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*The Passenger Pigeon*

Monthly Bulletin of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology

Vol. II

January, 1940

No. 1

## CHRISTMAS CENSUS FINDS 92 DIFFERENT BIRDS IN WISCONSIN

"Bird-Lore's" fortieth Christmas Bird Census was taken by observers throughout the United States and Canada as well as in other parts of the world between the inclusive dates of December 17 to 25, 1939. In Wisconsin, 12 individual census counts were made by 42 bird observers during that period, with a total of 14,074 birds of 92 different species and subspecies observed. As some of these counts were not sent in to "Bird-Lore", and as others may not be published by that magazine due to lack of space, the censuses for this state are summarized and listed here.

By way of introduction it may be well to mention the fact that "Bird-Lore's" first Christmas Census was made in 1900 and the work has been continued since then. An article by Leonard Wing and Millard Jenks in the November December (1939) "Bird-Lore," reviewing the history of these censuses, records a total of 203 such censuses taken in Wisconsin from 1900 to 1938 with a total of 115 species reported from the state between 1900 and 1937. The fact that Christmas, 1939, was an unusually favorable season for observation is evident from the 92 species recorded.

Every Wisconsin bird club was represented in the 1939 census with observations recorded for 10 different areas. One group went out on the 17th, another on the 21st, 5 on the 23rd, 3 on the 24th and one on the 25th. Two censuses (which were not exactly according to rules) were made on the 22nd and 23rd and 17th to 25th inclusive. A total of 121 hours in the field was recorded by the groups with 391 man-hours represented. Miles by car exceeded 211, while miles by foot totaled over 188.

The Green Bay Bird Club counted the largest number of birds with a total of 2,067 while Feeney, Jackson and John Main and Scott had the largest individual list of 46 species. The Hoy Nature Club of Racine had a close second to both of these records with 42 species totaling 2,029 birds observed. Unusually good records, however, were

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## THE PASSENGER PIGEON

The Monthly Bulletin of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology  
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Treasurer: Karl W. Kahmann, Hayward, Wisconsin  
Editor: W. E. Scott, Wisconsin Conservation Dept. Annex,  
20 N. Carroll St., Madison, Wisconsin

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## THE YEAR AHEAD

With this issue, THE PASSENGER PIGEON begins its second year and within a few months the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology will also be one year old. A look into the past shows a considerable amount of work accomplished with 170 pages released in the bulletin and various other bulletins and reprints sent to members. Likewise, an increased interest in Wisconsin birds is definitely evident.

But upon looking forward to the coming years, we can see much more work still to be done. At a recent meeting of the Kumlien Club, Mr. A. W. Schorger properly suggested that there was now a new hope for Wisconsin ornithology "after twenty-five years of discouragement." It is our opportunity as field observers to recognize the necessary work to be done and aim our field studies toward the required answers. Most of all, we must keep good and accurate records of all our observations so that they will be available for future use.

The reason for keeping our records in shape is crystallized in a recent letter from Owen Gromme of the Milwaukee Public Museum. He states as follows: "I would like to have it announced that work has begun on 'Wisconsin Birds'. Our new director, Dr. Ira Edwards, ordered me to proceed just as soon as possible to the end that a book similar to that put out by Dr. Forbush and Dr. Roberts shall be in the hands of the Wisconsin bird loving public at the earliest possible date."

Mr. Gromme has many plans for this book and they definitely include much essential assistance from the ornithologists of Wisconsin. Everyone can help through increased field observation, better records and a willingness to contribute available information whenever it is desired.

Renewal of your membership in the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology will be the first step toward such cooperation.

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE W. S. O. AT MILWAUKEE, APRIL 6.

# CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

made by all participating groups and individuals.

