports of twenty-five or more birds were filed for Ashland County on 3 July (Halling) and Bayfield County on 11 July (Brady). Breeding was confirmed in a total of twenty mostly northern counties and south to suitable bog habitat in Jackson County (Hoffman), Outagamie County (Abel, Hortonville Bog), and Ozaukee County (O' Donnell, Cedarburg Bog).

White-crowned Sparrow—Present at BOP (end of May) in thirteen counties. A migrant lingered at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County on the first day of June (Domagalski). Finding this species anytime between mid-June and Labor Day is unexpected. This summer there were two late July reports from Milwaukee County. An individual was noted at Bender Park on 19 July (Wiskowski) and another reported from a backyard on 23 July where it had spent the previous couple of days (Leech). Reports have been received each July now since 2013. Prior to that the next most recent report of this species in July was from 2005.

Dark-eyed Junco—The species was reported from ten counties with no report of more than five individuals. Eight of these counties are considered within summer resident range and have existing atlas confirmations of nesting. Single birds were also reported on 9 June in Marathon County (Beam) and 23 June in Green Lake County (W. Schultz). These two observations join less than twenty total eBird records for birds found outside the northern counties in June. Breeding was confirmed in five counties. Jack Swelstad found a nest with three eggs in Marinette County on 11 June. Randy Hoffman had an adult feeding a striped juvenile in Douglas County on 13 July, while Robert Spahn observed fledglings on the same date in Vilas County. Tom Prestby tracked down a juvenile in Menominee County on 17 July and Ryan Brady had one on 23 July while blueberry picking in Bayfield County.

Scarlet Tanager—Reported from all 69 counties. Kelly McKay turned in the high count with twenty-five birds at Eagle Valley NP in Grant

County on 13 July. Confirmed breeding in 36 counties. There were July reports of Scarlet Tanagers feeding young cowbirds in Burnett County (Hoefler), Sauk County (Haycraft), and Walworth County (Jacyna).

Northern Cardinal—Reported from all counties with breeding confirmation in 58 of them, including a first atlas record for Douglas County (18 June, Nicoletti). The only county remaining with no confirmed breeding record for either atlas project is Florence County in the northeast corner of the state. The high count for the season came from Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Dane County where Aaron Holschbach tallied 36 on 23 July.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Reported from every county with a high of twenty-five birds in Clark County on 9 July (J. Lund). This was a mix of adult females and young of the year. That same number was reported at Eagle Valley NP in Grant County on 15 June (McKay). Observers were able to confirm breeding activity in 67 counties.

Blue Grosbeak[†]—Six reports of a single bird at Spring Green Preserve East in Sauk County in June and July. There had been reports in the state during May but not from this location. First reported here on 2 June (K. Kavanagh) with the final summer season report on 16 July (Holschbach) although reports continued into August. [† All sightings were reviewed and approved by the eBird team only. No documentation submitted to WSORC.]

Indigo Bunting—Reported from all 72 counties. The high count was a total of 52 buntings in Grant County on 15 June (McKay). Atlas workers were able to confirm breeding in 62 counties. This was one of five species that was confirmed by all twelve atlas codes this summer.

Dickcissel—Present at BOP in seventeen counties. By the end of the first week of June this had doubled to 34 counties and then climbed to 63 counties by mid-June. Birds reached all 72 counties by 27 June when Vilas County completed the statewide sweep. This follows the excellent year last summer (64 counties) and matches the record all-72 county year of 2012.

Tom Reed did a careful count in the Leola Marsh SWA in Adams County on 16 June and reported an amazing 129 birds. This exceeds the

previous eBird record of the 104 tallied in the Buena Vista Grasslands of Portage County on 4 July, 2012 (Pendergast). Breeding was confirmed in 58 counties including thirteen first atlas records for the following counties. Nine in the north: Barron (12 July, B. Collins), Bayfield (18 June, Brady), Burnett (5 July, Java), Florence (14 July, B. Kavanagh, K. Kavanagh), Forest (17 June, Gray, Maertz), Iron (19 July, Anich), Langlade (7 July, Roark), Oconto (20 June, Wilken), and Washburn (1 July, Berg). Three central: Juneau (7 July, Hoffman, Haycraft, Yoerger), Kewaunee (18 July, Zenner), and Wood (18 July, Reed). One southern: Vernon (4 July, Chybowski). Present at EOP in nineteen counties.

Bobolink—Reported from 70 counties. Maximum count was 73 birds at the Leola Marsh SWA in Adams County on 16 June (Reed). Forty-nine counties confirmed breeding for this third year of atlas work including a first atlas record for Rock County (11 July, Haycraft).

Red-winged Blackbird—Reported from all 72 counties with breeding confirmed in 71. Counts of 600+ birds were reported from Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County on 31 July (Domagalski) and Rush Lake in Winnebago County on June 16 (Ziebell). This was one of five species that was confirmed by all twelve atlas codes this summer.

Eastern Meadowlark—Reported from 70 counties. Charles Henrikson reported twenty-seven at Spring Green Preserve East in Sauk County on 27 July and Kelly McKay had 34 in Grant County on 15 June. Fifty-two counties confirmed breeding for the summer season.

Western Meadowlark—Observers found this species in twenty-one counties this year with no more than six birds reported. More than half of these were in the three western regions of the state spread from south to north. Breeding confirmations came from only three counties: Adams County (22 July, Szymczak), Lafayette County (10 July, Dadisman), and Polk County (5 July, Berg). This was the first confirmed breeding atlas record for Polk County.

Three years into the WBBA2 project there continue to be fewer confirmations of this species compared to the first atlas but it is not yet clear how much of this is coverage-related versus a true drop in distribution. To date, combining the

work of both atlas projects, twenty-eight counties have confirmed breeding. The breakdown on those is nineteen counties confirmed during WBBA1 only, two counties during WBBA2 only, and seven counties during both projects (Adams, Douglas, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette and Portage).

Yellow-headed Blackbird—Noted in twenty-eight counties with confirmed breeding in thirteen. The highest number of individuals reported was an impressive 1,342 birds (964 adult and 378 young) at Rush Lake in Winnebago County on 16 June (Ziebell).

Brewer's Blackbird—Present at BOP in seventeen counties and reported from 36 counties during the summer season. Mark Benson found 50 in a small cow pasture in Fond du Lac County on 19 July. Fourteen total combined northern and central counties confirmed breeding this summer.

Common Grackle—Reported from all counties with breeding confirmed in all but one. The high estimates were of 300+ birds in July in both Fond du Lac County (10 July, Baughman) and Bayfield County (29 July, McCaffery).

