

# The passenger pigeon. Vol. XXIII, No. 2 Summer 1961

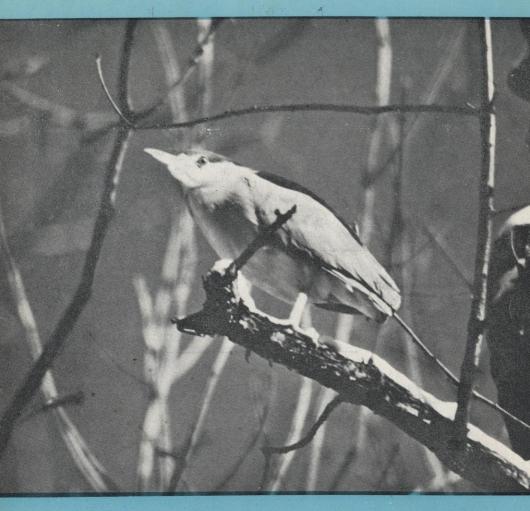
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# Life With the Finches

## By MRS. HENRY KOENIG

The winter of 1958 and 1959 will forever stand out in our memories as the year of the huge invasion of Purple Finches—and of course we loved it. After having had an estimated 600 of these beautiful friendly birds we surely expected more the following year. This however was not the case, for only about 200 appeared.

During the practically snowless winter of '60 and '61 the Purple Finches numbered about 75 until the two brief snowfalls of March. After that they rapidly increased until there were upwards of 300 daily. There was action galore at every feeder and much finch chatter as the birds fought for a position of advantage at the lunch counters. A carpet of Purple Finches was visible under every feeder and the sill feeders were crowded with at least a dozen in each. These birds could be seen most any time of the day except after the hawk had visited the yard.

For the past three winters hawks have been attracted by large numbers of birds feeding here. Whenever the finches left in one mad dash, some striking the unprotected windows and others the screens which covered the most vulnerable storm windows, we knew they had sighted a hawk. Then the finches sometimes remained away for hours.

### **Honey Comes Into Our Home**

On April 17, 1959, nature bestowed upon us a priceless gift which has become more precious with each passing day. I refer to an injured Purple Finch with a broken wing and an eye knocked out, found in the street outside our home, no doubt the victim of an auto accident within the hour, which was 6:30 a. m. This young male finch must have been hatched the summer of 1958 for he was still in female-like attire. We held little hope for the bird's life but it slowly recovered. After two weeks it was able to hop into a low branch of a small tree in the large cage. One morning a beautiful song came from the throat of our little invalid and we realized it was a male. And so the invasion of '58 and '59 left one of its Purple Finches in our keeping.

We consider April 17 the birthday of Honey Finch, as we called him, and at this writing it has been 2½ years since he came into our lives. At first we expected to release him upon recovery but he was very badly injured, requiring special food preparation due to his injured bill, and was thereafter too handicapped to fend for himself, besides being easy prey for hawks and Grackles.

It has been a thrilling experience to share our bedroom with this plucky little bird and we hope he will live for many years. He was

caged from April until January, when he was given the freedom of the entire room with its six windows and five trees. He has never been able to fly well and due to having but one eye, tends to fly in a small circle. He usually takes the easiest way around, hopping from branch to branch. Honey stays in his part of the room, never disturbing our bed so near by and neither does he try to fly from the room through the open door.

Honcy has never had the usual red coloring of an adult Purple Finch. After the '59 molt he became gray with a yellow rump, head and breast. After the '60 molt he again was gray and yellow but with a faint suggestion of red about the head. At this writing, September 1961, the molt caused Honey to be more yellow than ever. I have saved the feathers of each molt, picking them up several times weekly when cleaning the room. Sunshine is always available to the bird for the cage is extended out of the window except when the weather is bad.



PHOTO BY THE KOENIGS

On July 19, 1960, Honey acquired a roommate, when a red Purple Finch was brought to us from Blue Mounds. This finch. which we called Bobby because for months he had not the sign of a tail, was found with a broken wing in April, 1960. After a time the caged bird was so active that it wore down or broke every tail and wing feather and consequently would not fly. We did not cage the finch but built bridges between the five trees in our bedroom. After the molt, which for this bird has been in late summer (Honey molts much earlier), Bobby grew a tail and fine wing feathers which served him well. But he lost

his lovely red color and he too became a somewhat yellowish gray.

At first Honey, in spite of his handicaps, attempted to attack the invader of his territory and Bobby retreated in a hurry. For about a year Honey seemed to resent Bobby's presence and would not allow him to eat from the same dish with him. When several bunches of the well-liked arbor vitae seeds were tied to the trees, Bobby usually got there first. Then Honey would want the very same bunch at which Bobby was feeding and would get there as fast as possible, causing Bobby to retire. There was also jealousy about favorite perches for the night. Honey aften wanted the same spot which Bobby chose for sleeping and eventually chased Bobby out of bed. He usually gave in without much resistance. They must have had many conversations and some arguments about this.

For the past few months, however, both birds have lived in harmony. Perhaps they have heard us humans talk about having Bobby banded before releasing him this fall. Since the last molt he again is a beautiful red color for which we are thankful. Bobby flies well and we sincerely hope he will adapt himself to the outside world. This spring he was so very eager to migrate but we retained him for various reasons; one of which was that he looked so unlike a finch and we felt he might not be accepted by his kind and perhaps be an outcast.

On March 31 at 3:20 a. m. Bobby began fluttering at the east windows. When we turned on the light he returned to his pine tree. This was the beginning of a long siege of migration fever. The evening of April 4 he began to flutter at the transom about the kitchen door where

a ray of light from the living room attracted him. This was his reaction to light for the duration. Starting with the night of April 9 Bobby began to sing regularly. On April 13 the outdoor finches seemed to be firing up for the flight north and were still numerous enough to eat about 15 pounds of sunflower seeds a day but after that they rapidly decreased in number. On April 15 we moved into the spare bedroom because we had been unable to get much rest in the bird room for Bobby flew about much of the night. It was almost two months before we returned there to sleep.

Honey was restless to some extent but he did not fly because he could not. He was observed on a limb going through the motions of

flying without leaving the branch.

The fall migration urge was not as strong as the spring one, perhaps because these birds already were where finches normally go, and lasted from October 15 to 30. During this time the birds were restless in the early morning around four o'clock and Bobby fluttered along the

ceiling then.

These Purple Finches start singing in early February and continue until early July or so. Bobby has been singing his fall song for the past two weeks, having started late in August. Honey sang yesterday (September 9) for the first time this season. Last year both birds sang during October so they are early this year. Their voices are entirely different, Honey singing very softly at times and very loudly on other occasions. Bobby's voice is of a more even volume. We have tape recordings of both birds, singly and in duet. During the singing season the vacuum cleaner never fails to cause the birds to sing without restraint. They seem to like machinery noises of various kinds.

I find it difficult to concentrate on my writing at the moment for Robbie Robin, another visitor in our home since June 1961, is sitting on my knee pulling at the paper and then shaking it vigorously. But Robbie will furnish material for a future article.

As I write the concluding paragraph on the Purple Finches I must mention that Bobby Finch has been banded and is ready



PURPLE FINCHES AT THE KOENIGS'

for release when the finches arrive from the north. It will be a day of heartache when we open the window to send Bobby out to his fate, whatever it may be, but freedom is his right and we wish him the best luck in the world and that he be kept safe from harm always. We hope he stays close by this winter where he will be well fed with the rest of the finches. We wish Bobby many years of freedom and happiness in the wild

and shall never cease to eagerly watch for him through the days and years to come. He will be identified easily by the aluminum band on the right leg and a bright red band on the left one.

215 Jackson Street Sauk City, Wisconsin

# NESTING OF SHORT-EARED OWLS IN WISCONSIN

By F. and F. HAMERSTROM and D. D. BERGER

We have always assumed—erroneously—that Short-eared Owls were common breeders in Wisconsin, but the revised **Wisconsin Birds** checklist booklet did not list them as a breeding species! Puzzled, we wrote to Sam Robbins asking, "Are there no breeding records for Short-ears in Wisconsin?"

Mr. Robbins replied on his 1960 Christmas card, "No, we could find no Short-ear nesting record. I've seen them in August, but no nest. Maybe you can find one next year?" Maybe we can, but it seems high

time to report what we've already seen.

On the Buena Vista Marsh in Portage County, we have been paying \$1.00 for Prairie Chicken nests shown us. In 1955 Mr. Tom Sawyer showed us, in addition to two Prairie Chicken nests, a Short-eared Owl nest containing eggs. It was in a bluegrass field near a fencerow on his property. We looked at it with interest, took no notes on it, and said, "Sorry Tom, we can't pay you a dollar for this one." We never realized until now that we had apparently just looked at the first breeding record of Short-eared Owls in Wisconsin.

The same summer we thought it might be interesting to map "breeding territories" of local Short-ears. In five places we saw the owls display, and they stayed in these areas late enough to that we assumed they were breeding.

## Courtship Displays

The usual display seen was wing clapping by one owl, often while the other owl flew about nearby. Each time the owl clapped its wings it lost altitude because even Short-eared Owls—so agile on the wing cannot clap their wings beneath them and fly properly at the same time.

On April 25, 1955, Short-ear courtship was seen from the Schmickle Blooming Ground, about ½ mile north of the nest which Tom Sawyer found. The two birds approached each other flying from opposite directions; they locked talons, and spun horizontally all the way to the ground—at least six or seven complete turns. Another time they locked talons and did a vertical cartwheel.

We turned up no breeding territories in 1956, and Short-ears were not in evidence, nor were they abundant again till the winter of 1959-1960.

In the spring of 1960 a Short-ear's nest with eggs was found on the Kummer Prairie Chicken Land. The nest was drowned out by floods about May 10. This pair apparently attempted an unsuccessful re-nesting about ½ mile to the southwest. In June 1960 Short-ears were conspicu-

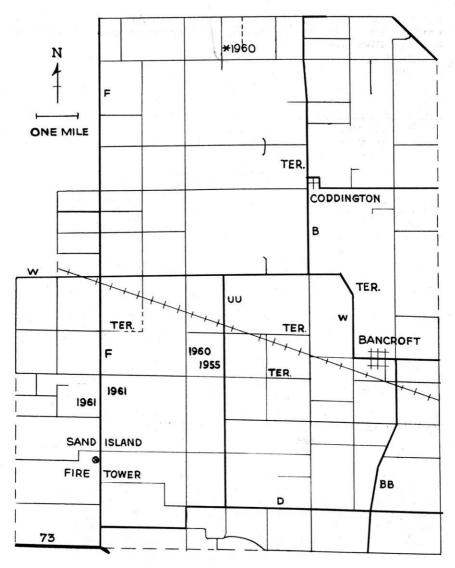


Figure 1.

Breeding of Short-eared Owls on the Buena Vista Marsh.

Dates-Position of Short-ear nests in the year given.

\* -Young being fed by adults; nest not seen.

TER -Summer territories, 1955; did not look for nests.

ous northeast of the Hojnacki Prairie Chicken Area. On July 8, we watched them feeding young which could fly rather well. We consider this a positive breeding record.

On June 15, 1961, we found two Short-ear nests within ½ mile of each other near the Hanson Prairie Chicken Booming Ground. This was in a large opening on County Trunk "F" 1½ miles north of the Sand Island Fire Tower. On this same day we trapped and banded both adults from both nests. One nest contained three downy young big enough to band. The youngsters from the other nest were flying rather well, but we succeeded in catching nine fledged nestlings and there may well have been more.

## Possible Polygamy

It is perfectly possible that there were three Short-eared Owl nests in the Hanson Opening, especially as there seemed to be three age classes of young. There was a single adult, apparently without a mate, which seemed to be feeding some of the fledged young. This adult was recognizable as an exceptionally dark individual, although we were not able to trap it. On June 27, we picked up a very dark female Short-eared Owl—a road-kill 3½ miles south of the Hanson Opening. It seems likely that this was the same individual as we never saw a dark adult in the breeding area again and repeatedly saw the four other adults, which we had marked by spray-painting so that each individual was easily recognized in flight. This curious dark bird's behavior makes one wonder whether she was raising her young in spite of having lost her mate, or whether there was polygamy—possibly one of the adult males was father to two broods of young. It is also conceivable that she was simply a "governess"—an unattached female helping to raise the young of others.