Special credit for adding to the list species, secured by no other groups or individuals, goes to the following: Hoy Nature Club of Racine with a Common Loon, Killdeer, House Wren, Mockingbird, Bronzed Grackle, 2 Cedar Waxwings and 25 Bonaparte's Gulls; Barger and Jackson of Madison with 50 Gadwall and 4 Ruddy Ducks; Karl Kahmann of Hayward with a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Ravens, 7 Canada Jays and 25 Sharp-tailed Grouse; the Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club of Waukesha with a Red-shouldered Hawk; Carl Richter and Norman Kahr of Oconto with 24 Whistling Swan; Walter Mueller of Milwaukee with a Sparrow Hawk and 11 Shovellers; Elton Bussewitz and others of Watertown with a Long-eared Owl and 30 Flickers; the Green Bay Bird Club with 2 Ring-necked Ducks and 250 N. Horned Larks; the Door County Junior Bird Club of Sturgeon Bay with a Winter Wren and a Canada Spruce Grouse; and W. S. Feeney, Jackson Main, John Main and W. E. Scott of Madison with a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Am. Rough-legged Hawk, Brewer's Blackbird, 2 Swamp Sparrows, 2 Pied-billed Grebes and 26 Cowbirds. There were many other outstanding records which were listed on more than one report.

Of the 14,074 birds reported, 3,853 were ducks, 1,132 gulls, 356 upland game birds, 353 blackbirds, 140 woodpeckers and 45 hawks, owls and eagles. As might have been expected, the English Sparrow topped the list in numbers, with over 3,463 recorded. The Crow and Starling were in 7th and 8th places respectively with 665 and 547 recorded. A total of 8 Robins was seen at Racine, Watertown, Green Bay and Madison. The following list of birds observed shows the number of groups or individuals reporting the particular species and the total seen. For details, the individual census lists should be consulted on page 6.

Number of species	Groups observing	Total seen
1 Common Loon	1	1
2 Pied-billed Grebe	1	2
3 Whistling Swan	1	34
4 Common Mallard	6	994
5 Black Duck	10	346
6 Gadwall	1	50
7 Baldpate	2	6
8 Am. Pintail	2	8
9 Shoveller	1	11



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Number	species	Groups observing	Total seen
10	Redhead	2	5
11	Ring-necked Duck	1	2
12	Greater Scaup Duck	2	19
13	Lesser Scaup Duck	6	230
	(Mixed Scaup)	1	162
14	American Golden-eye	9	1231
15	Bufflehead	3	116
16	Old-squaw	2	109
17	Ruddy Duck	1	4
18	Hooded Merganser	2	5
19	Am. Merganser	7	413
20	Red-breasted Merganser	5	71
21	Cooper's Hawk	3	3
22	Red-tailed Hawk	4	13
23	N. Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1
24	Am. Rough-legged Hawk	1	1
25	Bald Eagle	2	7
26	Marsh Hawk	3	5
27	E. Sparrow Hawk	1	1
	(Falco sp.)	1	1
28	Canada Spruce Grouse	1	1
29	Ruffed Grouse	5	11
30	Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	45
31	European Partridge	2	48
32	E. Bob-white	3	47
33	Pheasants	7	214
34	Am. Coot	4	76
35	Killdeer	1	1
36	Wilson's Snipe	2	4
37	Herring Gull	10	906
38	Ring-billed Gull	6	201
39	Bonaparte's Gull	1	25
40	Mourning Dove	2	10
41	E. Screech Owl	5	6
42	Great Horned Owl	3	3
43	N. Barred Owl	2	2
44	Long-eared Owl	1	1
45	Short-eared Owl	2	2
46	E. Belted Kingfisher	2	2
47	Flicker	1	30
48	N. Pileated Woodpecker	1	1
49	Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	4
50	Red-headed Woodpecker	4	4

# CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

Number species	Group observing	Total seen
51 Hairy Woodpecker	8	36
52 Downy Woodpecker	10	65
53 Prairie Horned Lark	2	15
54 N. Horned Lark	1	250
55 Canada Jay	1	7
56 N. Blue Jay	12	314
57 N. Raven	1	4
58 E. Crow	8	665
59 Black-capped Chickadee	10	429
60 Tufted Titmouse	2	2
61 White-breasted Nuthatch	9	138
62 Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	4
63 Brown Creeper	4	14
64 House Wren	1	1
65 E. Winter Wren	1	1
66 E. Mockingbird	1	1
67 Brown Thrasher	1	1
68 E. Robin	4	8
69 E. Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	46
70 E. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	1
71 Cedar Waxwing	1	2
72 N. Shrike	2	2
73 Starling	10	547
74 English Sparrow	10	3486
75 Meadowlark	2	6
76 Red-winged Blackbird	4	277
77 Rusty Blackbird	3	42
78 Brewer's Blackbird	1	1
79 Bronzed Grackle	1	1
80 E. Cowbird	1	26
81 E. Cardinal	4	45
82 E. Evening Grosbeak	2	2
83 E. Purple Finch	5	24
84 Common Redpoll	3	196
85 E. Goldfinch	8	111
86 Slate-colored Junco	8	723
87 E. Tree Sparrow	8	910
88 White-throated Sparrow	2	2
89 Swamp Sparrow	1	2
90 Song Sparrow	2	2
91 Lapland Longspur	3	97
92 E. Snow Bunting	2	73
		<hr/> 14,074