Brown-headed Cowbird—Reported from all counties with the only report exceeding 40 birds a count of 49 at Eagle Valley NP in Grant County on 13 July (McKay). Breeding confirmed in 61 counties.

Orchard Oriole—Noted in 54 counties this season which includes all southern, most central, and about one-third of the northern counties. The high individual count was thirteen birds at Kingfisher Farm in Manitowoc County on 28 July (Domagalski). Thirty-four counties provided a confirmed breeding record this summer. This included a first atlas record for Barron County (1 July, Olson) in the northwest, another mark of the continuing northward range expansion of this species.

Baltimore Oriole—This species was present across the state at BOP. Reported from all counties during the summer period with breeding confirmed in 65. The high count was of 72 birds in Grant County on 15 June (McKay).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND
CITED OBSERVERS**

This is a list of the 332 individuals or groups that received mention in the detailed species accounts for the summer season.

Dan Abel, Jennifer Ambrose, Marge Anderson, Rick Anderson, Nick Anich, Sue Ascher, Amar Ayyash, Mary Backus, Bruce Bacon, Robert Badger, Jeff Bahls, Mike Bailey, Ben Baldwin, Holly Bartholmai, Jack Bartholmai, Jeb Barzen, Jeff Baughman, Barry Baumann, Dani Baumann, Johanna Beam, Dan Belter, Donna Benson, Mark Benson, Matthew Berg, Sarah Besadny, Dale Bonk, Missy Bowen, Owen Boyle, Ryan Brady, Dave Brassler, Janet Brehm, Cynthia Bridge, Jeff Brinkman, Doris Brookens, Steve Brookens, Megan Brown, Bill Buckingham, James Buckingham, David Buehler, Peggy Burkman, Kate Caldwell, Gwyneth Calvetti, Joan Campbell, Pam Campbell, Nathan Carlsen, Daryl Christensen, Cathy Chybowski, Laura Coggan, Brian Collins, Nancy Collins, Jacob Collison, Bob Costanza, Jack Coulter, Joshua Cullum, Ramona Dabey, John Dadisman, Ken Damro, Leila Dasher, Tommy DeBardeleben, Tony Del Valle, Brian Dhuey, Scott Diehl, Fred Dike, John Dixon, Robert Domagalski, David Edlund, Eric Epstein, Joshua Erdman, Marty Evanson, Stephen Fettig, Dean Fischer, Peter Fissel, Jim Frank, David Franzen, Jack Fry, Thomas Ganfield, Anne Geraghty, Erin Giese, Jayson Giese, Xavier Gitre, Rachel Glover, Drew Goldberg, Mackenzie Goldthwait, Sally Grames, Michael Gray, Bill Grossmeyer, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Skye Haas, Tim Hahn, Kevin Halling, Mary Hampton, Ashley Hannah, Yvette Haughney, Aaron Haycraft, Chuck Heikkinen, Richard Henderson,

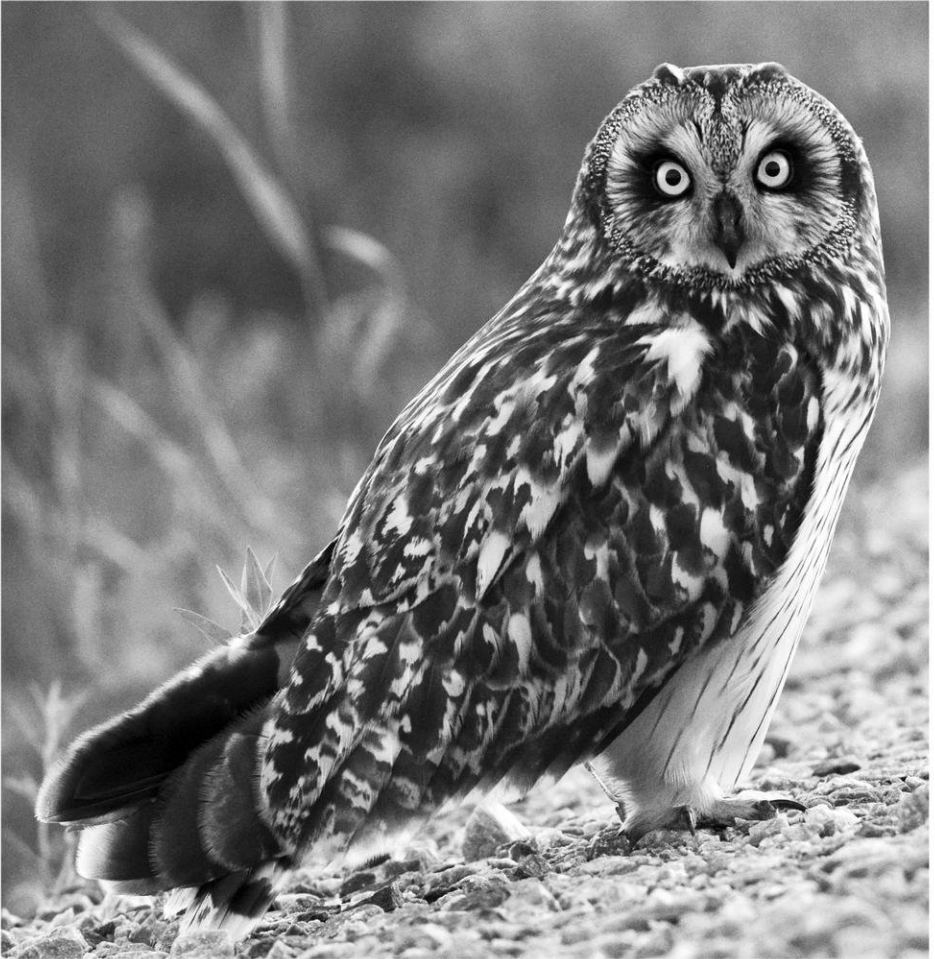
Charles Henrikson, Tristan Herwood, Olivia Hill, Terry Hodapp, James Hoefler, Joyce Hoefl, Richard Hoeg, Bill Holtke, Randy Hoffman, Aaron Holschbach, Greg Hottman, Steven Houdek, Ed Houston, Robert Howe, Lorri Howski, Pamela Hoyland, Myles Hurlburt, Marcia Hurst, Dan Jackson, John Jacobs, Joe Jacyna, Michael John Jaeger, K. Java, Karen Johnson, Robbye Johnson, Anne Jones, Pat Joslyn, Ted Judy, Rachel Justice, Heather Kaufmann, Bob Kavanagh, Kay Kavanagh, Amy Kearns, Barbara Kellerman, Ted Keyel, Doug Kibbe, Paul Kinzer, Dennis Kirschbaum, John Kivikoski, Tom Klubertanz, Roy Knispel, Mary Korkor, Lynn Koss, Jan Kraemer, Larry Kraemer, Jim Krakowski, Kim Kreitinger, Sam Krerowicz, Philip Kress, Tom Lally, Andy Lantz, Carly Lapin, Steve LaValley, Todd Leech, Lennie Lichter, Maria Lichter, Ryan Lubbers, Aaron Ludwig, Tim Ludwig, Judy Lund, Karen Lund, Robin Maercklein, Mary Maertz, Stuart Malcolm, Max Malmquist, Jim Marran, Keri Martin, Mark Martin, Sue Martin, Robert Martinez, Bruce Matasick, Laura Mathews, Sumner Matteson, Eva Matthews, Colleen Matula, Heather Maxwell, Brian McCaffery, John McCaw, Kelly McKay, Kathy Mehls, Matt Mendenhall, Keith Merkel, Tom Mertins, Jeremy Meyer, Ken Milender, Raymie Miller, Shawn Miller, Todd Miller, Milwaukee County Parks Natural Areas Staff, Nick Minor, Barbara Moldenhauer, Anne Moretti, Mosquito Hill Nature Center, Ross Mueller, William Mueller, Steve Murkowski, Mary Murrell, Miranda Myli, Per Ivar Nicolaisen, Frank Nicoletti, Dick Nikolai, Paul Noldner, Aaron Nolan, Northeast Wisconsin Bird Club, Don Nussbaum, Michael O'Connell, Sadie O' Dell, John O' Donnell, Alec Olivier, Bridget