We hope that the Short-ears will come back next year and that we can mark them early enough in spring to learn something of their breeding habits, which may have been a little odd this year.

A look at the map shows five Wisconsin breeding records and five territories in which we thought they were breeding.

It is plain that Short-eared Owl numbers fluctuate greatly in the Buena Vista Marsh. We doubt very much that they breed here every year. The nests which we found were in undisturbed grassland. Thanks to those soil bank lands which fortunately are **not** mowed and to the ever-increasing Prairie Chicken acres (to which some of the members of W.S.O. are contributing), it is possible that the Short-eared Owls may benefit too and breed more regularly on the Buena Vista Marsh.

Plainfield, Wisconsin



# NEWS . . .

Our new book, Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts, has been reviewed or mentioned—favorably for the most part—in the Wisconsin Academy Review, the Madison Capital Times (courtesy of August Derleth), Wisconsin Tales and Trails (courtesy

of editor and publisher Howard Mead and reviewer Walter Scott), Iowa Bird Life (Iowa Ornithologists' Union), and The Flicker (Minnesota Ornithologists' Union). Copies of the book may be obtained from the W.S.O. Supply Department, in care of Harold Kruse, Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville, at \$1.75 each. Members are entitled to the usual ten per cent discount.

# ROSS' GOOSE DISCOVERED IN WISCONSIN

By ALAN J. RUSCH

In recent years a number of goose hunters hunting in the vicinity of the Rock Prairie Goose Refuge were requested to report their hunting success after the hunting season to the Wisconsin Conservation Department, so that a reasonably accurate estimate of the harvest of geese near the refuge could be determined. On one of the postcard reports was the comment: "This goose weighed two lbs. 15 oz. I was told it was a Ross Goose. It resembled a Snow. I have pictures of it, if interested in it."

Mr. Fred R. Zimmerman, area biologist for the department, forwarded the report to me and suggested that we obtain the pictures to allay our skepticism of such a report. I informed Mr. Dick Morehart, who had sent the report, that I was indeed interested in the pictures and that if negatives were available, I would obtain enlargements which might prove the difference from a Snow Goose if the side of the head had been photographed.

### What the Photos Showed

The pictures and negatives arrived and enlargements were promptly secured. An inspection of the photo seemed to indicate the lack of a "grinning patch" on the side of the bill, an essential difference between the Ross' Goose, Chen rossii, and the Snow Goose, Chen hyperborea;

however, the photo did not show this character clearly.

The most outstanding difference shown by the photograph was the small size of the goose in comparison to the pheasants which are held next to it. In addition the shading on the upper cheek from the eye to the base of the bill is quite distinct, showing a comparatively lighter forehead. This feature also characterizes the juvenile Ross' Goose, and serves to distinguish it from the juvenile Snow Goose, which has the shading continuous from forehead to chin with much less contrast to the darker shading between the eye and the bill.

Positive identification eluded me when comparative measurements of the pheasants and the goose indicated that the culmen, or bill, length of the goose might have exceeded 48 mm., which was shorter than that reported for the Lesser Snow Goose but conceivably might have fallen

into the range of the Lesser Snow Goose.

## Ornithological "Detective" Work

The only solution seemed to be to obtain measurements of the

young lad's hand for comparison.

Finally a meeting was arranged and the measurements were taken. The comparative measurements indicated that the culmen length of the goose in the photograph was less than 40 mm., indicating that the bird could not have been a Snow Goose. Because of the possible error in measurement due to the angle of the camera and allowances for position of the goose's head, a series of ten measurements were taken. These produced an average length of 34 mm. within the extreme calculations of 29 and 39 mm.

The following measurements are provided for comparison:

#### Culmen (Bill) Measurements

Ross' Goose		Lesser Snow G	oose
Female	Male	Female	Male
37-40 mm.	40-46 mm.	50-61 mm.	*****
36.1-39.3 mm.	36-3-42.3 mm.	50-8-57.3 mm.	55.5-60.9 mm.
			ult
	Female 37-40 mm. 36.1-39.3 mm.	Female         Male           37-40 mm.         40-46 mm.           36.1-39.3 mm.         36-3-42.3 mm.           Adult	Female         Male         Female           37-40 mm.         40-46 mm.         50-61 mm.           36.1-39.3 mm.         36-3-42.3 mm.         50-8-57.3 mm.

\*Measurements converted from inches

When I visited Mr. Morehart and his son Gary we searched for some possible remains of the goose that might have escaped preparations for the table, but all we could find were some feathers which later proved to be from a domestic pigeon. The feathers and a photograph were forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution for confirming identifications.

I received the following reply from Mr. Herbert G. Deignan, Curator

of the Division of Birds:

June 21, 1961

Dear Mr. Rusch:

I have your letter of June 8, accompanied by a photograph and envelope of feathers.

You will be sorry to learn that the feathers sent are remiges and rectrices of a domestic pigeon, a determination confirmed by my colleagues in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dr. John W. Aldrich, and Mrs. Roxie C. Laybourne.

The bird that appears in the photograph is, however, an unquestionable Ross' Goose, and substantiates your record.

I enclose herewith your feathers and the photograph.

Yours sincerely

/s/ H. G. Deignan Herbert C. Deignan Curator Division of Birds

This record might not have come to light except for a set of odd and perhaps humorous circumstances. Mr. Morehart had entered the bird as a Snow Goose in a contest at Brown's Shoe Store in Milton Junction. The prizes were to have been hip boots for the largest Richardson's Goose and for the largest Snow Goose. Because the goose was entered in the contest, it was weighed on scales in the meat department of Martin's Grocery by Mr. Harold Martin. As it turned out, Mr. Morehart's entry was the only one entered in the Snow Goose contest.

Mr. George Bachay, outdoor writer for the Janesville **Daily Gazette**, then informed Mr. Morehart that the registered weight indicated that the goose was too small to be a Snow Goose and was probably a Ross' Goose. It is unfortunate that Mr. Morehart's entry did not qualify for the contest, but I am certain he has the greater satisfaction of contribut-

ing an outstanding record to Wisconsin's bird lore.

It is, no doubt, more than coincidence that Messrs. Owen J. Gromme and Joseph J. Hickey proposed that the Ross' Goose merits a place on the hypothetical list of birds reported from Wisconsin, on the basis of their observation of an adult Ross' Goose at Horicon Marsh on October 31, 1959, and their timely advice "that its future occurrence here should be closely watched for."

There remains a possibility that this bird may have been an escapee, but the plumage is clearly that of a juvenile and to my knowledge, no game farm in Wisconsin has been successful in rearing Ross' Geese.

The goose was alone when bagged on the "Davidson Marsh" just north of the Storr's Lake Wildlife Area in Rock County on the approximate date of November 1, 1960.

The extreme similarity between the Ross' Goose and the Snow Goose no doubt explains why even an experienced observer could have overlooked a Ross' Goose in the field and leads the wildlife manager and ornithologist to speculate whether or not the status symbol "Accidental; so far removed



WISCONSIN'S FIRST ROSS' GOOSE, HELD BY GARY MOREHART, MILTON

PHOTO BY RICHARD MOREHART

from normal range as to be of 'once-in-lifetime' occurrence," as defined in the **Wisconsin Birds** checklist, should be used to describe the occurrence of this species in Wisconsin.

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Wisconsin Conservation Department Madison 1, Wisconsin

# The 1961 Summer Bird Count

## By SAM ROBBINS

From time to time suggestions have been made that certain of Wisconsin's breeding species have been increasing or decreasing in numbers, extending or contracting their ranges. Invariably we have wished for some reasonably accurate data with which to analyze these suspicions, and almost as invariably we have found that such data are not avaliable. Those who have conducted the range-and-population studies on such species as the Cardinal, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Egret, and Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, have wished that carefully kept records of summer populations over a period of years had been available. Questions have been raised about decreases in such species as Bluebirds, Phoebes and Hermit Thrushes, perhaps brought about by severe winters in the southern states in recent years; if we had conducted bird counts in summer camparable to the Christmas bird counts of the past ten years, we would by now have some factual data about the decrease in these species, and the extent to which some of them may be recovering. Still more recently we have witnessed the advent of widespread spraying with DDT, and we are wondering how serious an effect this is having on our summer birds-not only Robins. but other elm-loving species such as nuthatches, woodpeckers, vireos and warblers.

## The Beginning

Last winter when the results of the 1960 Christmas bird count came in, showing 340 persons conducting 47 separate counts, this thought occurred: "Think of the significant data about summer bird populations that could be assembled if this same task force of hundreds of observers could be organized into a comparable 'summer bird count'"! Correspondence and conversations flew back and forth between the W.S.O. Research Committee and the Field Note Department of **The Passenger Pigeon**, resulting in the drawing of some tentative ground rules to govern such a count. An outline of the project at the 1961 spring convention brought out such an enthusiastic response that it was decided to proceed with plans immediately. And so it was that W.S.O.'s first "Summer Bird Count" was held from June 15 to 25, 1961.

A number of people had mental reservations as to whether or not such a count would take hold in this state. Field note reports for the summer season are generally more skimpy than for any other time of year. Audubon Field Notes has conducted a "breeding bird census" for 24 years, and scarcely a count has been submitted from Wisconsin. James H. Zimmerman called for the inauguration of a similar one-day "summer bird count" in his "Outdoor Calendar" column back in 1952, but received very little response. Could this new project succeed, where others had failed?

No adequate answer can be given from a one-year trial, but let the record show that the maiden voyage of this project was launched by 44 observers participating in 29 counts. Two additional trips were reported for the period, but are not included in this summary because the list of

species was not accompanied by numbers of individuals—ruling out all possibility of comparative values in future years.

#### **New Observations**

When the summer count was in its planning stage, one observer expressed the hope that this project would not take the place of the May-day Count. His point was that any kind of bird count has value because it serves to get people out into the field more, and this is bound to result in more bird observations. This point was vividly demonstrated in the 1961 Summer Bird Count. The project did get more observers into the field, and this resulted in some observations that were surprising. Mary Donald commented that the Golden-winged Warbler and Dickcissel on the Saukville count were the first she had seen in that area in summer. Another Dickcissel and a Rough-legged Hawk at Shiocton had not been noted previously in that area in summer (Daryl Tessen). Mrs. Joseph Mahlum was surpised to find a Redstart near Orfordville in Rock County. Charlotte McCombe's sighting of a Cerulean Warbler at Sturgeon Bay was unexpected. The writer was unaware of the presence of a Bewick's Wren and a Yellow-breasted Chat in St. Croix County until he found them on the Hudson count. Perhaps most surprising of all was the finding of the Rusty Blackbird in Sawyer County on the Loretta count.

### Range Extensions

It is from such observations as these that the known breeding ranges of a considerable number of species may be revised and extended. If one takes the Fifth Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list as definitive of the known breeding range of North American birds, one can find no less than 15 instances where observations on the 1961 Summer Bird Count were made outside the known breeding ranges of the species involved. Here are the details.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** The **Check-list** describes the breeding range as including only Alaska and Canada. One was seen on the Shiocton Count (Outagamie County) on June 24 by Mrs. C. Defferding, Mrs. Fred Tessen and Daryl Tessen.

Acadian Flycatcher: The published breeding range for Wisconsin extends north only to Grant and Sauk Counties. One bird on the Leland count falls barely within this range, but a record on the Two Rivers Count (Manitowoc County) on June 23 by John Kraupa, Roy Lukes and Harry Wilsmann falls outside the area.

**Bewick's Wren:** The June 17 bird on the Hudson Count (St. Croix County) by Sam Robbins was well to the north of the Richland-Sauk-Columbia County line mentioned in the **Check-list**.