## THE PASSENGER PIGEON

### Individual Census Lists

GREEN BAY. Dec. 24. 7:30 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. Clear and sunny, no snow on ground. Steady wind from southwest. Bay frozen over for several miles out. Temp. 28 at start, 34 at close. City streets and parks, woods, swamps, fields, bay shore, surrounding town, an area not exceeding 15 miles in diameter. Observers in 4 groups, groups totaling 40 mi. by car, 24 by foot. Black Duck, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 2; Am. Merganser, 45; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Herring Gull, 406; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Northern Horned Lark, 250; Blue Jay, 50; Black-capped Chickadee, 34; Tufted Titmouse, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 25; Robin, 2; Starling, 51; English Sparrow, 944; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Purple Finch, 9; Redpoll, 44; Goldfinch, 21; Slate-colored Junco, 102; Tree Sparrow, 35; Snow Bunting, 23. Total, 24 species, 2067 individuals. The Titmouse has been feeding at a stand in town every day since Dec. 14. First record our club has for this species. Robins feeding at same stand. No large flocks of starlings here now which differs from other years. --Mrs. Fred Farrett, Winnie Gillespie, Ed. Paulson, R. P. Hussong, Chester Krawczyk, Andrew Weber, Donald Liebman, Bernard Chartier, Robert Feller, Elmer Strehlow (Green Bay Bird Club).

WAUKESHA. Dec. 23; covered marsh near Dousman; also Mukwonago marsh, the area south of Waukesha, including fields and woodlands; Weber's Grove and points of interest within the city limits. Clear; temp. 27 at start, 35 at return. Group I, 2 observers 7 A. M. to 12 M; Group II, 3 observers 7 A. M. to 12 M; Group III, 1 observer 2 P. M. to 3:30 P. M.; Group IV, 1 observer 1 P. M. to 4:30 P. M. Traveled 20 miles on foot, 25 by car. Black Duck, 5; Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 3; European Partridge, 27; Ring-necked Pheasant, 26; Herring Gull, 4; Mourning Dove, 4; Screech Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Blue Jay, 31; Crow, 500; Black-capped Chickadee, 52; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 34; English Sparrow, 500; Giant Red-winged Blackbird, 150; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 21; Slate-colored Junco, 171; Tree Sparrow, 320. Total, 25 species, 1878 individuals. Prof. V. P. Batha, Clarence Anthes, Robert Adams, Don McGeen, Howard Young, Howard Newman, Vernon C. Rossman (Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club).



## CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

APPLETON. Dec. 23. City parks and streets, river front and thickets, open fields, lake front, willow, tamarack and cedar swamps, alder thickets and hardwoods. Sunrise to sunset. Inch of snow in shady spots; light northeast wind, shifting to southeast by noon. Temp. 21 at start, 32 at noon, 30 at return. Observers together first  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours and last 2 hours, otherwise in two groups of two each. Total miles by car 53, afoot 12. Mallard, 20; Black Duck, 200; Greater Scaup, 15; American Golden-eye, 100; Am. Merganser, 10; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Coot 1; Herring Gull, 25; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 10; Crow, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 23; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 5; Starling, 20; English Sparrow, 300; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 15; Slate-colored Junco, 15; Tree Sparrow, 35. Total species, 22; 812 individuals. The Titmouse was observed daily for more than a month.--Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, Kai T. Rogers, Dexter Wolfe, Walter E. Rogers.