Olson, Jim Otto, Richard Ouren, Patrick Palines, Linda Parker, Shane Patterson, Christine Paulik, Andy Paulios, Judy Peche, Mike Peczynski, Rob Pendergast, Kris Perlberg, Larry Persico, Janelle Pitula, Karl Poetzel, Janine Polk, Chris Pollentier, Nolan Pope, Tom Prestby, Eric Preston, Helen Pugh, Heidi Putnam, Andy Raddatz, Janet Raddatz, Tim Ray, Tom Reed, Paul Regnier, Lisa Reid, Nathaniel Reinartz, Ari Rice, John Richardson, Richland Atlas Administrator, Nancy Richmond, Martha Richter, Ellie Roark, Ronald Rohde, Chris Rohrer, Jon Roti Roti, Rebecca Rucker-Keegan, Kelly Rueckheim, Jeff Rusinow, Robert Russell, Sarah Sabatke, Michael Sack, Steve Sample, Mike Sandstrom, Edward Saur, Tom Schaefer, Jeanne Scherer, Daniel Schneider, David Schrab, Thomas Schultz, Wendy Schultz, Kyle Schumacher, Mary Schumann, Carl Schwartz, Jim Schwarz, Pam Schwedler, Nick Seeger, Dave Sehloff, Kerry Sehloff, Greg Septon, Gloria Shiraef, Adam Sinkula, Pamela Skaar, Daniel Sloan, Brand Smith, Jerry Smith, Karen Smith, Joan Sommer, Charles Sontag, Robert Spahn, Amy Staffen, Nancy Stafford, Rob Stangroom, Brad Steger, Mike Stewart, Joe Stojak, Elizabeth Stone, Doug Stratton, Aaron Stutz, Gautam Surya, Peder Svingen, Jack

Swelstad, Andrea Szymczak, Chris Tennis, Daryl Tessen, Jason Thiele, Steve Thiessen, Lynette Thonne, Darwin Tiede, Joel Trick, Patti Trick, Gordon Tucker, Vicky Tucker, Joe Vass, Levi Vickery, Robert Volenec, Steve Wagner, Melody Walsh, Nick Walton, Michael Ward, Todd Ward, Sarah Warner, Washburn Ranger District, Jay Watson, Emily Weber, Bobbie Webster, Casey Weissburg, Robert Welch, Jennifer Wenzel, Andrea Wieland, Mike Wilken, David Willard, John Winze, Rita Flores Wiskowski, Thomas Wood, Julie Woodcock, Madeline Wroblewski, Quentin Yoerger, Kenny Younger, Joshua Zarling, Norma Zehner, Mary Zenker, Tom Zenner, Tom Ziebell

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A Short-eared Owl stared at Michael Huebschen as he took this image at Buena Vista Grasslands in mid-June.

“By the Wayside”—Summer 2017

Seasonal highlights include these reports of Chuck-will’s-widow, Buff-bellied Hummingbird (first state record), Little Gull, California Gull (second summer record), and Arctic Tern. The reports reflect the quality of those accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

CHUCK-WILL’S WIDOW

*4 June 2017, Jefferson County
Thomas Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI*

Observation details: Heard-only. 8:50 p.m. 25 minutes duration. Weather clear, calm with temperature of 66°F.

Description: Whip-poor-wills were present, so a comparison with that species was facilitated.

At first, when the bird was far away, I could hear only a 3-syllable call: “will-wi-dow.” Later, after I moved closer to the area from where the bird was calling, and when the bird moved closer to the road, I could hear the first syllable, “chuck”, which was shorter and less audible.

This 4-syllable call helps distinguish the Chuck-will’s-widow from a Whip-poor-will which has a 3-syllable call. The syllables increased in pitch until the last, “dow”, syllable which dropped in pitch. The Whip-poor-will call seemed rushed, whereas the Chuck-will’s-widow call was slower and more deliberate.

Behavior: Calling. I never saw the bird in flight, though by the intensity of its calls I could tell it was moving around. Calling was nearly continuous,

and when it did take a rest it was only for a minute or two.

Habitat: Mixed hardwoods, conifers and open field. Besides the open fields, additional openings are provided by a nearby powerline which cuts a wide swath through the woods.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD

*17 June 2017,
personal residence, Ozaukee County
Jeff Rusinow, Grafton, WI*

Observation details: Came to feeder at least twice, 1–2 minutes both times between 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. Distance to bird: 18–20’. Clear sky with light winds. Photographs taken with Canon EOS 7D with 135mm lens. The hummer was last seen at 1:17 p.m., briefly, by Bill Grossmeyer.

Description: While enjoying a morning coffee at around 10:10 a.m., at the south side of our house, a hummingbird flew behind our chairs and then briefly stopped at some flowers in a planter to my left, and then quickly flew about 25’ in front of us and around the east side of the house, to our one hummingbird feeder. As it flew away, I could see a light orange/rufous tail! I knew immediately it was not a Ruby-throated, so I ran back into the house and instead of getting my binoculars, found my camera, put it on a tripod, and quickly brought it out to our deck, and set it up pointed at the feeder. About 3–4 minutes later it arrived again, and I was able to take several photographs. The bird

had a vibrant red bill, among other standout features.