Wood Thrush: The recording of nine individuals on the Loretta Count (Sawyer County) on June 16 by Katherine Fuller and Irene Emond suggests that the northern limit of Rush County needs a northward nudge.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: The Check-list mentions southern Wisconsin as the northern limit. Birds recorded on the counts at Leland, Viroqua, Eagle and Pardeeville would fall within that range, but the five birds on the June 17 Hudson Count (Sam Robbins) are farther north.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Reedsburg in Sauk County is listed as the northern limit of the breeding range of this species. Birds at Viroqua, Leland and Pardeeville fall right along that northern limit, while the bird on the Hudson Count on June 17 (Sam Robbins) is definitely farther north.

Cerulean Warbler: North of the "southern Wisconsin" extremity in the literature is the bird recorded at Sturgeon Bay on June 17 by Charlotte McCombe.

Northern Waterthrush: "South to Dunn and Outagamie Counties," says the Check-list; "south to Ozaukee County," suggests the observation on the Saukville Count on June 20 by Lisa Decker and Mary Donald.

Kentucky Warbler: The Check-list lists the breeding range as barely reaching into southern Wisconsin in Grant and Rock Counties. This limit was exceeded by two birds on the June 24 Madison Count (William Hilsenhoff), and by two birds on the June 15 Viroqua Count (Viratine Weber).

**Mourning Warbler:** The village of Unity on the Clark-Marathon County line is listed as the southernmost breeding location. This species was listed on four counts south of this point: seven at Appleton, one at Shiocton, 14 at Saukville, and one at River Hills.

Yellow-breasted Chat: The bird recorded on the Hudson Count on June 17 (Sam Robbins) is well north of Madison, listed as the northern-

most breeding location in this state.

Rusty Blackbird: The Check-list describes the breeding range of this species as being restricted to Alaska and Canada, until one reaches the Appalachians in the East. Kumlien and Hollister mention early breeding records for Wisconsin. But there have been no recent summer records until June 16, 1961, when six were found on the Loretta Count in Sawyer County. Describing this observation, Katherine Fuller writes: "I must have sat down fairly close to a nest, because almost immediately these blackbirds started kicking up an awful fuss, and chattering at me. There were four males and two females, and the females had very definitely a light yellowish eye. The males had a decided greenish tinge in the sun. These features, plus the location deep in a rather heavily wooded swamp, made me decide these must be Rusty Blackbirds. I watched them at fairly close range for more than ten minutes."

Pine Siskin: The bird recorded on the June 24 Flintville (Brown County) Count by Thomas Erdman and Thomas Justeson was a bit

south of the Iron County limit mentioned in the Check-list.

Dickcissel: There is some confusion about the established breeding range described in the Check-list. The northern limit of the range is listed as "Northern Wisconsin (Alden, Kelley Brook)." But we have been unable to locate either site on any modern map, and note that elsewhere in the book "Kelley Brook" is listed in southern Wisconsin. Less than ten years ago the writer was shown the Dickcissel entries in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service files in Laurel, Maryland, and at that time the only breeding records were from the southern portion of the state. More accurate information can be gleaned from past issues of The Passenger Pigeon, wherein nests from La Crosse, Manitowoc and Oconto Counties have been recorded. It may help to sharpen the northern limit of the range of this species to note that on the Summer Bird Count individuals were noted at Hudson, Shiocton and Saukville.

Henslow's Sparrow: If one were to draw a line through the points listed as the northernmost breeding localities, one would make a sharp dip south from Isanti County, Minnesota (just north of the Twin Cities), to Madison, and then north to Oconto. That the dip should be eliminated and replaced by a straighter line is suggested by the recording of this species on the Hudson Count.

The presence of these birds on the various counts in the latter half of June must not be taken to infer actual breeding. In such cases as the Rough-legged Hawk at Shiocton and the Pine Siskin at Flintville, nesting may be quite unlikely. But in most other instances the probability of nesting is quite strong. Let this be a challenge to observers to follow up these observations more thoroughly next year, and discover some positive evidence of breeding.

#### The Totals

It will not be feasible to include in this summary a complete table of birds seen on each count, as is done on the Christmas bird count. Christmas counts often include combined tallies of several parties; in the summer count the tallies of each party will be treated as a separate count. By next year we may well be working with over 100 counts and over 160 species, and printing a table of that size is not practical. Such a table will be kept on file each year, however, so that careful comparisons of figures for any species on any count can be made quickly and easily.

The composite tally, however, is included in Table 1. The 29 counts recorded 16,591 individuals of 140 species. The ten most numerous species recorded this year were: Redwinged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Sparrow, Starling, Robin, Cowbird, Song Sparrow, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove and Crow. One wonders how this list compares with a similar one that might have been produced 50 years ago. Which will

be the ten most numerous species 50 years from now?

Valid comparisons of individual species for different years are not possible now; they must wait until two or more years of counting have been completed. But it is worth noting that observers believed populations of blackbirds (Redwings, Grackles, Cowbirds) to be up at Viroqua, Waukesha, Dousman, Saukville, Sturgeon Bay and Oconto Falls. At Kiel the Tree Swallows had shown an increase since bird houses had been erected. The comment "more Robins than recently" came from River Hills just north of Milwaukee; we have heard that in some sections of Milwaukee Dutch Elm Disease spraying has used methoxychlor instead of DDT, and are wondering if there could be a correlation here.

From Saukville came the comment that Warbling Vireos are scarce; this is another species that deserves careful watching because of its preference for elms. The plight of the Bluebird is underscored by the results of this count. The bird was reported on only 16 of the counts, and on only two counts were more than four individuals seen. Daryl Tessen writes: "There is, as far as I can tell, only one pair of Bluebirds within

a 7½-mile radius of Appleton in all directions.

## Methods of Counting

Directions for the 1961 count stressed that counts might be made either by covering a limited acreage on foot or by covering a limited number of miles by car with five-minute stops every quarter of a mile or so. As it turned out, 15 of the 29 counts were made entirely on foot, varying in size from 17 to 248 acres. Another count was similarly conceived, but involved covering a marsh by canoe. Seven counts followed the road-transect method, varying from five to 48 miles in length. The other six counts followed a combination of the two methods. In two instances observers reported that they had tackled too big an area for one count, and would try to divide it next year.

#### Comment on Time of Counts

Directions specified that the counts should be taken between 4:00 and 10:00 a. m., in order to include the main song period of most passerines. The Harold Kruses commented: "We started the count (Leland) at 4:00, and by 4:30 there was such a medley of birdsong coming from the bog that it was next to impossible to separate individual songsters. This was especially true of Catbirds, Song Sparrows and Yellowthroats, so the numbers of these are a conservative estimate." William Hilsenhoff, commenting on the time schedule, observed: "I have found the hours of 4:00 to 6:00 a. m. quite unproductive; counts in areas such as Goose Pond could be conducted just as well in the afternoon and early evening." The writer delayed the start of his Hudson count until 5:00, thinking that the song period for most birds was just getting nicely under way at that time. It would appear that the type of habitat has much to do with the optimum hours for summer bird counting.

Regardless of the amount of territory covered, or the hours of start and finish, the key factor in the success of this project will be the duplication of the counts from year to year—using essentially the same terri-

tory, the same hours, and the same procedures.

It is gratifying to see this project get off to a good start, with most major parts of the state represented—especially since there was little time to give the project adequate publicity. It is hoped that those who helped in 1961 are already making plans to carry on in 1962. It is further hoped that many more individuals will plan to join the project during the coming year. Local clubs should find this an ideal project to promote among their members.

#### **Details of Individual Counts**

#### I. On Foot

**DOUSMAN 1:** Nelson farm one mile south of Dousman, Waukesha County. 200 acres. June 17; 5:00-10:00; clear, temp. 57-75, wind 5W. 71 species, 457 individuals, including Turkey Vulture, Woodcock, Cerulean Warbler, Dickcissel.—Charles and Mary Nelson.

**FLINTVILLE:** Area just east of Flintville on C.T.H. "B," Brown County. 30 acres. June 24; 5:00-10:00; partly cloudy, temp. 70-85, wind mild. 44 species, 288 individuals, including Hermit Thrush, Pine Siskin.

-Thomas Erdman, Thomas Justeson.

**IXONIA:** River bottom, upland cropland and wet prairie, Jefferson County. 200 acres. June 25; 5:30-8:30; partly cloudy, temp. 48-65, wind 5-10SW. 46 species, 278 individuals, including Common Snipe, Cliff Swallow.—Gordon Hammel, Ed Peartree.

KIEL: North shore of Cedar Lake, seven miles east of Kiel, Manitowoc County. 20 acres. June 29; 7:00-10:00; clear, temp. 70-75, wind

slight. 29 species, 83 individuals, including Sora, Yellow-billed Cuckoo.—Irene Krostag.

**LELAND:** Honey Creek Natural Area and adjoining lands, Sauk County. 200 acres. June 25; 4:00-7:00, 9:30-10:00; clear, temp. 45-70, wind calm to moderate. 67 species, 555 individuals, including Acadian Flycatcher, Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush.—Harold and Carla Kruse.

**MADISON:** University of Wisconsin Arboretum, Dane County. June 24; 6:00-9:00; partly cloudy, temp. 65-75, wind 5-15 SW. 55 species, 495 individuals, including Broad-winged Hawk, Bell's Vireo, Goldenwinged, Blue-winged and Kentucky Warblers.—William Hilsenhoff.

**MONTEREY:** Land east of the village, Waukesha County. 60 acres. June 21; 5:45-10:00; clear, temp. 42-70, wind slight. 39 species, 332 individuals.—Mrs. Arthur Gauerke, Mrs. Earl Sauer.

**SPOONER:** Four miles north of Spooner on C.T.H. "K," Washburn County. 40 acres. June 23; 7:00-10:00; partly cloudy, temp. 42-61, wind light NE. 32 species, 113 individuals, including Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Purple Finch, Clay-colored Sparrow.—Diane Feeney.

**TWO RIVERS:** Trail along Molarsh Creek in Point Beach State Forest, Manitowoc County. June 23; 4:30-9:30; partly cloudy, temp. 50-55, wind 15-25. 38 species, 467 individuals, including Red-breasted Merganser, Woodcock, Acadian Flycatcher.—John Kraupa, Roy Lukes, Harry Wilsmann.

**VERONA:** Portions of Sec. 31-32, T6N, R8E southwest of Verona, Dane County. 160 acres. June 24; 7:00-10:00; clear, temp. low of 50; wind slight. 36 species, 139 individuals, including Broad-winged Hawk, Chestnut-sided Warbler.—N. R. Barger.

VIROQUA: Farm southwest of city, Vernon County. 248 acres. June 15; 4:30-9:30; clear, temp. 40-56, wind 2-5E. 63 species, 288 individuals, including Red-shouldered Hawk, Woodcock, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-winged and Kentucky Warblers.—Viratine Weber.

**WAUKESHA 1:** Girl Scout Camp Chinook on town line road off Chinook Pass, Waukesha County. 80 acres. June 25; 5:30-8:00; cloudy, temp. 50, wind 10-15. 38 species, 215 individuals.—Mrs. Helen Brown, Mrs. Charlotte McCombe, Mrs. Verna Zimmerman.

WAUKESHA 2: George Williams farm four miles west of city, Waukesha County. 20 acres. June 24; 6:45-9:45; clear, temp. 45, wind slight

S. 20 species, 135 individuals.—E. H. Zimmerman.

**WAUSAU:** Elvestranden, within city limits, Marathon County. 17 acres. June 23; 7:00-10:00; clear, temp. 57, wind 10. 33 species, 157 individuals, including Purple Finch, Clay-colored Sparrow.—Emily Bierbrauer, Bertha Pearson, Olive Wells.

**WILLIAMS BAY:** Yerkes Observatory Campus, Walworth County. 30 acres. June 21; 5:00-8:00; clear, temp. 53-59, wind slight. 25 species, 283 individuals.—Helen Morgan.

## II. By Boat

**BEAVER DAM LAKE:** Lake by Highway 106 at west edge of county covered by canoe; Waukesha County. June 18; 5:00-8:00; clear, temp. 55-75, wind 5SW. 23 species, 438 individuals, including Least Bittern, Shov-

eler, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Yellow-headed Blackbird.—Charles and Spencer Nelson.