WATERTOWN. Dec. 24. Mashkigi Wateg swamps, Rock river from Pipersville to Watertown south to Hahn's lake, Vulture's Tamaracks, Faville Grove Game Area, and Rock lake. There were two small open spots in the ice of Rock lake and  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of open water on the river. 7:30 A. M. to 5 P. M. Clear, no snow on ground, light west wind; temp. 18 degrees to 37 to 28. Observers in groups as follows: Party I, 2 observers,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hours, 10 miles; Party II, 1 observer,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hours,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles; Party III, 2 observers,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hours,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles; Party IV, 1 observer,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hours, 6 miles; Party V, 1 observer,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles; Party VI,  $7\frac{3}{4}$  hours, 11 miles. Total miles afoot,  $57\frac{1}{2}$ ; total hours,  $36\frac{1}{4}$ . Am. Golden-eye; 4; Hooded Merganser, 2; Red-breasted Merganser, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Marsh Hawk, 1; Hawk (*Falco* sp.) 1; Hungarian Partridge, 21; Bobwhite, 15; Ring-necked Pheasant, 23; Am. Coot, 44; Wilson's Snipe, 2; Herring Gull, 15; Ring-billed Gull, 3; Mourning Dove, 6; Screech Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Long-eared Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Flicker, 30; Hairy Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 23; Horned Lark, 14; Blue Jay, 29; Crow, 102; Black-capped Chickadee, 127; White-breasted Nuthatch, 44; Brown Creeper, 3; Robin, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Starling, 51; English Sparrow, 700; Meadowlark, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Am. Goldfinch, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 86; Tree Sparrow, 181; Lapland Longspur, 89. Total, 39 species, 1651 individuals.--John Danner, G. Niere, O. Owen, Harvey Riedeman, Alfred Wallner, E. E. Bussewitz.



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MADISON. Dec. 24. Around Lake Mendota on foot; 7 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. Clear; ground bare; light wind; temp. 22 at start. Observers together. Total miles, 20. Mallard, 6; Black Duck, 15; Gadwall, 50; Baldpate, 3; Pintail, 3; Red-head, 2; Lesser Scaup, 2; Golden-eye, 300; Ruddy Duck, 4; Hooded Merganser, 3; Am. Merganser, 50; Bobwhite, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Coot, 30; Herring Gull, 50; Ring-billed Gull, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Blue Jay, 30; Crow, 15; Black-capped Chickadee, 30; White-breasted Nuthatch, 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 15; Starling, 4; English Sparrow, 50; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 12; Goldfinch, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 75; Tree Sparrow, 75. Total, 35 species, about 859 individuals. At 5 P. M. three Canvasbacks were seen on the same lake.--Arnold Jackson, Jr. and N. H. Barger.

MADISON. Dec. 23. Along the shore of Lake Mendota to Middleton, returning across fields and woods and along north shore of Lake Wingra; 6:30 A. M. to 4 P. M. Clear; trace of snow on northern exposures; wind, light southeast; temp. 18 at start, 33 at return. Observers together except for 2 hours and 2 miles. Total miles afoot, 16; total hours, 11½. Mallard, 417; Black Duck, 3; Lesser Scaup, 8; Golden-eye, 284; Am. Merganser, 5; Bobwhite, 30; Ring-necked Pheasant, 29; Herring Gull, 20; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Screech Owl, 2; (Great Horned Owl?) Owl, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Blue Jay, 55; Crow, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 33; White-breasted Nuthatch, 18; Brown Creeper, 5; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Starling, 18; English Sparrow, 350; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 17; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 80; Tree Sparrow, 72; White-throated Sparrow, 1. Total, 30 species, 1480 individuals. The White-throat was identified at 30 feet with 8-power glasses by both observers.--Samuel Robbins, and Earl Mitchell (Madison Bird Club).

MADISON. Dec. 17. To Lake Waubesa, Pheasant Branch, Pine Bluff and return. 7 A. M. to 5 P. M. Clear and calm; no snow on ground; temp. 32 at start, 47 at return. Observers in one group. Total miles on foot, 5; by car, 80. Total hours afoot 7. Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Mallard, 500; Black Duck, 60; Red-head, 3; Lesser Scaup, 1; Am. Golden-eye, 100; Bufflehead, 40;

# CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

Red-breasted Merganser, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Am. Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 60; Wilson Snipe, 2; Herring Gull, 12; Ring-billed Gull, 6; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Prairie Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 75; Crow, 50; Black-capped Chickadee, 65; White-breasted Nuthatch, 20; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 19; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 225; English Sparrow, 300; Eastern Meadowlark, 5; Giant Red-winged Blackbird, 125; Rusty Blackbird, 40; Brewer's Blackbird, 1; Cowbird, 26; Cardinal, 4; Goldfinch, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 100; Tree Sparrow, 125; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 1; Lapland Longspur, 5. Total, 46 species, 1988 individuals. The Brewer's Blackbird was watched by all the observers at close range and under perfect conditions. The Screech Owl had been previously located. The Ruffed Grouse was lucky, as they are extremely scarce. Within the next few days the following were noted: Red-headed Woodpecker, Ring-necked Duck, Bobwhite, Long-eared Owl, Purple Finch, White-throated Sparrow.--W. S. Feeney, W. E. Scott, Jackson Main and John Main (The Kumlien Club).