After the bird left the feeder, I downloaded the images, and determined that it was a male BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD, a bird that breeds in Mexico and southern Texas! I quickly learned on eBird that the most northern records of this species were in Arkansas and North Carolina!

I decided to post on the Wisconsin community birding listserv and someone immediately contacted me saying that this was the FIRST TIME EVER the bird had been reported in Wisconsin! The first birder got here around 12:45. The bird made one more brief appearance at 1:17 p.m.

Other people arrived throughout the day; there were eyes on the feeder throughout Saturday, and most of Sunday but the hummingbird was never seen again. This bird may very well have been blown in by one of the major storms up from the South the last couple of weeks.

LITTLE GULL

*21 June, Kewaunee County
Adam Sinkula, Green Bay, WI*

Observation details: 11:30 a.m. Distance to bird 30 yards. Clear, sunny, with lighting over my right shoulder. Swarovski 8 × 42 binoculars

Description: When mass of gulls (mostly Bonaparte's, with some terns, herring and ring-billed gulls) flushed by workers, I noticed a gull, smaller than Bonaparte's in same field of view with a very dark, bold carpal band than I had been seeing with all the Bonaparte's. It had a near non-existent hood indicating this is a young bird probably in first summer. The bird was first picked up as it was banking and land-

ing toward me and was unable to verify color of underwing.

Similar Species: Bonaparte's gull would be only expected gull similarly marked. Bonaparte's ruled out because of size (noticeably smaller) and the darkness and boldness of carpal band that stuck out compared to the faded, dull, lighter brown carpal band in Bonaparte's gull.

CALIFORNIA GULL

*14 July 2017, Sheboygan Marina,
Sheboygan County
Amar Ayyash, Orland Park, IL*

Observation details: 1:35 p.m. One-hour duration. Distance to bird 75 yards. Sunny to partly cloudy. Swarovski 65 spotting scope.

Description: Adult type with dullish gray/green legs. Dark iris. Darker gray upperparts when compared to the adjacent Ring-billed Gulls.

Similar Species: Intermediate in size between Ring-billed and Herring. Darker gray upperparts and dark eyes eliminate those species.

Additional eBird comments: Rare, second summer eBird record for state. Medium gull. Barely larger than ring-billed. Picked out by notably darker mantle. ID further confirmed by dull yellow-green legs, long tubular bill with ring and small red spot, and dark eye.

ARCTIC TERN

*9 June 2017, Cat Island Wave Barrier,
Brown County
Tom Prestby, Green Bay, WI*

Observation details: 4:00 p.m. One-hour duration. Distance to bird 50 yards. Partly cloudy. Swarovski 80HD and 8×42 EL.

Description: While scanning the typical loafing Common/Caspian Tern flock, I noticed a smaller, darker gray bird. The bird was loafing on a mudflat about 50 feet away so I had ample time to study it. Overall mantle and chest color were a medium gray, a different appearance than the white of the nearby Common Terns, almost all of which were in peak breeding plumage. The light/medium red bill was smaller and thinner than those of nearby Common Terns, with no black tip at the end. The red legs were also substantially shorter than nearby Commons in all postures, at times making it hard to see the space between the belly of the bird and the mud. The cap was jet black, extending to under the eye and around the back of the head. Flight pictures sealed my suspicion that this was an adult Arctic Tern, showing a thin gray line on the trailing edge of the underwing with no gray or black wedge or anywhere else on the underwing, as is typical in Common Terns. The upper wings appeared frosty and translucent and the bird was developing white streamers on its outer tail feathers.

Similar Species: See above for comparison with Common Tern. Size class eliminates Caspian Tern and leg and bill color eliminate Forster's Tern.

ARCTIC TERN

*2 June 2017, Manitowoc Marina,
Manitowoc County
Gloria Shiraef, Manitowoc, WI*

Observation details: 5:03 p.m. 54 minutes duration. Distance to bird 300 feet. Mostly sunny and breezy with a slight chill. Camera: Panasonic Lumix FZ80 with 60× optical zoom.

Description: This bird appeared

smaller overall and had noticeably shorter, redder legs than nearby Common Terns and Forster's Terns. The breast seemed more of a light grey than bright white. The view and pictures were unfortunately distant, and my photos do not show a clean representation of the bill, but it appeared to me to be shorter and redder than the other small terns. Also, this bird can be seen in the photos to have contrasting white cheeks, often noted in the Arctic Tern. Because it was mostly facing toward me and showing very little of the back, with a foreshortened view of the tail and primaries, it's hard to assess differences in length of primaries to tail. The standing appearance from the front/breast seemed fuller and rounder than the Commons and Forster's, which is known to be typical of the Arctic Tern. It's overall plumage color was mostly a medium shade of grey, and I couldn't detect any black feathers on back, wings or primaries.

Similar Species: The only truly similar species would have been a Common Tern, and several were in the same vicinity for comparison. The legs of this tern were much redder and shorter, and the bill was shorter and redder, as well. Common Terns were notably taller in stature. I did not detect a black tip on the bill of the Arctic Tern through the camera or later in the photos yet was able to see the black tip on the bills of the Common Terns. It also did not have the brighter white breast of the Common Tern.

Behavior: This bird rested near other small terns when first discovered, and after a big flush into the air, when all the gulls and terns resettled, this bird continued to settle near a few Forster's and Common Terns. Just like the one that was here last year, it seemed to

keep to itself, and did not interact with nearby birds otherwise during the time of observation.

Habitat: The area this bird was seen both years is a man-made mudflat sur-

rounded by water, comprised mostly of sand and varied vegetation. The surrounding water is seasonably full of small fish and aquatic life, especially crayfish and alewife.



Michael Huebschen's photo shows five Ring-necked Pheasants peering through the grasses at Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County in late July.

WSO Records Committee Report: Summer 2017

Quentin Yoerger

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The WSO Records Committee reviewed 20 records of 14 species for the Summer 2017 season, accepting 12 of them (60%). The highlight of the Summer season was the first State record of Buff-bellied Hummingbird. Other notable sightings included Arctic Tern, California Gull, and Little Gull along Lake Michigan. King Rails breeding near the auto tour loop at Horicon Marsh were enjoyed by many.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Table 1 provides a list of records accepted by the WSO Records Committee during the Summer 2017 season. Information on each record, such as species, location, observer(s), and date(s), is accompanied by the tally of votes made by the five-person committee. Records with one or fewer dissenting votes are accepted into the state records.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

In the header for each record, voting tallies are shown in parentheses. Votes to accept are listed first. Two or more

dissenting votes from the five-person committee results in a Record Not Accepted.

Barn Owl—

Ozaukee County, 14 May 2017 (1-4).