### III. By Car

**DOUSMAN 2:** Selected areas up to three miles north and east of Dousman, Waukesha County. 5½ miles. June 17; 4:45-8:45; clear, temp. 55-70, wind slight. 63 species, 895 individuals, including Dickcissel,

Henslow's Sparrow.-John Bielefeldt.

HUDSON: C.T.H. "A" and town roads in proximity to the Willow River between the outskirts of Hudson and Burkhardt, St. Croix County. 18½ miles. June 17; 5:00-9:00; clear, temp. 50-66, wind slight W. 77 species, 979 individuals, including Upland Plover, Tufted Titmouse, Bewick's Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Dickcissel, Henslow's and Clay-colored Sparrows.—Sam Robbins.

OCONTO FALLS: Along highway from Oconto Falls to Stiles, Oconto County. 5 miles. June 23; 5:30-10:00; clear, temp. 54, wind brisk. 34 species, 269 individuals, including American Bittern.—William and

Goldie Goddard.

**PARDEEVILLE:** Levee Road from Portage west to county line, and C.T.H. "G" from Highway 51 to Highway 22, Columbia County. 48 miles. June 24; 4:00-10:00; partly cloudy, temp. 58-75, wind 5SE. 75 species, 636 individuals, including Bobwhite, Upland Plover, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-winged, Blue-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Henslow's and Clay-colored Sparrows.—Gordon Thomas, Howard Winkler.

**RIVER HILLS:** River Hills, part of Fox Point, and neighboring areas to the north, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties. 12½ miles. June 22; 4:00-7:30; overcast with some rain, temp. 63-69, wind 13S. 61 species, 1151 individuals, including Barn Owl, Tufted Titmouse, Mourning

Warbler.—Mary Donald, Marian Urdan.

**SAUKVILLE:** Cedarburg Swamp and adjoining farmlands, Ozaukee County. 15 miles. June 20; 4:30-9:00; clear, temp. 49-59, wind 2-5E. 74 species, 2824 individuals, including Barred Owl, Black-and-white, Goldenwinged and Mourning Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, Dickcissel, Henslow's Sparrow.—Mary Decker, Mary Donald.

VIROQUA 2: Country roads north of the city, Vernon County. 10 miles. June 23; 5:30-7:30, 9:00-10:00; partly cloudy, temp. 47-60, wind calm. 37 species, 206 individuals, including Tufted Titmouse.—Mar-

garette E. Morse.

IV. By Car and Foot

APPLETON: Areas west and north of the city, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. 30 miles by car, 3½ on foot. June 17; 4:00-10:00; clear, temp. 52-70, wind 2-7W. 75 species, 2376 individuals, including Common Gallinule, Upland Plover, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Mourning Warbler, Yellow-headed and Brewer's Blackbirds.—Mrs. C. Defferding, Daryl and Mrs. Fred Tessen.

**EAGLE:** Along Highway 67 from C.T.H. "ZZ" to Puchner's Pond, Waukesha County. 1.1 miles by car, 70 acres on foot. June 24; 6:00-9:15; clear, temp. 46-65, wind 2-15. 58 species, 277 individuals, including Turkey Vulture, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-winged and

Cerulean Warblers.-Ed Peartree.

LORETTA: Highway 70 from two miles east of Oxbo Bridge to Loretta, thence northwest on town road to Blaisdell Lake, Sawyer County. 18 miles by car, 80 acres on foot. June 16; 4:15-10:00; clear, temp. 38-60, wind 0-5W. 69 species, 1202 individuals, including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Gray Jay, Raven, Parula, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Mourning and Canada Warblers, Rusty and Brewer's Blackbirds, White-throated Sparrow.—Irene Emond, Katherine Fuller.

**ORFORDVILLE:** Parts of Sections 9, 16 and 17 in Newark Township, Rock County. 1½ hours by car, two miles on foot. June 25; 6:45-10:30; clear, temp. 52-68, wind 5NW. 43 species, 179 individuals, including Redstart, Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow.—Mrs. Joseph Mahlum.

SHIOCTON: Rectangular area one by three miles, northeast of Shiocton, bordered by the Wolf River on the west; Outagamie County. Eight miles by car, one mile on foot. June 24; 4:00-9:00; cloudy with light rain, then clearing temp. 50-60, wind calm. 77 species, 750 individuals, including Black-crowned Night Heron, Rough-legged Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Dickcissel.—Mrs. C. Defferding, Daryl and Mrs. Fred Tessen.

STURGEON BAY: Idlewild peninsula across from Potawatomi State Park, Door County. 2½ miles by car, 175 acres on foot. June 17; 5:00-9:00; partly cloudy, temp. 70, wind slight SW. 58 species, 424 individuals, including Lesser Scaup, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Cerulean Warbler.—Charlotte McCombe.

Species	Counts No.	Birds No.	Species	Counts No.	Birds No.
Pied-billed Grebe	. 4	36	Woodcock	3	4
Great Blue Heron	. 13	35	Common Snipe	1	1
Green Heron		35	Upland Plover	3	10
Black-cr. Night Heron	. 1	2	Spotted Sandpiper	9	29
Least Bittern	. 7	1	Herring Gull	3	369
American Bittern	. 6	10	Black Tern	9	123
Mallard	. 9	106	Mourning Dove	25	300
Black Duck	. 1	2	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	10	26
Blue-winged Teal	. 11	31	Black-billed Cuckoo	15	34
Shoveler	. 1	4	Barn Owl	1	2
Wood Duck	. 6	16	Great Horned Owl	î	ī
Ring-necked Duck	. 1	5	Barred Owl	3	5
Lesser Scaup		2	Whip-poor-will	3	7
Ruddy Duck	. 1	4	Nighthawk	9	6
Red-breasted Merganser	. 1	2	Chimney Swift	14	182
Turkey Vulture	. 2	2	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	11	14
Cooper's Hawk	. 1	1	Belted Kingfisher	14	25
Red-tailed Hawk	. 8	10	Flicker	24	132
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	7	Pileated Woodpecker	5	5
Broad-winged Hawk	2	2	Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	12
Rough-legged Hawk	. 1	1	Red-headed Woodpecker	11	23
Marsh Hawk	6	14	Yellow-b. Sapsucker	2	29
Sparrow Hawk	1	2	Hairy Woodpecker	14	28
Ruffed Grouse	3	4	Downy Woodpecker	17	51
Bobwhite	2	18	Eastern Kingbird	25	109
Ring-necked Pheasant	14	58	Crested Flycatcher	24	120
Sora	5	10	Phoebe	17	51
Common Gallinule	1	2	Acadian Flycatcher	9	2
Coot		204	Traill's Flycatcher	15	65
Killdeer	16	83	Least Flycatcher	10	88

TABLE 1-Composite Totals

Species	Counts No.	Birds No.	Species	Counts No.	Birds No.
Wood Pewee	. 25	131	Blackburnian Warbler	1	3
Horned Lark		14	Chestnut-sided Warbler	4	33
Tree Swallow		179	Ovenbird	18	102
Bank Swallow		130	Northern Waterthrush		4
Rough-winged Swallow		34	Louisiana Waterthrush	ī	4
Barn Swallow		183	Kentucky Warbler	2	4
Cliff Swallow		110	Mourning Warbler	5	25
Purple Martin		207	Yellowthroat	23	233
Gray Jay		3	Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1
Blue Jay		219	Canada Warbler	1	2
Raven		3	Redstart	15	96
Crow		273	House Sparrow		980
Black-capped Chickadee		99	Bobolink	19	244
Tufted Titmouse		15	Eastern Meadowlark	21	160
White-br. Nuthatch		71	Western Meadowlark	12	105
Brown Creeper		1	Yellow-headed Blackbird	2	20
House Wren		244	Redwinged Blackbird	27	2758
Bewick's Wren		1	Baltimore Oriole	21	113
Long-billed Marsh Wren		40	Rusty Blackbird	1	6
Short-billed Marsh Wren		28	Brewer's Blackbird	Ĩ	11
Catbird	-	261	Common Grackle	25	2183
Brown Thrasher		62	Brown-headed Cowbird		600
Robin		687	Scarlet Tanager	11	25
Wood Thrush		70	Cardinal	19	129
Hermit Thrush		1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	20	108
Veery	5 (2)	55	Indigo Bunting	22	166
Bluebird		40	Dickcissel	7	28
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		14	Purple Finch		8
Cedar Waxwing		139	Pine Siskin	1	1
Starling		955	Goldfinch	1270	229
Bell's Vireo		4	Rufous-sided Towhee		79
Yellow-throated Vireo		24	Savannah Sparrow	10	266
Red-eyed Vireo	-	93	Grasshopper Sparrow	8 .	41
Warbling Vireo		49	Henslow's Sparrow	4	15
Black-and-white Warbler		17	Vesper Sparrow	18	141
Golden-winged Warbler		6 -	Chipping Sparrow	20	77
Blue-winged Warbler		15	Clay-colored Sparrow	5	17
Parula Warbler		2	Field Sparrow	21	103
Yellow Warbler		121	White-throated Sparrow		4
Blk-thr. Green Warbler		-1	Swamp Sparrow	13	78
Cerulean Warbler		6	Song Sparrow	25	426

## TABLE 1 (Cont.)-Composite Totals



# MORE NEWS . . .

The Supply Department has recently obtained a new supply of the Field Checklist of Birds of Wisconsin, with a number of minor corrections and changes incorporated. These are available from Harold Kruse, Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville, for three cents each, ten for a quarter, or 50 for a dollar. Nomenclature has been changed in a few cases, to conform to the names used in the Checklist of the American Ornithologists' Union.

The bird census has gone underwater. Last Labor Day, 121 members of the American Littoral Society donned masks and flippers and made "fish counts" off the coast of Maine, New Jersey, Florida, and the Caribbean islands. They found some 23,000 fish, ranging from a 12-foot tiger shark down to little one-inch angel fish. The fish-counting frogmen hope to expand their operations to the Gulf and Pacific coasts, and talk of matching the scope of the yearly Audubon Christmas Bird Counts.

# **CONVENTION NEWS**

Are you still wondering why birds fly north every spring? One way to get the answer to this question is to come to Rhinelander on May 25, 26 and 27. On these dates the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology will be having its 23rd annual convention in the heart of the northwoods. Head-quarters for the meeting will be the beautiful Rhinelander Union High School.

Members of the Oneida Wildlife Society, hosts to W.S.O. for our first far-north convention, are planning an interesting program and several field trips at the height of the migration. Feature speaker following the Saturday night banquet will be Murl Deusing, nationally famous W.S.O. member, who will show and narrate 90 minutes of spectacular color wildlife photography. Tentative plans call for field trips to Rainbow Reservoir in north-central Oneida County on Saturday and to the Trees for Tomorrow Conservation Camp at Eagle River on Sunday.

An interesting series of papers is being planned for the Saturday meeting. W.S.O. members are invited to contact the Vice-President if they would like to present papers on their studies or observations. In addition, the Supply Department will have a large exhibit of books,

stationery, games, and other items of ornithological interest.

In a short time you will be receiving detailed convention plans. Hosting Oneida Wildlife Society members hope to make this the best convention in W.S.O. history. To do so, however, they will need to have you in Rhinelander to participate in the activities. Plan now to attend. Circle the dates on your calendar now—May 25, 26 and 27.—Nils P. Dahlstrand, Rhinelander.

# **OPERATION SNOWY OWL**

# **NEEDS HELP!**

Last winter 58 Snowies were banded in Wisconsin. This promises to be another good flight—21 reports already. To date we have caught 11 Snowy Owls, but not one was wearing a band. We hope to learn whether or not some of those we banded last year return to Wisconsin again.

Operation Snowy Owl needs reports of birds seen in all parts of the

state, and it needs them QUICKLY!