RACINE. Dec. 23. From north county line along Lake Michigan to city harbor; Washington Park then along Root river through fields and woods; and Doc's sanctuary and Petrifying Springs. These are almost the same three areas covered last year. 7 A. M. to 5 P. M. Partially cloudy; ground bare; moderate south wind changing to east by 9 A. M., then to northeast at 4 P. M. Temp. 17 at start, 34 at return. Observers in groups as follows: Party I, one person,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hours, 15 miles on foot,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  by car; Party II, one person,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hours,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  miles on foot; Party III, one person,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile on foot; Party IV, two persons, 1 hour, 2 miles on foot, 2 miles by car. Total of  $20\frac{1}{2}$  hours; 30 miles on foot;  $8\frac{1}{4}$  miles by car. Common Loon, 1; Black Duck, 3; Mallard, 1; Scaup (mixed), 162; Lesser Scaup, 3; Golden-eye, 271; Bufflehead, 54; Old Squaw, 90; Am. Merganser, 153; Red-breasted Merganser, 31; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 73; Killdeer, 1; Herring Gull, 234; Ring-billed Gull, 183; Bonaparte's Gull, 25; Screech Owl, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Crow, 12; Blue Jay, 25; Black-capped Chickadee, 9; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; House Wren, 1; Brown Thrasher, 1; Mockingbird, 1; Robin, 3; Cedar Waxwing, 2; Starling, 119; English Spar-

## THE PASSENGER PIGEON

row, 329; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Cardinal, 12; Purple Finch, 11; Redpoll, 2; Goldfinch, 40; Junco, 94; Tree Sparrow, 67; Song Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 1. Total, 42 species, 2,029 individuals. The House Wren had a defective wing and was caught for positive identification by George Prins. The Grosbeak, White-throated Sparrow, and Thrasher, one of a pair seen often, were by George Prins at close range with 4x field glasses. The Mockingbird was by E. Prins at 25 yards with 8x binoculars. A White-winged Scoter was found dead along the lake. On Dec. 24, two more Robins and two more Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen besides a Flicker, Rusty Blackbird, 2 Wilson's Snipe and a Sparrow Hawk by Hans Zell. Dec. 25, another Grackle was seen, and on the 26th about 70 Mourning Doves in a flock.--Edward Prins, George Prins, Walter Nelson and Dr. B. L. von Jarchow (Hoy Nature Club).

OCONTO. Dec. 21. From Oconto to Pecor's Point, 4 miles south of city of Oconto by auto, walked shore of Green Bay to Point Slough north of Pensaukee river, across field through mixed pine and oak woods back to Pecor's point. Then by auto to city park and then by auto to mouth of Oconto river and along shore of Green Bay on foot north to Campbell's drainage ditch about one mile north of the river mouth. 1 P. M. to 4:10 P. M. Clear; wind moderate from northwest; 28 degrees at start, 26 at return. Light scattering of snow with none in the fields. Observers together. About 10 miles by car and 6 by foot. Total hours afoot, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Whistling Swan, 34; Black Duck, 40; Am. Golden-eye, 5; Scaup, 16; Am. Merganser, 50; Red-breasted Merganser, 3; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Herring Gull, 108; N. Blue Jay, 5; Starling, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Common Redpoll, 150; English Sparrow, 12; Lapland Longspur, 3; Snow Bunting, 50. Total, 15 species, 484 individuals.--Norman Kahr and Carl H. Richter.