The report is of a bird seen while “driving northbound on I43. I approached the bridge over KK and a bird flew from north to south over that part of the freeway with black birds following it. The size of the bird was typical of a red tailed hawk, but the coloration and shape were immediately different. The rounded, flat head had a delicate and distinctly short beak area. The neck streamlined into the body and a belly was not really evident. The bird remained that same diameter to the end with no fan like tail at all. It was now over the right side of the road, it banked left towards the Port Washington Water Tower and exit 100 maintaining an eye sight level flight for several seconds. I could clearly see a very light brown back that was softly patterned- there were no distinct streaks, stripes, spots but more of a delicate mottle. As I passed it and started to leave it behind, I could see its face. It was white and the slightly pronounced

Table of Records Accepted by the WSO Records Committee

Species	Date	Observer	Location	County	Notes	Votes
Artic Tern	6/02	Gloria Shiraef	Manitowoc Marina containment	Manitowoc	Photo	5 - 0
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	6/17	Jeff Rusinow	Lakeshore Rd Grafton	Ozaukee	Photo	5 - 0
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	6/17	William Grossmeyer	Lakeshore Rd Grafton	Ozaukee		4 - 1
California Gull	7/14	Amar Ayyash	Sheboygan Marina	Sheboygan	Photo	5 - 0
Chuck-will's-widow	6/04	Thomas Wood	Young Rd west of Tamarack Rd	Jefferson		5 - 0
King Rail	6/14	Jeff Bahls	Mud Lake area	Dodge	Audio	5 - 0
King Rail	7/04	Janelle Pitula	Horicon Marsh Auto Tour	Dodge	Photo	5 - 0
Lark Bunting	5/12	Daryl Christensen	Apache Ave east of 6th Ave	Adams		5 - 0
Little Gull	6/07	Myles Hurlburt	NorthPoint	Sheboygan	Photo	4 - 1
Little Gull	6/21	Adam Sinkula	Kewaunee walkway to lighthouse	Kewaunee		5 - 0
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	5/28	Kelli Bahls	Rush Lake boat launch off Cty M	Winnebago		5 - 0
Artic Tern	6/9 & 6/11	Tom Prestby	Cat Island Wave Barrier	Brown	Photo	5 - 0

beak area was again evident. The wings as it tipped in flight were broad, long and rounded, there were no fingertip like feathers. It seemed the wings were longer than the body with feet. When it flapped, it had deep strong beats, equally up as down, but mostly soared with slightly curved wings closer to the face with the long extensions side to side."

The committee found this to be an interesting report. More details about the bird are needed for the committee to accept this report. The beak was mentioned, but no comments about eye color or "heart-shaped face". Some concern also about the nature of the sighting; interstate driving, very brief view, no optics.

Elegant Tern—

Brown County, 28 June 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a bird that "was over-all white, with a black cap. It had a short, forked, white tail, and was a bit smaller than the Mallards swimming below it. Its beak was orange, but faded into a yellow tip, and was slender. It had thin, pointed wings, and a light gray back and upper wings." The observer did compare this bird to other similar species and indicated that "Both the Caspian and Royal Terns are too big, and have more robust, darker, and redder beaks. The Royal Tern might also have switched to nonbreeding plumage, and not had a full black cap. The Sandwich Tern is smaller and has a black beak. Neither the Royal or Sandwich tern live in Wisconsin. Common and Forster's Terns are too small and have long tails and black-tipped beaks."

The committee feels that there is not enough detailed information in this report to separate this report from the regular Wisconsin species of terns. Size

can be hard to determine when other similar species are not nearby. More detail about the black on the head, any crest, and wings would be needed to identify the bird.

Great-gray Owl—

Waukesha County, 21 June 2017 (0-5).

The report is of "Two owls sitting in fence post and on the lawn." They also indicated that "Not really sure if they are great grey owls, but that was the closest thing it seemed it could be looking online. Very large owls." Photos were also submitted.

The photos submitted were of juvenile Great-Horned Owls.

King Rail—

Shawano County, 08 June 2017 (2-3).

The report is of a "Bird responded to The King Rail recording in the Merlin App: first played a Sora whinny call and got an immediate response from a Sora in front of me as I faced west. Next I played a Virginia Rail grunting call and had response to my near south. Then I played a King Rail 'Kek' recording and received immediate callback of matching keks in sound and cadence. After about 12 keks, the Sora in front of me starting calling and then the subject Rail sped up its cadence, not to a thrill but approximately doubling the speed of the keks." The reporter also indicated that "I spent at least one hour listening to King and Virginia Rails in the Macaulay library but could not find a recording for a Virginia Rail that came close. I did find one for the King Rail where the bird started out with a normal kekking and the sped up the cadence so I couldn't find any backing to list this encounter as a Virginia".

The committee would like to see a very detailed description of the bird

call. The only real description in this report is of “keks”. Heard only rail calls can be very difficult to accurately identify. Rails can be highly variable in their calls as this reporter noted this rail “sped up its cadence”.

King Rail—

Shawano County, 13 June 2017 (0-5).

The report is of “Two birds flew by my position follow by a third one that was about 200’ behind them. Noted immediate description in voice recorder. Approximately crow size. Straight alignment from tail to beak. Medium length beak shorter than a Long-Billed Dowitcher. I could not see any field marks, steady wing beats, noted short pointed tails in all three birds. A few minutes later two returned past me in the same flight path and one made what I would call a loud, two note alarm call.” The observer indicates that they researched their observation and “I looked at all shorebirds that could be in our area except King Rails. Later I looked up the King Rail and found the size, profile and especially the matching tail I could not find in all other birds.” “Flight call was like a medium high pitch squawk which I tried to mimic on the voice recorder and could not adequately describe. Quick, fairly short and loud On returning about 30 minutes later I heard kek-ing for about number of seconds, maybe 5–7 seconds.”

The committee feels that there is not enough detail in this report to identify the sighting as a King Rail. More field marks would need to be noted. The behavior sounds more likely to be some species of shorebird.

Painted Bunting—

Waushara County, 15 July 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a pair of birds seen

for a few minutes at a birdbath. “Male was very beautiful, bright red with green wings and blue head. Female was light green.”

This very brief report is insufficient for the committee to accept the report. More detailed description of the birds is needed. There is no mention of the size and/or shape of the birds. While the information provided is very suggestive of Painted Buntings, a pair in summer in Wisconsin would be very unusual.

Prairie Warbler—

Milwaukee County, 04 July 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a heard only bird with “Very identifiable song with rising trill.” The bird was calling from a “dense woods along the fairway”. The reporter also indicated that “I had never heard this bird call before, but assumed it to be in the warbler family. I recorded it on my phone and identified the song as belonging to the Prairie Warbler online this evening.”