If you see a Snowy Owl, please report it immediately to one of the following:

Milwaukee area—Mary Donald, 6918 Belmont Lane, Milwaukee 17 Madison area—Helmut Mueller, Birge Hall, University of Wisconsin Rest of the state—Fran Hamerstrom, Plainfield

If you see a color-marked Snowy, please describe the colors, and draw a rough sketch of the bird showing the colored parts of the body.

We need to get reports of any Snowies seen, quickly, to help us with our trapping. If you do not get word to us promptly, the owl may be gone.—Fran Hamerstrom, Plainfield.

# FIELD TRIP NEWS

#### FALL CAMPOUT

The 1961 Fall Campout was held at Nelson Dewey State Park, near Cassville, on September 9 and 10. Only 36 campers were present and only 40 species of birds were recorded. The 90 degree weather kept both birds and campers under cover much of the time.

Highlights among the bird species were the Long-eared Owls calling on Friday evening, and the many Common Egrets seen perching in trees along the river and viewed from the bluffs. The Pileated Woodpeckers talking in the woods were heard by most campers and seen by some. Many Tufted Titmice and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and the bathing warblers, were enjoyed by most of those present.

An exceptional treat in the form of colored slides, mostly of birds, was presented for us on Saturday evening by the park superintendent, Ray Bandelson. Popcorn made by Mrs. Brown and Claire Peartree also added to the evening.

Campers were present from Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, Madison, Beloit, Ixonia, Racine, Edgerton, Sheboygan, Hartford, and Oconomowoc.

### CEDAR GROVE HAWK TRIP

Blustery weather on October 1 held the crowd to 41 hardy souls, but the hawk flight was fair and the warbler list was excellent; a good reward for those who came to brace the elements. Sixty species of birds were recorded, including seven hawks: 43 Sharp-shinned, one Cooper's, two Red-tailed, one Red-shouldered, one Marsh, three Osprey, and one Peregrine, plus one Turkey Vulture. The 15 warblers listed included Orange-crowned, Blue-winged, Parula, and Wilson's. Purple Finch, Junco, both Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Scarlet Tanager, and more were among the other species recorded.

The Saw-whet and Short-eared Owls brought up to the ridge by Dan Berger were enjoyed by all.

Hawk-watchers came from Ixonia, Delafield, Fort Atkinson, Janesville, Milwaukee, Hales Corners, Randolph, Kiel, Plymouth, Beloit, Madison, and Oconomowoc. Honors as the youngest participant must go to August-born Beth Hall.

The manner in which visitors to the area cooperated with the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station personnel is to be highly commended.

# MORE NEWS . . .

Bird mortality resulting from oil pollution is not restricted to our coastal waters. Hundreds of ducks were caught in oil spreading through the Detroit River in the spring of 1960. More recently, personnel of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology reported finding 119 dead grebes, loons, gulls, and ducks on beaches near the southern end of Lake Michigan,

in April, 1961. As reported by Charles T. Collins in **The Jack-Pine Warbler**, published by the Michigan Audubon Society, the observers of this tragedy were unable to learn from where the heavy oil pollution came. Our Wisconsin beaches may be less vulnerable, due to location in relation to prevailing winds, but this could very well occur in our state. Anyone noting bird mortality due to oil or other pollution is requested to bring the case to the attention of the Editor.

# By The Wayside . . .

Strange Behavior of Common Egret. In August of 1960 I went for a walk on the dikes of the Black Slough in northwestern Outagamie County. I had a new English setter who was practically pure white. As the dog raced along the dikes a Common Egret appeared, was immediately attracted by the dog and began to fly about him uttering a cry between a hiss and a croak. The bird was very curious and it seemed that only our presence prevented it from flying even closer than it did, a height of some 20 to 30 feet. The dog was just as curious about the egret and kept rearing up to look at it. After this had continued for several minutes two more egrets, apparently the total population of the species on the marsh, put in an appearance. They were almost as curious as the first bird. After about ten or fifteen minutes of swooping down where they could get a better look, then circling and coming back for still another look, the last two flew away. The original one remained in the vicinity until we went back to the car. It was quite evident there was no hostile intention on the part of the egrets and probably not on the part of the dog. They seemed to be simply interested in each other's coloring.—Alfred S. Bradford, Appleton.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Manitowoc County. On September 3, 1960, about one mile up the East Twin River from Mishicot, John Schultz, James Eis, Jerry Eis, and I came upon the object of our search; an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron. This bird had been in the area for at least a month and on each sighting was feeding during midday, unlike the common Black-crowned Night Herons in the area. We approached, in a boat, to within about ten feet of the bird, which was standing well beyond any vegetation, in excellent light. Most noticeable was the great contrast between the bright yellow legs and the dark back. The bird held its head and neck fully extended. When flushed, it flew about 200 feet and then again alighted at the water's edge. In flight the feet extended well beyond the tail, which in itself identifies the bird.—Bernard Brouchard, Mishicot.

Shorebirds in St. Croix County. I moved to St. Croix County just as the autumn season began. Where July and August had been very wet in southern and eastern Wisconsin, I found that here in the northwest it had been unusually dry; where water levels had been unusually high in other areas of the state, they were below normal here. The low water exposed extensive mud flats on the edges of two prairie ponds within five miles of Roberts, attractive to shorebirds in a big way through August 26 when rain brought the water level up too high. In September and early October a few shorebirds reappeared, as the water level again dropped a bit, but the big numbers did not reappear after August 26.

My highest count at the best pond was on August 26, with an estimated 200 Yellowlegs, 150 Pectoral Sandpipers, 75 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 50 Least Sandpipers, 40 Killdeer, 15 Stilt Sandpipers, five Solitary Sandpipers, four Northern Phalaropes, two Semipalmated Plovers, one Baird's Sandpiper, and one Short-billed Dowitcher. The Stilt Sandpiper count was 20 on August 23. Single dowitchers seen on August 23 and 26 were identified as Short-billed by the call note; when three dow-

itchers were spotted on September 8, the radically different call note of the Long-billed was heard; from one to three dowitchers were again recorded on September 28, and on October 25 and 28, and while I would presume from the date and the appearance that these were probably Long-billed, I heard no call notes and so am content to call them just "dowitcher sp." Phalaropes were seen with a frequency that I am not accustomed to. Specific identification was often difficult because of distance—the birds tending to stay out in deeper water than the other shorebirds, swimming and spinning. The only time I was sure of the Wilson's was on August 23 when five birds were seen; I was sure of Northerns on August 24 and on October 4, and in between were four September dates when from one to eight birds were seen, and while these appeared to be Northerns, conditions of observation were not the best, and this runs counter to the information in the field checklist for the Twin Cities region which shows the Wilson's to be decidedly more common than the Northern.—Sam Robbins, Roberts.

Unusual Owl in Appleton. In reading my checklist of Wisconsin birds I find that in Appendix 1 and 2 no mention is made of the Arctic Horned Owl. I shall always believe that I saw such an owl in March of 1912. This is a long time ago but I have never forgotten it. I was then 15 years of age and I was returning home for high school via a number of wooded ravines in the City of Appleton. It was a rainy, snowy day, early in the month. As I came along an unfrequented path, since buried deep by city filling, I saw what for a moment I thought to be a Snowy Owl sitting with its back against a trunk of a tree about four feet from the ground. I approached gingerly and saw that it was an owl with protruding eartufts. Its eyes were closed and it paid no attention to me. Its size was formidable. I closed my umbrella and held it like a stick, advancing on the owl with some hazy idea of stirring it up. Before I could touch it the owl opened its eyes and looked at me. So fierce was its gaze that I fell back in panic some three or four feet, whereupon it leisurely rose into the air and flew off deeper into the wooded ravine. I have seen many Great Horned Owls since that time but none that even remotely resembled the coloration of that bird.—Alfred S. Bradford, Apple-

Associate Editor's Note: The Arctic Horned Owl is a subspecies of the Great Horned Owl, and as such, is not given separate mention in the Wisconsin Birds checklist. There are a few records of its occurrence in the state.

Western Kingbird in Milwaukee County. At 10:15 a. m. on August 27, 1960, while making my rounds of the mist nets where I band in River Hills, Milwaukee County, I noticed a strange bird on a telephone

wire. At first glance it reminded me of an overgrown vireo.

These notations were made in the field: dark line through the eye, yellow undernearth, with white along the outer borders of a dark tail. It was nearly the same size as a Starling sitting nearby on the same wire. It remained stationary for approximately 30 seconds in clear, bright sunlight. It then flew to an exposed limb flashing the white bordered tail more prominently. It was viewed on this limb for another 30 seconds before it disappeared.

These characteristics and its manner of flight at once indicated it was a large flycatcher, probably a Western Kingbird. I was able to confirm my belief by checking these points with Peterson and comparing Peterson's drawing with this bird before it disappeared. The bird in sight was about the same size as the Eastern Kingbird but less plump, definitely slimmer and sleeker.

The bird was viewed with 7 x 35 binoculars from about 75 feet. Light on the subject was excellent, there was a slight wind, the tempera-

ture was 75 degrees.

In checking the study skins at the Milwaukee Public Museum, there are no Wisconsin specimens in the collection. However, there are photographs of a nesting pair in Rock County and a number of sight records on file.—Wallace N. MacBriar, Jr., Milwaukee.

Late Record of Baltimore Oriole. Nearly everyone is acquainted with the Baltimore Oriole as a summer resident in Wisconsin, but seeing it in late November was a high point for me as a young birder, 17 years old.

On November 24, 1960, (a clear warm day) I saw one male Baltimore Oriole in an apple tree near my home in Milton Junction, pecking at some of the remaining fruit. I identified it (through binoculars at about 80 feet for three minutes) by these field marks:

a) Contrasting black head and back with bright orange breast and

abdomen.

b) Completely black head and small white wing bar distinguished it from the rarer Bullock's Oriole.

This is only my opinion but I think because of the mild weather experienced at this time, late reports for this bird may not be too uncommon in this area.—Walter Kugler, Jr., Milton Junction.

# **BUFFLEHEAD DATA WANTED**

A study of the Bufflehead is under way, and information on the migration of that species is needed. Data required include first arrival dates, peak dates of migration and peak numbers, and departure dates. Only birds actually believed to be migrants should be listed, but, where pertinent, other data on wintering or summering numbers should be included. If only infrequent visits are made to areas frequented by Bufflehead, the statement "present by (date)" is preferable to "arrival (date)," and "last seen (date)" to "departure (date)." Information is solicited particularly for the spring migration of 1962, but it is hoped that interested observers will report any data they may have obtained in the past; requests for fall migration data will be made later. It is planned to colormark some Buffleheads in Maryland, New York, and Oregon during the winter of 1961-62, and observers should take particular note of any Buffleheads bearing bright patches of red, yellow, or orange. Please send information on the Bufflehead to:

A. J. Erskine, Canadian Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 180, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.



## By CHARLES A. KEMPER

#### **Autumn Season**

August 16-November 30, 1960

This was an unusually mild season for Wisconsin. As previously remarked many times in these pages, many birders find fall quiet, and a season of waning interest. This is reflected by the relative diminution in reports and reporters. Some reporters remarked that this was a dull season. Some found it devoid of all birds.

Nevertheless the nature lover should never find things dull. Every season has its rewards. There is always something of interest, something new to learn, something different and interesting—perhaps some new facet about some familiar thing, bringing up new information and new questions to be asked.

The season did present some exciting records. The second Cattle Egret in Wisconsin made its appearance appropriately enough on the farm of one of the Society's first families, the Charles Nelsons of Waukesha County.

The lingering Indian summer with its warmth, abundance of food

and cover was bound to produce some unusually late departures.

Sam Robbins found his new home parish in St. Croix County disappointing for warblers but the prairie sloughs and ponds were surprisingly rewarding in shorebirds.

Twenty species of shorebirds were recorded by the staff of the Audubon Camp in northwestern Wisconsin. However, in southern Wisconsin shorebirds were reported as "pretty disappointing" by Tom Soulen.

Weather conditions produced some serious TV casualties in Eau

Claire and Milwaukee in September.