MILWAUKEE. Dec. 25. From seadrome two miles along Lake Michigan, including the Juneau Park Lagoon and Lake Park. Morning. Weather mild and just below freezing. Total miles afoot, about 4. Mallard, 50; Black Duck, 17; Baldpate, 3; Pintail, 5; Shoveller, 11; Am. Coot, 1; Lesser Scaup, 200; Greater Scaup, 4; Am. Golden-eye, 150; Bufflehead, 22; Old Squaw, 19; Red-breasted Merganser, 30; Am. Merganser, 100; Starling, 19; Herring Gull, 32; Ring-billed Gull, 5; English Sparrow, many; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Am. Crow, 3; Blue



## CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

Jay, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2. Total, 22 species, 677 individuals.--Walter J. Mueller (Milwaukee Bird Club).

STURGEON BAY. Dec. 22 and 23. Whitefish Bay and woods near Jacksonport. To Bay on 23rd for 1½ hours A. M.; to woods on 22nd in P. M. Two groups, 2 individuals to the Bay and 3 to the woods. Total hours afoot, about 5. Black Duck, flock; Bald Eagle, 1; Canada Spruce Grouse, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Total 7 species, 7 plus individuals.--Dorothy Mae Bocek, Eugene Smith, Bobby Leist, Francis and Clifford Ehlers (Door County Junior Bird Club).

HAYWARD. Dec. 18, 20, 23 and 25. Clam lake, Moose lake and Namekagon river. Am. Golden-eye, 17; Bald Eagle, 6; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 45; Great Horned Owl, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Canada Jay, 7; Blue Jay, 2; Am. Raven, 4; Black-capped Chickadee, 55. Total 10 species, 142 individuals.--Karl W. Kahmann.

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## A MILWAUKEE GROUP TAKES NESTING CENSUS

J. D. Vallier of the Recreational Department of the Milwaukee Public Schools has been encouraging bird study as a recreational project. The Dover Street Junior Audubon Society was organized under this program and their 1939 census report for their Humboldt Park Bird House project is most interesting. A total of 43 bird houses was erected in the park, partly through the assistance of the Milwaukee Izaak Walton League. Twenty-four of these houses were occupied in 1939 and young were raised in them, while 8 other houses contained nests, but further data were not available. Birds using the houses included the English Sparrow, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Martin, Flicker, Starling and Screech Owl. Most interesting is the fact that in two cases Flickers actually used the houses erected specifically for them, while the Screech Owl also used a Flicker house. This interesting project is surely worthy of continued effort.

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SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE W. S. O. WILL BE HELD AT MILWAUKEE, APRIL 6, 1940.



## DECEMBER FIELD NOTES

Material for this department should be sent to the editor at the end of each month. The following records are additional to Christmas Bird Census notes.

SOUTHEASTERN AREA.--E. W. Strehlow of the Green Bay Bird Club reports a total of 33 species observed during the month of December, and a total of 213 species observed in 1939; of which 208 were seen in Brown county and 8 in Door, Shawano and Marinette counties. The most important records follow: Marsh Hawk, Krawczyk, 6th; Northern Shrike, Cleary, 9th; Mallard and Pine Grosbeak, Liebmann, 10th; a large flock of Whistling Swans on Green Bay near Oconto; Kendall, 11th; Tufted Titmouse, Mrs. Fred Garrett, 14th; Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, in Shawano county, Thomson, 17th; Purple Finch, Liebmann, Evening Grosbeak and a flock of 250 Northern Horned Larks, Chartier and Fellows, 24th; Evening Grosbeak and a large flock of Starlings in Door county, 28th; on the 29th, a large flock of Starlings was seen in Kewaunee county, possibly the same migratory flock, Kendall; Tufted Titmouse and 2 Robins at feeding stand on the 30th, Mrs. Fred Garrett.

For the Madison area, Feeney reports a Sparrow Hawk, Dec. 9, and Mr. Schorger, one on the 17. Ducks were numerous throughout the month. Tree Sparrowers were fewer this year according to Sperry, and there were almost no Song Sparrows. Feeney noted the Purple Finch, Dec. 18, and Mitchell the Snow Bunting early in December. The Red-bellied Woodpecker, not often seen in city limits except in winter, was seen by Mitchell. A second Northern Shrike was trapped and banded by Sperry, Dec. 10. There were several December records for the Ring-billed Gull.