The committee would like a better description of the call. Another thing that would be helpful is to compare this call with other warblers that have a trill like call. Another option would be to provide the recording to the records committee for review.

Townsend’s Solitaire—

Juneau County, 16 June 2017 (3-2).

The report is a detailed description of the encounter. “Near the center of a 6–8 year old clear cut kept open for archaeological reasons and surrounded by jack pine-red pine forest this sighting occurred. I saw a bird perched upright on a dead snag twenty feet up. At first with unaided magnification, I thought bluebird due to the upright posture. As I raised my binoculars, the

bird dropped after some prey and I notice a distinctive flash of white from the outer tails feathers and my mind went to mockingbird. But I followed the bird back to another perch and with a ten to fifteen second look at 50 feet and the sun nearly to my back, I noticed the slim appearance. While perched, the bird had these characteristic field marks: nearly uniform gray coloration, slightly darker wings and a very distinctive white eye ring. The crown was slightly darker than the throat and the bill was dark gray. The breast was a uniform gray. The bird dropped again after prey and again the white flash of the outer tail feathers was obvious. It perched again and I examined more diagnostic features. The wing had a buffy patch centrally located on the wing in a very similar position as the white patch on the female Black-throated Blue Warbler. From above, the white outer tail feathers were nowhere near as obvious while the bird perched as they were in flight. I proceeded to take my bug suit off for more unimpeded movement and to try for a photograph. Just then two Eastern Kingbirds began harassing the solitaire and it kept moving farther away from me. Their harassment did provide on more great field mark viewing opportunity. As the solitaire flew away from the kingbirds, it always dropped a little upon leaving the perch and rose when landing. The rising movement spread the wings and tail for great views of the buffy mid-wing patch (perpendicular to the body and centrally located on the wing), plus the flared tail revealed the white outer tail feathers against the remainder of the dark gray tail. Another feature was the slender appearance compared with bluebirds. The length was very similar to the harassing kingbirds. No vocaliza-

tion was heard. I observed the bird until it flew over a peninsula of aspen jutting into the opening. I spent two more hours trying to relocate the bird without success."

Similar Species: Bluebird has the same upright posture when perched, but differently plumaged and plumper. Northern Mockingbird shows flashes of white in the tail and on the wings when flying. This bird had white tail flashes, but a buffy wing line and distinctive upright posture when perched.

Vocalizations: None

Behavior: Initially foraging alone, then being harassed by a pair of Eastern Kingbirds. When alone, the bird perched on the tip top of snags with an erect posture and slim appearance. It would then drop in pursuit of prey and return to the same or similar snags.

Habitat: Clear cut area surrounded by jack pine-red pine and oak forest"

The committee initially voted three to accept and two to not accept this record. The reasons the record was not accepted is are related to habitat, time of year, lack of a history for vagrancy, and similar common breeding species. After the initial voting the observer submitted this additional information.

"Juveniles of all bluebird species are to some degree spotted. My description does not mention any spotting. I could see confusion if I were comparing a juvenile Townsend's Solitaire with a juvenile bluebird, but not to an adult. In addition juveniles always show some trace of blue, especially on the tail feathers and other primaries. My description had no mention of any blue whatsoever on the bird. Granted Mountain Bluebirds have much less spotting and the blue can be quite diffuse, but such a sighting would have caused even more dismay, because it would be a con-

firmed nesting record. Furthermore, bluebirds do not have buff wing patches.”

The committee reviewed all documentation again and returned the same 3 to 2 voting results. Townsend’s Solitaire has one accepted record in eBird away from the Rocky Mountains during the July timeframe. That record was from a known migrant trap. So

there is very little history for this species to be outside of its normal breeding range at this time of year. The “clear cut” habitat noted is not typical breeding habitat for this species. The observer did compare the bird to bluebirds. The committee members felt that the description provided did not fully eliminate the possibility of this bird being a juvenile bluebird.



A Mourning Dove sits placidly on a branch in Vilas County in late June in this photo by David Franzen.

About the Artists

Beverly Engstrom is a retired elementary school teacher who lives on the Wisconsin River in Oneida County on property that is protected through a conservation easement with Northwoods Land Trust. She enjoys many outdoor activities, especially nature photography.

David Franzen and his wife, June, have lived in Phelps, Wisconsin since 1969. He worked for 34 years in the woods of northern Wisconsin, retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2001 and from a private forestry consulting business in 2004. After retirement, he took up bird photography with most of his work being shot within 100 yards of his house. His primary interest is in photographing bird behavior. He does not use blinds, but quietly waits in a chair for a bird to strike an interesting pose within close range. During 34 years of forestry work, he captured with the mind, many images that far surpass what he has captured with the camera. The most beautiful nature scene he ever viewed was encountered while trout fishing a small stream surrounded by maple forest that had sparse understory prior to spring leaf emergence. On that misty morning, a huge timber wolf glided over a hill across the stream and came toward him to stream's edge. When a wolf moves slowly, it kind of glides effortlessly, and this big guy was more like a spirit than a real animal. A

real magical moment. David does occasional slide programs for local groups.

Greg Hottman is an amateur wildlife photographer from Oregon, Wisconsin. Greg started out taking pictures of birds, mostly warblers to help with identification. As a youngster in the 60's he can remember seeing flashes of red going through the yard in his hometown of Cross Plains and running inside to the Encyclopedia Britannia to see what bird that might have been. He inherited that "those cows ain't gonna milk themselves" gene so he gets up early, gets most of his work done by 6am which frees him up for the rest of the day. Greg's favorite birds to photograph are owls. The neighborhood foxes are fun too.

Michael J. Huebschen is a past Art Editor for *The Passenger Pigeon* and has been an amateur wildlife photographer for over 45 years. He is retired from UW-Oshkosh and lives in Oshkosh, Wisconsin with his wife, Cynthia. They enjoy travel, wildlife observations, hiking, canoeing and fishing.

David Lund is an amateur photographer who lives near Eau Claire. Following his retirement as a Mathematics Professor at UW-Eau Claire in 2000, he and his wife, Judy, now include birding

and photography as part of all of their travels. Although many of his pictures are taken in Wisconsin, wintering in the southern US has provided many additional opportunities birding photography experiences. He has recently begun making presentations on birds and birding.

Kristie L Pinnow is a native of northern Wisconsin and has always loved nature. She has enjoyed backyard birding since childhood, and over the years has added photography to that interest. She has recently discovered the beauty of warblers, and it has become a desire to photograph as many local species as she can. Along with birding and photography, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, and baking.



A young Baltimore Oriole looks over its shoulder in this late June image that David Franzen captured in Vilas County.