Purple Finches, crossbills and Pine Siskins were more plentiful this fall in the north, presaging the remarkable winter records to come. But on the other hand grosbeaks, redpolls and goldfinches were down in numbers.

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron continued to push further north into Wisconsin. Only a few years ago it became established as a Wisconsin breeder in a few southern and southwestern spots. Now it is recorded as far north as Mishicot in Manitowoc County. Along with the Cattle Egret, this species is to be looked for by northern Wisconsin observers.

The Yellow-breasted Chat nested in Mishicot and the Western Kingbird turned up in Milwaukee County where it was recorded by Wallace

MacBriar on Aug. 7, 1960.

A gloomy note was sounded by Melva Maxson, from Milton: "We have no birds. They sprayed for Dutch Elm disease in the spring and again in the fall and have killed everything. We moved back to town Nov. 1. I'm having a very dull time and no banding except for an occasional junco. Today some Starlings came to the feeders."

As in most recent years Cedar Grove made a substantial contribution. The cooperators at this station included Jack Oar, Dan Berger, Helmut Mueller, Nancy Mueller, Dave Seal, Ron Tasher, Frances Hamerstrom, Frank Wren, Floyd Smith, Lee Johnson, Fred and Alan Hamer-

strom.

#### The Season's Records

Common Loon: Last seen Nov. 28, Walworth County (Mrs. W. Morgan).

**Red-throated Loon:** Reported at Milwaukee, Nov. 20 (Mary Donald). Also on Oct. 8, Lake Winnebago.

Horned Grebe: Seen at Milwaukee, Nov. 14 (Donald); Nov. 30, Walworth County (Morgan).

Western Grebe: One observation reported—Sept. 20 on Lake Winnebago at Neenah, by Daryl Tessen. "Long white neck and dark body and . . . size were distinguishing characteristics. Observed for 15 minutes." This is the earliest fall arrival date for this species in W.S.O. files. However this record is somewhat paled by a summer observation on June 18, 1961, at Horicon Marsh, by many W.S.O. members, reported by Ed Peartree.

**Great Blue Heron:** Many late fall records; latest Nov. 27 in Waukesha County by Bielefeldt.

Common Egret: Very rare at Horicon this season. Three there on Sept. 30 (Barger, Orians). Four present Oct. 7 (Soulen). Three on Nov. 7, Dodge County (Hilsenhoff). One at La Crosse, Sept. 20 (Robbins).

See "By the Wayside."

Cattle Egret: The thrill of seeing Wisconsin's first and second birds of this species will have long worn off by the time this appears in print. Now each observers can look for the first county or regional record. We predict that by 1970 this will be a common Wisconsin species. Many W.S.O. members saw this species between Nov. 7 and 19 at Charles Nelson's farm in Waukesha County.

Green Heron: Last seen Sept. 24, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt).

**Little Blue Heron:** No reports this fall.

Least Bittern: One record for this common but elusive species. Sept. 13, Winnebago County (Tessen).

American Bittern: Nov. 19, Outagamie County (Bradford). Black-crowned Night Heron: Oct. 21, Brown County (Cleary).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: This interesting bird joins the Cardinal, Mockingbird, Tufted Titmouse, Yellow-breasted Chat and others in its northern range extension. One report on Aug. 16 for Horicon Marsh by Mrs. E. R. Smale. On Sept. 3 John Schulz, James Ers, Jerry Eis and Bernard Brouchard came upon an immature at Mishicot (See "By the Wayside"). At University Bay, Madison, three immatures from Sept. 26 to Nov. 2 (Soulen). He requests that this be considered hypothetical as his observations were not 100% conclusive.

Canada Goose: Seven birds identified as Hutchin's or Richardson's Geese, a small and recognizable subspecies, were seen in Columbia County on Oct. 9, and a flock of about 30 on Oct. 13 at the same place (Barger).

White-fronted Goose: 15 at Goose Lake in Columbia County on

Oct. 13 (Soulen and Dryers).

Mallard: Great numbers in Columbia County Oct. 13 through Nov. (Barger).

Pintail: Nov. 30, (Donald).

**Green-winged Teal:** Plentiful at Horicon, Sept. 30 (Barger); Dodge County, Oct. 23 (Bauers); Nov. 20 (Bauers).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Peak Aug. 27, Walworth County (Morgan). Scarce at Horicon Sept. 30 (Barger).

American Widgeon: Still present Nov. 26, Winnebago County (Tessen).

Shoveler: Oct. 20, Milwaukee (Bauers).

Ring-necked Duck: Departed from St. Croix County Oct. 17 (Robbins).

Common Goldeneye: Arrived Nov. 20, Marinette County (Lindberg); Nov. 18, Outagamie County (Tessen); Nov. 27, Chippewa County (Kemper). However on Lake Michigan at Milwaukee, Donald reported peak numbers as early as Nov. 4. Apparently inland arrivals were substantially later. It will be interesting to see if this is a consistent phenomenon from year to year.

**Bufflehead:** Arrived in Waukesha County, Sept. 26 (Bielefeldt). Seen in Walworth County Nov. 28 (Morgan).

White-winged Scoter: Marinette County, Oct. 29 (Lindberg); Nov. 17, Milwaukee (Donald).

Ruddy Duck: Arrived Aug. 19, departed October 25, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Turkey Vulture: On Sept. 10, on the W.S.O. Campout in the Kettle Morraine, 27 were seen at the same time. Peartree suggests that this may be the largest number ever seen at one time in Wisconsin. If there should be a world-wide holocaust perhaps this will be the one species that will benefit most.

Goshawk: One reported Oct. 16, Forest County (Kraupa).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Peak at Cedar Grove, Sept. 9, when 106 were counted.

Cooper's Hawk: From Sept. 9 to Nov. 9, a total of 28 seen at Cedar Grove. This contrasts to 754 Sharp-shinned Hawks for the same period.

Red-tailed Hawk: Peak Nov. 5, Cedar Grove (563). Total of 974 exceeded all other hawks this fall.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Conspicuous by its absence at Cedar Grove. This was believed to be more due to weather conditions than to a lack of hawks. However, reports were sparse from all over the state.

Rough-legged Hawk: Arrived Oct. 16, Cedar Grove. Peak Nov. 5 (35). One reported in Calumet County Sept. 14 (Tessen) is an early fall arrival record.

Golden Eagle: One on Nov. 5, another on Nov. 9, at Cedar Grove.

Marsh Hawk: The mild fall with little snow kept this bird longer in northern Wisconsin than in most seasons.

Osprey: Last seen Oct. 17, Cedar Grove.

Peregrine Falcon: Oct. 19, last observation at Cedar Grove. This matches the latest Wisconsin departure reported in 1946 by Gordon Orians.

Pigeon Hawk: Last noted Oct. 23, Cedar Grove. Total of 90

counted during the season.

Gray Partridge: Ed Cleary reported this species exceptionally scarce

in Brown County.

Sandhill Crane: Three on Sept. 10, Outagamie County (Bradford). Three heard Aug. 17-20, Burnett County (Southern and Stone); Green Lake County, Sept. 25 (Ashman).

Virginia Rail: Last report, Oct. 2, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt).

Sora: Last report, Sept. 24, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt).

Common Gallinule: Last seen Sept. 13 at Horicon, where it was reported as very common (Dryers). Last noted in Waukesha County, Sept. 29 (Bielefeldt).

Semipalmated Plover: Arrived St. Croix County Aug. 23 (Robbins); Aug. 10, Milwaukee County (Mary Donald); Aug. 19, Barron County

(Southern).

**Piping Plover:** One identified at Delafield, Waukesha County on Sept. 21 (Bielefeldt).

Killdeer: Last report, Nov. 4, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Golden Plover: Arrived Sept. 8, St. Croix County (Robbins). Widespread reports from Wood, Columbia, Rock, Milwaukee and Dane Counties. Last noted Oct. 23 in Dane County (Ashman).

Black-bellied Plover: Arrived Aug. 23, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Last noted Oct. 14, Columbia and Dane Counties (Ashman).

Ruddy Turnstone: Arrived Aug. 10, Milwaukee (Donald). Aug. 31, Burnett County (Southern). A flock of 47 seen on shore of Lake Winnebago on Oct. 8 (Tessen).

Upland Plover: Peak Sept. 25, Dane County (Ashman).

Greater Yellowlegs: Five seen Oct. 28, south of Waupun, Dodge County (Hilsenhoff).

Knot: One in Milwaukee, Sept. 2 (Soulen); one, Aug. 17, Crex

Meadows, Burnett County (Southern).

Willet: One, Aug. 31, Crex Meadows, Burnett County (Cuthbert and

Audubon campers).

Baird's Sandpiper: Numerous widespread reports, Polk, Outagamie, Dane, Washburn, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, St. Croix Counties. Late departure date, Oct. 28, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Dunlin: Departed Oct. 4, Dane County (Ashman).

**Dowitcher:** (species?) Arrived as early as Aug. 12, Washburn County (Southern). Numerous August reports. One very late report, Oct. 28, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Stilt Sandpiper: Aug. 12, Washburn County (Southern). Seen from Aug. 17 to Sept. 8, St. Croix County (Robbins). Oct. 4, Horicon Marsh

(Dryers).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Arrived Aug. 12, Washburn County (Southern); Aug. 10, Milwaukee (Mary Donald). Last date Sept. 13, Horicon (Dryers).

Western Sandpiper: Seen Aug. 12, Barron County, by Southern and

Audubon Camp students.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** One collected Aug. 28 near Sarona, Washburn County, for the collection of Northern Illinois University. Several observed on Aug. 30 near Haugen, Barron County.

Sanderling: Departed Oct. 7, Manitowoc County (Kraupa); departed Nov. 4, Milwaukee (Mary Donald). One observed Aug. 21, Outagamie

County (Tessen).

Wilson's Phalarope: Aug. 17, Burnett County (Southern); Aug. 18, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Northern Phalarope: Aug. 26 to Oct. 4, St. Croix County (Robbins). See "By the Wayside."

Herring Gull: Left Polk County Oct. 23 (Pederson). Nov. 30, Dane County (Ashman).

Ring-billed Gull: Sept. 3 to Nov. 20, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Franklin's Gull: Oct. 7 to Nov. 3, St. Croix County (Robbins). "Sizable flocks of gulls began to appear in October as farmers got fall plowing underway; these proved to be mixtures of Ring-billed and Franklin's Gulls, reaching a peak of at least 400 by Oct. 14. I had not realized that this species carried its fall excursions this far east in such numbers . . . but I suspect from comments of local residents that this is a yearly occurrence."

Forster's Tern: Arrived Aug. 10, Milwaukee (Donald).

Caspian Tern: One near West Salem, La Crosse County, Sept. 20 (Robbins); Oct. 1, and as many as 37 on Aug. 15, in Outagamie County (Tessen).

Black Tern: Sept. 8, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Mourning Dove: A nestling banded in Chippewa Falls on Aug. 16, 1960 was shot Oct. 20, 1960 at Ferolottan, Jalisco, Mexico.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Last seen Oct. 21, Cedar Grove. Only one

banded at Cedar Grove.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Departure date of Oct. 29 from Vernon County is one day short of departure record for the state (Weber).

Barn Owl: Oct. 10, Ozaukee County (Mary Donald). Four young

seen on Oct. 31 at nesting site. All dead on Nov. 7.

**Snowy Owl:** Widespread seasonal reports from Milwaukee, Burnett County and Cedar Grove presaged one of the greatest winter invasions in years.

Short-eared Owl: Three between Sept. 22 and Oct. 17, Cedar Grove. Long-eared Owl: Six noted Nov. 12, Rock County (Melva Maxson). Whip-poor-will: Not seen after Sept. 8, St. Croix County (Robbins);

Sept. 2, Cedar Grove.

Nighthawk: Last dates: Sept. 24, Outagamie County (Tessen); Sept. 14, Waukesha County (Hoffman); Sept. 17, Milwaukee; extremely large flight on Aug. 31, Milwaukee (MacBriar).

Chimney Swift: Latest date, Oct. 16, University of Wisconsin campus,

Madison (Soulen).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last date Oct. 14, Dane County

(Ashman).