C. T. Black of Lake Mills, manager of the Faville Grove Wildlife Area, reports for that area, Redpolls in groups of 10 to 15 and a Cooper's Hawk on the 9th; 4 Prairie Chickens, a Wilson's Snipe and 2 Mourning Doves on the 17th; 2 Short-eared Owls on the 10th and the Red-tailed Hawk and Great Horned Owl several times. At Rock lake he found Herring and Ring-billed Gulls throughout the month, and Hooded Mergansers during the first part of the month; a black-phased Am. Rough-legged Hawk and a Marsh Hawk on the 24th near Whitewater. West of Darien on the same he counted about 5,000 Crows. On the 27th, on Lake Geneva he noted 7 Buffleheads.

## DECEMBER FIELD NOTES

Black reports that on Dec. 10, <sup>H.</sup> R. Roehl, of Lake Mills, shot a Greenland Gyrfalcon on the London Marsh, just east of London in Jefferson county. He found the bird to be an immature female. It would have been called a "White Gyrfalcon" according to the A. O. U. check list, but was given the name mentioned above according to a letter from Alexander Wetmore to Black dated Dec. 27, 1939. The White and Black Gyrfalcons have been re-classified by Wetmore and Friedmann under the single name Greenland Gyrfalcon. This is the third specimen for Wisconsin. It is mounted (John Hooper, taxidermist) and will be donated to the museum of the State Experimental Game and Fur Farm at Poynette.

Mueller reports that on the 10th of December, a Sandhill Crane was observed on the Milwaukee river a few miles north of the city. Various members of the Milwaukee Bird Club observed the bird. On the 19th, a Black-crowned Night Heron was found in the same locality.

Conservation Warden Al Koppenhaver, of Madison observed about 20 Prairie Chicken at Mazomanie in Dane county on the 15th.

Ed. Prins reports for the Hoy Nature Club of Racine as follows: Sparrow Hawks were seen on the 7th and 16th by E. Prins and 2 more on the 24th by Dr. von Jarchow in whose sanctuary a Red-tailed Hawk has continued to live. Two Killdeer were seen until the 16th, when only one remained. A Rusty and a Red-winged Blackbird were seen together by G. Prins until the 17th and a Meadowlark was recorded by G. and E. Prins at Lake Michigan on the 30th. A flock of about 25 Snow Buntings was also seen by the Prins brothers at Wind lake, after being absent about a month. The Hoy club records a Myrtle Warbler also at Wind lake, but with no date given except December.

Mrs. Walter E. Rogers reports Tree Sparrows and a Golden-crowned Kinglet on the 6th and a male Cardinal on the 15th, at Appleton.

SOUTHWESTERN AREA.--No report.

CENTRAL SAND AREA.--An albino English Sparrow was captured on Dec. 2 by Lyle B. Vogel of Sparta, Monroe county, according to a letter from him.

## NEWS NOTES

J. H. Evans, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Oshkosh Public Museum, has sent in a list of unusual bird specimens and eggs in that museum, and states that they would be happy to have bird students visit the museum. They have 210 specimens of about 150 different species on exhibition. These records will be carried in a future issue of THE PASSENGER PIGEON after data of other collections have been sent in to the editor. Evans also states that the Oshkosh museum will exhibit some of Gromme's bird portraits during the month of May.

According to Murl Deusing, the Milwaukee Bird Club held its annual winter hike for the public on January 7, with 23 people in attendance. A total of 23 birds was identified at Jacobus and Juneau County Parks.

Mrs. Clara Hussong reviewed the work of our society during 1939 in the December 16th issue of the Green Bay Advocate. Her article contained a thorough discussion of the work the Society is doing and urged interested bird students to cooperate. As our society can use publicity regarding its activities, all bird clubs in the state are encouraged to follow the practice featured by the Green Bay club.

The date for the Second Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology has been changed from March 30 to April 6. The place and all other details remain the same. This change was deemed advisable in order to secure Cleveland Grant with his colored movies. Mr. Grant has done outstanding work in this line and shows his pictures to large audiences throughout the country. We believe our people will welcome the opportunity to see these extraordinary pictures, many of which show eggs hatching, care of young, and other behavior not often witnessed.

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TRANSITION AREA.--G. N. Rysgaard, president of the Minnesota Ornithologists Union, reports the observation of a Broad-winged Hawk, Dec. 3, at Bay City, Pierce county.

Clifford Ehlers of the Door county Junior Bird Club reports that Billy Miller saw a Hairy Woodpecker on the 5th and 7 Scaup Ducks on the 9th; Frances Francis about about 50 Goldfinches on the 11th, when Bobby Leist also saw a small flock.