Guidelines for Authors and Artists

AUTHORS

The Passenger Pigeon, issued quarterly by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO), publishes articles on Wisconsin birds, on ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and on WSO activities and business. Anyone with a serious interest in Wisconsin birdlife—whether a professional ornithologist or an amateur birder—is encouraged to submit articles and observations to this journal. The Editors are happy to discuss ideas for articles with potential authors.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles to be considered for publication in *The Passenger Pigeon*. It should be noted that all research articles will be submitted for peer review. Articles not presenting research will go through the traditional editorial process. The editors will do as much as possible to see that work is published, including offering suggestions for improvement when pertinent.

General articles should be sent via email to PassengerPigeon@WSOBirds.org and research-based articles should be sent, in the interim absence of a Peer Review Editor, directly to the President of WSO at president@wsobirds.org.

Following are specific guidelines for submission:

- Articles and art for each issue should be submitted by the following dates in order to be considered: spring—

December 1; summer—March 1; fall—April 15; winter—August 1.

- The text must be in Word format (.doc or .docx), either Word for Windows or Word for Mac.
- The manuscript should be double-spaced throughout (including figure and table captions) and use 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font style.
- The text must be on pages separate from figures and tables.
- On the title page, provide the article title, name, address, telephone number, and email address of all authors of the article.
- Include the acknowledgments, literature cited, and a brief biographical sketch of each author at the end of the manuscript.
- Research articles should generally follow standard scientific format, with separate sections for abstract, 5–7 key words, introduction, methods, results, discussion, conclusions, and bibliography. Deviations from this format (e.g., combined results and discussion section) will be considered on an individual manuscript basis. Key words should be different from key terms present in the title.
- Please use metric measures (for example: millimeters, kilograms, microliters).
- The spelling of common and scientific bird names should follow the

most recent edition of the Checklist of North American Birds (see <http://checklist.aou.org>), published by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), or the most recent updates to the checklist. Please include Genus and species (*italicized*) following the first time that the common name of a species is introduced in text.

- When appropriate, lists of species in tables or text should follow the most current AOU taxonomic sequence.
- Use capital letters for the full common names of birds (e.g., American Robin, Red-headed Woodpecker). Avoid use of four letter abbreviations often used to shorten the species name. For example, do not use RBWO for Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Guidelines for submitting figures and tables:

- Each figure and each table must be on a separate page.
- Captions for all figures should be sent as a separate text file, not embedded with the figure.
- Figures and table should be submitted in a way suitable for black-and-white reproduction.
- Tables are encouraged to be submitted as Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. All tables for each manuscript may be included in the same Microsoft Excel Book with separate sheets comprising each table. Alternatively, tables can be created as 'typists' tables' in Microsoft Word. This involves creating a tabular version of your table in Microsoft Word without using the actual "Table" function in that program. Instead, use tabs to separate

your columns and a carriage return to separate rows—do not add spaces to make columns line up.

Guidelines for citing literature in text:

Citations should be listed chronologically in parentheses:

- No comma between author(s) and date: (McGhee 1995)
- Use "and" between two authors: (Li and Aschenbrenner 2007)
- If more than two authors, use "et al.:" (Moreau et al. 2015)
- Personal communication or reference to unpublished data: Cite the person's initials and surname, institutional affiliation, followed by "pers. comm." or "unpub. data." Example: (E. Ramirez, University of Wisconsin-Madison, unpub. data).
- Works by the same author(s) in the same year are arranged alphabetically by article title and differentiated by letter (1998a, 1998b).

Guidelines for formatting references in bibliography section

References at end of document should be listed alphabetically by last name of first author, then in increasing chronological order. Follow the models below for citing books, book chapters, journal articles, etc.

Sample References:

Reller, A.W. 1972. Aspects of behavioral ecology of Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers. *American Midland Naturalist* 88(2): 270–290.

Bajema, R.A. and S.L. Lima. 2001. Landscape-level Analyses of Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*)

Abundance in Reclaimed Coal Mine Grasslands. *The American Midland Naturalist* 145(2): 288–298.

Curtis, J.T. 1959. *Vegetation of Wisconsin: An Ordination of Plant Communities*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

Gregg, L. 2006. Gray Jay. Pages 296–297 in N.J. Cutright, B.R. Harriman, and R.W. Howe (Eds.), *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*. Waukesha: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

Estades, C.F. 1997. Habitat fragmentation, pine plantation forestry and the conservation of forest bird communities in central Chile. Master of Science Thesis, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Kilvington, M., J. Rosier, R. Wilkinson and C. Freeman. 1998. Urban restoration: Social opportunities and constraints. Paper presented to the Symposium on Restoring the Health and Wealth of Ecosystems, Christchurch, New Zealand, September 28–30.

National Audubon Society. 2014. Christmas Bird Count Historical Results. www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr/index.html [accessed September 1, 2013].

Strickland, D. and H. Ouellet. 2011. Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*). In A. Poole (Ed.), *The Birds of North America Online*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Lab of Ornithology. <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/040> [accessed December 31, 2015].

ARTISTS

All photos must be submitted as jpeg digital images in e-mail attachments to Todd Leech, Assistant Editor for Art at

leechtodd@yahoo.com. They will be stored in secure digital files until recommended for a given quarterly issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*.

Although we would prefer to print all images chosen for *The Passenger Pigeon* in color, many will be printed in black & white due to the prohibitive cost of printing everything in color. One image per issue will be selected as a color cover photo. Every effort will be made to use the best photos submitted by as many contributors as possible. Final selections will be made by the editors.

Following are the criteria for submitted work:

1. Jpeg digital images of photos, drawings, paintings, sculptures, wood carvings, quilts or other artistic works featuring birds seen or photographed in Wisconsin should be sent as email attachments and should be in as large a size as possible, with resolution of at least 300 d.p.i. (1.2 megabytes for black-and-white and 1.5 megabytes for color). Lower resolution simply does not print well and pixel-dense images make the best candidates for printing since they often need to be cropped. All photos of birds submitted must have been taken in Wisconsin.
2. Please note: since the seasonal reports are for the year previous to the current issue, any photographs for a given issue should also be from the same period. For example, photographs for the Winter, 2015 issue should have been taken on or between December 1, 2014 and February 28, 2015; photographs for Spring, 2016 should have been taken on or between March 1, 2015 and May 31, 2015; and so on.