Eastern Kingbird: Departed Rock County Sept. 12 (Mahlum). Sept. 1, Cedar Grove; Sept. 9, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Western Kingbird: Aug. 27, Milwaukee (MacBriar). See "By the Wayside."

Crested Flycatcher: Most departure dates were in first week in Sep-

tember. Latest was Sept. 21, Vernon County (Weber).

**Phoebe:** Still around on Nov. 4 in Milwaukee (Donald).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Late dates: Sept. 23, Chippewa County, where Kemper banded eight; Sept. 25, Cedar Grove, where 114 were reported banded during fall season.

Acadian Flycatcher: Last seen Aug. 20, Waukesha County (Biele-

feldt).

**Traill's Flycatcher:** Departure dates from Sept. 17, Waukesha County (Peartree) to Sept. 26, Cedar Grove. 42 banded at Chippewa Falls, 187 banded at Cedar Grove.

Least Flycatcher: Last seen Sept. 7, Waukesha County (Peartree); Sept. 13, St. Croix County (Robbins); Sept. 17 in Mishicot, Manitowoc County (Bernard Brouchard); Sept. 21, Chippewa County (45 banded); Sept. 24, Columbia County (Dryer) and Sept. 30, Cedar Grove (84 banded).

Wood Pewee: Left Sept. 20, Sauk County (Koenig), Sept. 25, Walworth County (Morgan); Oct. 3, Outagamie County (Tessen) and Oct. 10,

Cedar Grove.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Last report Sept. 7, Waukesha County (Pear-

tree).

Tree Swallow: Departure dates: Sept. 8, St. Croix County (Robbins), Oct. 1, Outagamie County (Tessen); Oct. 2, Cedar Grove; Oct. 10, along shore of Lake Mendota in Dane County, (Soulen); and large flocks on Oct. 16, Waukesha County (Mrs. Earl Sauer and Mrs. Arthur Gauerke).

Bank Swallow: Departed Sept. 9, St. Croix County (Robbins); Sept.

11, Outagamie County (Bradford).

Rough-winged Swallow: Last dates; Sept. 11, Outagamie County (Bradford) and Sept. 18, Cedar Grove.

Barn Swallow: Left Sept. 19, St. Croix County (Robbins); Oct. 15,

Waukesha County (Bielefeldt); Oct. 17, Cedar Grove.

Cliff Swallow: Representative records of fall departure; Sept. 13, St. Croix County (Robbins); Sept. 16, Outagamie County (Tessen); Sept. 24, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt); Sept. 29, Rock County (Glenn and Andrews).

Black-capped Chickadee: Reported scarce in Brown County (Cleary).

Brown Creeper: 56 banded at Cedar Grove.

House Wren: Departures: Oct. 1, Chippewa County; Oct. 2, Marathon County (Mrs. Spencer Doty); Oct. 3, Outagamie County (Tessen); Oct. 8, Waukesha County (Peartree).

Carolina Wren: Reported from Rock County, Sept. 14 (Glenn and

Andrews).

Long-billed Marsh Wren: Oct. 7, Outagamie County (Bradford); Oct. 9, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt).

Short-billed Marsh Wren: Oct. 1, Iowa County (Soulen).

Mockingbird: Columbia County, Sept. 24 (Dryers).

Catbird: Numbers up this fall. 213 banded at Cedar Grove, 45 banded at Chippewa Falls. Last date Oct. 27, Dane County (Ashman).

Brown Thrasher: Oct. 27, Dane County (Ashman); Nov. 13, Milwaukee (Mary Donald); Nov. 15, Outagamie County (Tessen).

Robin: Only 13 banded, Cedar Grove.

Wood Thrush: Last seen Oct. 5 at Mishicot, Manitowoc County (Brouchard).

Hermit Thrush: Peak Oct. 6, Cedar Grove, left Oct. 27; Oct. 29, Mishicot, Manitowoc County (Brouchard).

Swainson's Thrush: Last seen Oct. 17, Outagamie County (Daryl Tessen).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Arrived Outagamie County, Aug. 29 (Tessen) —a very early arrival; arrived Rock County Aug. 31 (Stocking); last seen in state on Nov. 3, Cedar Grove.

Veery: Last date Sept. 25, Chippewa County and Cedar Grove.

Bluebird: Last seen St. Croix County, Oct. 21 (Robbins); Oct. 24, Waukesha County (Mrs. Hoffman); Oct. 28, Rock County (Melva Maxson).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Arrived Sept. 9, Outagamie County (Tessen);

last seen Nov. 18, Rock County (Stocking).

Water Pipit: Arrived Sept. 24, departed Oct. 25, St. Croix County

(Robbins).

Northern Shrike: Arrived Nov. 9, Waukesha County (Mrs. Paul Hoffman). One seen Milwaukee, Nov. 26 (Donald).

Loggerhead Shrike: Last seen Sept. 5, St. Croix County (Robbins). Bell's Vireo: Several at Arboretum, in Madison, Aug. 30 (Soulen). Yellow-throated Vireo: Last date, Sept. 25, Cedar Grove.

Solitary Vireo: Last seen Oct. 15, Cedar Grove.

Red-eyed Vireo: Last date, Cedar Grove, Oct. 20 (188 banded).

Philadelphia Vireo: One on Oct. 4, Cedar Grove.

Warbling Vireo: Sept. 11, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt). Sept. 29, Columbia County (Dryer).

Black-and-white Warbler: One on Sept. 27, Milwaukee (H. Bauers). Golden-winged Warbler: Sept. 5, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt);

Sept. 8, Beloit (Mrs. Mahlum) and Sept. 15, Cedar Grove.

Tennessee Warbler: Unusually late dates: Oct. 8, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt); Oct. 10, Mishicot, Manitowoc County (Brouchard); Oct. 11, Vernon County (Margarette Morse); Oct. 13, Chippewa County (Kemper); Oct. 14, Dane County (Ashman); Oct. 28, Madison—where one was banded by Peggy Hickey. This late date is a new state record.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Departure dates; Oct. 14, St. Croix County (Robbins); Oct. 17, Dane County (Soulen); Oct. 20, Rock County (Mrs. Mahlum) and Chippewa County (Kemper); Oct. 21, Outagamie County

(Tessen) and Oct. 25, Cedar Grove.

Nashville Warbler: Latest report was one banded by Peggy Hickey

on Oct. 31, Dane County.

Yellow Warbler: Last noted in St. Croix County on Sept. 9 (Rob-

bins).

Magnolia Warbler: Oct. 2, Vilas County (Bradford); Oct. 4, Rock County and Oct. 11, Cedar Grove, where it was the second most common warbler.

Cape May Warbler: Latest date, Oct. 12, Vernon County (Weber).

Other widespread reports of this warbler.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: As usual, few reports, mostly from the eastern part of state. Last report was Sept. 21, Milwaukee (Mary Donald).

Myrtle Warbler: Most abundant fall warbler in Chippewa County (Kemper). Latest date Nov. 20, Dane County (Ashman).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Last date, Oct. 14, Outagamie Coun-

ty (Tessen) and Dane County (Ashman).

Cerulean Warbler: Last noted Sept. 2, Washburn County (Southern).

Blackburnian Warbler: Last Oct. 12, Waukesha County (Hoffman).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Last noted Sept. 22, Chippewa County (Kemper); Sept. 24, Cedar Grove; Sept. 25, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Oct. 1, Outagamie County (Tessen) is last

observation date.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Sept. 25, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt) Sept. 30, Milwaukee (MacBriar); Oct. 1, Cedar Grove; Oct. 6, Outagamie County (Tessen).

Pine Warbler: One, Sept. 18, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt); Sept. 20, Mishicot, Manitowoc County (Brouchard); Sept. 21, Vernon County

(Margarette Morse).

Palm Warbler: Most late dates average about mid-October. Latest for state, Oct. 20, Dane County (Ashman), is latest record since 1949.

Ovenbird: Four Oct. dates: Oct. 2, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt); Oct. 4, Chippewa County (Kemper); Oct. 5, Cedar Grove, and Oct. 10, Dane County (Ashman).

Northern Waterthrush: Sept. 30, Milwaukee (MacBriar); Oct. 15,

Cedar Grove.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Three banded by Ed Peartree between Aug.

28 and Sept. 18.

Connecticut Warbler: Six banded by Ed Peartree in Waukesha County between Aug. 30 and Sept. 25. Last seen in Vernon County Oct. 11 (Morse), and on the same day at Cedar Grove.

Mourning Warbler: One banded Sept. 25, Waukesha County (Pear-

tree).

Yellowthroat: Last dates; Oct. 4, St. Croix County (Robbins); Oct. 5, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt); Oct. 5, Walworth County (Mrs. Morgan), and Oct. 9, Vernon County (Weber).

Wilson's Warbler: Robbins regarded these as unusually common in

early fall in St. Croix County.

Redstart: Oct. 5, Rock County (Mrs. Mahlum); Oct. 11, Cedar Grove—where a total of 422 were banded during Operation Recovery. This was far and away most common fall warbler at this banding station. Oct. 8, Vernon County (Weber); and Oct. 15, Milwaukee (Bauers).

Bobolink: None reported after Sept. 8, St. Croix County (Robbins)

and Cedar Grove.

Baltimore Oriole: Departed Sept. 17, Milwaukee (Mary Donald). An astonishing record was a bird seen on Nov. 24, 1960, at Milton Junction (Walter Kugler, Jr.). See "By the Wayside." This is latest record in W.S.O. files.

Rusty Blackbird: Very early arrival in Waukesha County, Sept. 18 (Bielefeldt). Not seen before Oct. 13 in St. Croix County (Robbins).

Grackle: All departed by Nov. 18, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Scarlet Tanager: One on Oct. 3, Chippewa County. Last reported Oct. 4, Outagamie County (Tessen).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Still present Oct. 6, Outagamie County

(Tessen); Oct. 11, Vernon County (Morse).

Indigo Bunting: One on Oct. 15, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt) ties state departure record. Other October dates from Outagamie, Waukesha, Rock and Chippewa Counties and at Cedar Grove.

Evening Grosbeak: Arrived Nov. 9, Polk County (Mrs. Lester Peder-

sen). Also Rusk (Parejko) and Forest (Richter, Lounds) Counties.

Purple Finch: Peak at Cedar Grove, Nov. 5, almost all going north.

Reported as plentiful in northern Wisconsin (Lound).

Pine Grosbeak: Arrived Cedar Grove, Nov. 29; 12 on Dec. 6, Cedar Grove. Richter reported none this fall or winter from Oconto County. Lound suggests that absence is due to poor seed crop on the ash trees.

Common Redpoll: Poor year in northern Wisconsin. Arrived Oct. 18. Cedar Grove. On October 20, a flock of 600, mostly going north.

One noted Nov. 26, Waukesha County (Ashman).

Goldfinch: Comparatively few at Cedar Grove. Only 40% of previ-

ous year's counts, Chippewa County (Kemper).

Pine Siskin: Scarce at Cedar Grove this season but plentiful in northern Wisconsin (Lound). Scattered flocks, some large, in Madison after mid-October.

Red Crossbill: Flocks reported in St. Croix County, Oct. 25 (Robbins) and in Dane County, Oct. 28 (Soulen). Plentiful in northern Wisconsin. Arrived Oct. 6 at Cedar Grove. Food supply abundant, with heavy coniferous cone crop and Yellow Birch loaded with seeds (Lound). "Numerous in Florence and Forest Counties during deer season. Many run over by cars as they were pecking at salt on the roads"(Richter, fide Lound).

Rufous-sided Towhee: One present all season, Dane County (Lound). Grasshopper Sparrow: Oct. 13, Waukesha County (Bielefeldt).

Slate-colored Junco: Early arrival in Outagamie County Sept. 1 (Tessen). Record numbers banded in Chippewa County.

Tree Sparrow: Arrived Oct. 7, Vernon County; Oct. 11, Cedar Grove

and Chippewa County; Oct. 15, St. Croix County (Robbins).