3. All images submitted must be material not previously published in *The Passenger Pigeon*.
4. All images must include the bird species name and name of the artist. Date and location are also necessary in the case of photographs. Images of works other than photographs should have a title if one has been selected.
5. The most useful images are those in “portrait” format, rather than “landscape” format. A cropped photo 4” horizontal by 5” vertical is ideal for consideration for a cover photo. The “fill page” images are also best done in portrait format and might run as large as 4.75” x 7”. The editors may do some additional cropping of images for publication.
6. Since no images will be returned, the submission must be high-resolution copy of the original. In most cases contributors will have cropped the images for the best effect. Cropping the images too tightly should be avoided since the editors may choose to do more cropping. All unused or unusable digital images will be destroyed after a certain time period.
7. It is the policy of Wisconsin Society for Ornithology not to offer monetary compensation to contributing artists for use of their images in *The Passenger Pigeon*. The Society is grateful for those who have contributed limited use of their images for publication in *The Passenger Pigeon* in the past and to those who will do so in the future.
8. When images have been selected and approved for each quarterly issue, a short biography from each contributing artist will be requested. It is tradition to publish those in the “About the Artists” pages of each issue. As a result, the Editors request that contributors include a short biographical statement along with their artwork.



David Franzen found this young Eastern Bluebird in Vilas County in late June.

Errata

We deeply apologize for the following errors in The Passenger Pigeon that have been reported in recent issues. We will take steps to minimize future mistakes.

The winter 2017–2018 issue (Volume 79, Number 4) on page 282 erroneously reported the bird depicted as a Least Grebe. It was, in fact, a Pied-billed Grebe.

The spring 2018 issue (Volume 80, Number 1) identified the Hawk in the photo on the bottom of page 22 to be a Sharp-shinned Hawk, when in actuality it is a Cooper's Hawk.

The spring 2018 issue also reported in the captions for the photos of a Great Blue Heron (p 38) and of a Double Crested Cormorant (p 46) that they were holding Catfish. The fish in these photos are actually Bullheads not Catfish.

Federal Duck Stamps = Big Win for Conservation

Canada Geese – image from the 2017-2018 federal Duck Stamp

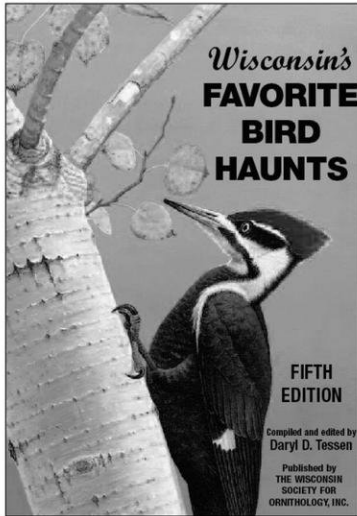


Officially the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, the federal Duck Stamp provides revenue to help acquire and protect wetlands within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Sales have raised more than \$800 million since the program began in 1934, and they have helped acquire and protect more than six million acres of irreplaceable bird-friendly habitat.

Wisconsin refuges funded in part by sales of Duck Stamps include:

- Horicon National Wildlife Refuge
- Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
- Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
- Wisconsin Waterfowl Production Areas

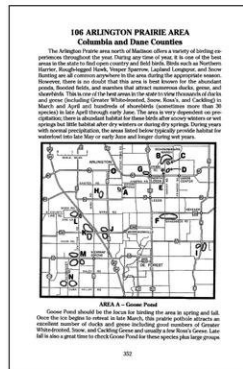
For a form that includes price and ordering information, visit the Conservation section of the WSO website, www.wsobirds.org.



Wisconsin's
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Bird Haunts,
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Reduced 50%!
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This edition marks the fourth time this comprehensive bird-finding guide to Wisconsin has been compiled and edited by Daryl Tessen.

- New in this edition: An **annotated checklist** of 443 species and a **birding highlights** quick reference.
- Nearly 40 bird illustrations (many in color) by Wisconsin artists Thomas Schultz, David Kuecherer, Jeannie Perry, Tom Uttech, and Robbye Johnson.
- Contributions from birders throughout the state.



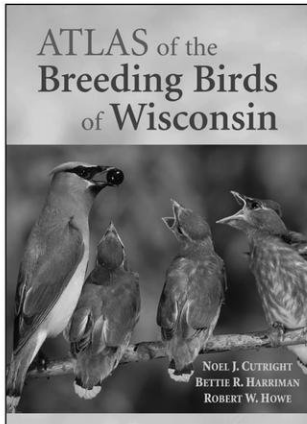
AREA A - Goose Pond
 Goose Pond should be the focus on finding the areas in spring and fall. Once the ice begins to retreat in late March, this private public attracts an excellent number of birds and opens including great numbers of Canada Warblers, Snow and Carolina Geese and usually the Ring-billed Gull. Late fall is also a great time to check Goose Pond for these species plus other groups.

145 articles cover some 1,100 areas and include detailed maps.

Designed for durability and functionality, this book is printed on heavy coated paper and has a spiral binding so it lies flat when open. 6" by 9", 556 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9774986-3-5.

Published by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., with proceeds used for projects supported by the organization.

Visit the WSO website, www.wsobirds.org, for an order form that includes price and ordering information, or contact the Bookstore Manager (see contact information on Inside Back Cover).



Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin

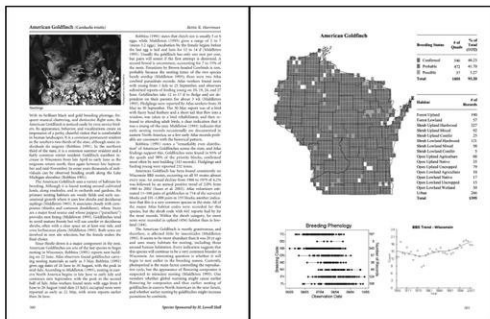
- Features almost 1,400 photographs, distribution maps, and figures – **all in color!**
- Based on studies done by more than 1,600 field observers between 1995 and 2000.
- Edited by Noel J. Cutright, Bettie R. Harriman, and Robert W. Howe.

The largest natural history survey ever conducted in Wisconsin has resulted in this comprehensive guide to birds that breed in the state.

Hardcover, large format (9" x 11.25"), 624 pages. Copyright 2006. ISBN-10: 0-9774986-0-3; ISBN-13: 978-0-9774986-0-4.

Published by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., with proceeds used for projects supported by the organization.

The two-page species accounts – 214 of them in all – provide a host of information on the state's breeding species, including their range, habitat preference, breeding biology, conservation concerns, and population trends. An additional 23 less-common species also are covered. Also included are chapters on Atlas methodology, results, history, habitats, and conservation.



Visit the WSO website, www.wsobirds.org, for an order form that includes price and ordering information, or contact WSO Bookstore at 262-594-2021 or wsobookstore@hotmail.com.

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is an educational and scientific non-profit organization founded in 1939 “to encourage the study of Wisconsin birds.” The Society achieves this goal through programs in research, education, conservation and publication.

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