Chipping Sparrow: Last noted Oct. 23 in Waukesha County (Bielefeldt) and Marinette County (Lindberg).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Record late departure Oct. 20, Chippewa

County (Kemper).

Field Sparrow: Seen Nov. 17, Rock County (Maxson).

Harris' Sparrow: Arrived Sept. 23, St. Croix County, peak Oct. 14 when 17 were noted (Robbins). Other reports from Chippewa, Rusk and Rock Counties.

White-crowned Sparrow: First noted Sept. 14, Chippewa County

(Kemper); Sept. 22, St. Croix County (Robbins).

White-throated Sparrow: Record numbers this fall. Arrived Sept. 3, Chippewa County; Sept. 5, Cedar Grove; Sept. 9, Columbia County (Dryers); Sept. 10, Rock County (Maxson).

Fox Sparrow: Good numbers in Chippewa County where it was first

recorded in the state this fall on Sept. 19.

Lincoln's Sparrow: One on Sept. 3 at Oconomowoc, Waukesha Coun-

ty (Peartree), is earliest fall date in W.S.O. files.

Lapland Longspur: Noted first by Robbins on Sept. 27, St. Croix County. A Nov. I report from Brown County (Cleary).

Snow Bunting: Reports from Jefferson, Brown, and Outagamie Counties.

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# **BOOK REVIEWS**

A GATHERING OF SHORE BIRDS. By Henry Marion Hall, edited by Ronald C. Clement, illustrated by John Henry Dick. Devin

Adair Co., New York, 1960. 242 pp. \$10.00.\*

Once when the future Mrs. Robbins and I were discussing things past, present and future, she suddenly asked me to tell her about my family. One by one I named off mother, father, brothers, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc.; I tried to describe their appearance, their main activities, their likes and dislikes, and even produced some photographs to assist where words might fail. This did not mean that she knew all about these people, or even that she would recognize them at their next meeting; yet she felt that she had come to know them much better for the descriptions she had seen and heard.

For those who would ask similarly, "Tell me about the shore bird family," authors Hall and Clement and artist Dick have an admirable answer. Each of the 57 species of shore birds that occur in North America on something more than an accidental or casual basis—from the Jacana to the Two-striped Thick-knee—is given separate treatment in this book. For each species there is an illustration by John Henry Dick, noted for his color paintings in **The Warblers of America**; this time they are pen-and-ink line drawings, rather than color paintings, and thus are of limited value for identification purposes—intended rather as artistic portrayals of shape and general characteristics.

For each species there are one to five pages of text descriptive of the habits and "personality" of the birds. For some species there are intimate glimpses into the activities on Arctic breeding grounds, for some there are detailed accounts of the magnificient migratory flights of by-gone years and the hunting practices that decimated these flights, while for others plumage characteristics are highlighted, or winter range described. The authors have not tried to give anything like a complete life history for each bird. This would be quite impossible within the prescribed space limitations. But each page is filled with fascinating information that is both scientifically oriented and artistically presented in a popular style. Many of these "portraits" were originally published by Hall in Audubon Magazine. Clement has enlarged on some of these. edited, and filled out the text so that every North American species could be covered. Supplemental pages list additional species for South America, and the casual or accidental visitors that have come to America from Europe and Asia.

Hall's essays have grown out of over a half-century of careful and varied observation. He witnessed the huge migratory flocks that existed at the turn of the century, and at first enjoyed along with many others the shore bird hunting that was widely prevalent at that time. Then as he witnessed the alarming decrease that took place, he became an ardent conservationist. The young generation of ornithologists should read this book, if for no other reason than to realize how dangerously close we came to exterminating various species of shore birds before

protective treaties were enacted.

Ornithologists of all generations will appreciate this book because it combines useful scientific information with a quality of writing that \*Available from the W.S.O. Supply Department.

is almost poetic at times. Describing the nesting habits of the Woodcock, Hall writes (p. 84): "Recent studies of banded birds lured down by stuffed birds, and by netting in travel lanes, have revealed an heretofore unsuspected amount of interchange in the male population. It seems now that Woodcock populations are loosely knit; both sexes maintain small territories and the males may visit several in turn, mating with more than one female, as the females also accept more than one male." While on the same page, describing the habitat where the Woodcock can be found in fall, he exhilarates: "The western heights are a jumble of knobs, just now an incredible blaze of color . . . rolling away in wave after wave of incredible magnificance. Somewhere beneath the horizon haze the Grand Sachem of Indian Summer smokes the Pipe of Peace, stopping the hands on the clock of time and long postponing the fall of the leaf."

If there is a weakness in this volume, it perhaps lies in a rather inadequate delination of the migration routes of the various species. The writers being from Atlantic Coast states, it is natural that their experience should be drawn mostly from that region. From a Wisconsin point of view, one might wish that instead of lumping together most of the region from the Appalachians to the Rockies as "the interior," the authors might have made more delination to point out the rather significant differences between the Great Lakes region, the Mississippi River Valley, and the Great Plains.

For the most part, however, the one who asks, "Tell me about the shore bird family," will gain a satisfying answer from this welcome volume.—Sam Robbins.

A FIELD LIST OF BIRDS OF THE TRI-CITY REGION. By Elton Fawks and Peter Petersen, Jr. Published by the Tri-City Bird Club, 1961. Available from Davenport Public Museum, Davenport, Iowa. 40 pp. \$.50, plus postage.

This booklet is made up essentially in the same manner as our **Wisconsin Birds**, including the migration charts. It differs from the latter, however, in that the area covered is much smaller. The circle, with Davenport, Iowa, as its center, is only about 75 miles in diameter. In addition to the charts, there is a chapter describing the various birding areas of the region, references to other literature, a map of the region, and a hypothetical list of birds.—N. R. Barger.

BIRD SONGS IN YOUR GARDEN. 10 inch 33 1/3 r.p.m. phonograph record. Cornell University Records, Ithaca, New York, 1961. \$5.95.\*

Like a fresh whiff of spring, this new bookalbum brings back to us the exuberant songs of familiar garden birds of eastern United States and Canada. Here Professors Arthur A. Allen and Peter Paul Kellogg of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology present us with characteristic songs and variations of 25 avian species.

Each song is identified on Side 1 and the listener can follow along in the text via true-to-nature colored photographs, thus forming a visual as well as an auditory image of each bird. Many similar songs are dif-

<sup>\*</sup>Available from the W.S.O. Supply Department.

ferentiated, such as those of the Black-billed and the Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and those of the Orchard and the Baltimore Orioles. On Side 2, the entire series is repeated, but uninterrupted by human voices.

In addition to the record and photographs, the text gives informative comments on each of the 25 species, listings of plants suitable for attracting hummingbirds and for providing food and nesting sites for most garden-dwelling birds, dimensions of bird houses for the more popular species, notes for successful window feeding in wintertime, and a list of books for further reference.—Betty Akagi.

Tap! Tap! Tap!
A sudden signal
A herald at dawn—
That tapping at my sill.
A rocket of feathers from
Out of the night
A flit of a tail
In the half-grown light.
Morning is here
With its pert black cap!
Chick-a-dee-dee! and
Tap-a-tap-tap!
Carla Ochsner Kruse

# DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1-10, 1962 (Statewide)—Field notes for the period December through February should be sent to the Associate Editor, the Rev. Samuel D. Robbins, at Roberts, Wisconsin.

March 4, 1962 (Milwaukee)-W.S.O. Annual Late Winter Lake Front Field Trip, to see waterfowl, Long-eared Owls, etc., beginning at

McKinley Beach at 8:00 a. m.

March 6, 1962 (Milwaukee)—Milwaukee Audubon Wildlife Film, with Alfred Bailey speaking on "Sub-Antarctic Isle," at Shorewood High School at 8:00 p. m.

March 12-14, 1962 (Denver, Colorado)-North American Wildlife Confer-

ence, Hilton Hotel.

March 19, 1962 (Manitowoc)—Roger Tory Peterson Bird Club Audubon Wildlife Film, with Olin Sewall Pettingill speaking on "Sea Ice and

Fire," at Washington Junior High School at 8:00 p. m.

March 19, 1962 (Madison)—University-Conservation Department Wildlife Research Seminar, with George Knudsen speaking on "Wisconsin Black Bear Studies," at the University Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management at 7:45 p. m.

March 21, 1962 (Madison)—Madison Audubon Wildlife Film, with Olin Sewall Pettingill speaking on "The Faraway Falklands," at West

High School at 7:30 p. m.

April 5, 1962 (Madison)—Madison Audubon Wildlife Film, with Roger Tory Peterson speaking on "Wild Europe," at West High School at 7:30 p. m.

- April 6, 1962 (Manitowoc)—Roger Tory Peterson Bird Club Audubon Wildlife Film, with Roger Tory Peterson speaking on "Wild Europe," at Washington Junior High School at 8:00 p. m.
- April 6-8, 1962 (Lafayette, Indiana)—Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society, Purdue University.
- April 16, 1962 (Madison)—University-Conservation Department Wildlife Research Seminar, with Laurence Jahn speaking on "Characteristics of the Wisconsin Duck and Coot Harvest," at the University Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management at 7:45 p. m.
- April 17, 1962 (Beloit)—Beloit College Audubon Wildlife Film, with John Moyer speaking on "Jungle Trek," at the College.
- April 20-22, 1962 (Berkeley, California)—Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society, at the University of California.
- May 5-6, 1962 (La Crosse)—92nd Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, at Wisconsin State College. Includes paper sessions on natural history, conservation problems, and other aspects of the general theme, "Upper Mississippi Valley."
- May 7-9, 1962 (Columbus, Ohio)—Ninth National Watershed Congress, at the Deshler Hilton Hotel.
- May 14, 1962 (Madison)—University-Conservation Department Wildlife Research Seminar, with Robert Dorney and James Hale speaking on "Ruffed Grouse Movement Studies in Northern Wisconsin," at the University Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management at 7:45 p. m.
- May 25-27, 1962 (Rhinelander)—1962 W.S.O. Convention, in the new Rhinelander district high school. Additional details elsewhere in this issue.
- June 11-15, 1962 (New York City)—13th International Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation, at the American Museum of Natural History.
- June 16-17, 1962 (Lake Du Bay, north of Stevens Point on Wisconsin River)—W.S.O. 1962 Summer Campout, with trips to George W. Mead Wildlife Area. Details to be announced.
- June 17-23, 1962 (Sarona)—First Session, Audubon Camp of Wisconsin, for Youth Camp Nature Counselors.
- June 17-23, 1962 (Ithaca, New York)—13th International Ornithological Congress, Cornell University.
- June 24-July 7, 1962 (Sarona)—First regular Session, Audubon Camp of Wisconsin.
- August 27-31, 1962 (Salt Lake City, Utah)—Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, University of Utah.
- November 9-13, 1962 (Corpus Christi, Texas)—58th Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society, Robert Driscoll Hotel.

For many years Paul Hahn of the Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto, Canada) has been collecting information on the number and location of specimens of extinct (or nearly extinct) North American birds. In a recent letter to me he stated that over 800 reports had been received from throughout the world and that his findings were being published by the

museum. His latest summary tabulation (as of July 1, 1961) was as follows:

Species	Specimens	Skeletons
Passenger Pigeon	1,462	17
Eskimo Curlew	370	9
Great Auk	77	20
Ivory-billed Woodpecker	421	7
Whooping Crane	317	11
Carolina Parakeet	690	20
Labrador Duck	52	0

Some time ago I furnished Mr. Hahn with a report on Passenger Pigeon specimens in Wisconsin collections. Anyone having new information on this subject, or data they have not already reported on the other species, should get in touch with him promptly.-W. E. Scott, Madison.

# MORE NEWS . .

The schedule for the 1962 season at the Audubon Camp of Wisconsin at Sarona has been announced. A one-week session for youth camp nature counselors has been planned to begin the season, on June 17. Regular two-week sessions will begin on

June 24, July 8, and July 29. Another oneweek course, this one of a general nature, will be taught from August 12 to 18, and another two-week program beginning August 19 will end the season on September 1. Informative folders and registration forms are available from the National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, New York.



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