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FOUR-DAY-OLD GOLDEN PLOVER

PHOTO BY EMIL K. URBAN



The PASSENGER PIGEON

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THE DOWNY AND HAIRY WOODPECKERS IN WISCONSIN

By HOWARD YOUNG

This paper concerns itself with the distribution and the relative abundance of the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers in Wisconsin. The basic information was drawn from Wisconsin Christmas censuses (1939 to 1959, inclusive) published in *The Passenger Pigeon*.

The use of Christmas census material has been criticized (Stewart, 1954; Hickey, 1955) because of the many variables inherent in the census methods now commonly employed. Thus the relative abundance of a species, Mallards for example, recorded on censuses from two different localities, might not be comparable because of varying time spent in suitable habitat. In the same way, comparing the abundance of two different species is often dangerous, because one may be more conspicuous, noisier, bolder, etc., than the other. There are many more problems which could be mentioned.

Bearing these difficulties in mind, it is still possible to make good use of census data in carefully selected cases. Though very similar in appearance, the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers are easily separated by observers serious enough to participate in census studies. They are quite similar in behavior patterns and habitat requirements. Both may be found in city parks and farm woodlots as well as in denser wooded areas, so that trips to special areas are not required to find them. Furthermore, neither species is uncommon enough to have it included, after doubtful identification, in order to add prestige to a "list." While the Hairy appears to be shyer than the Downy, this is compensated for by its larger size and louder call.

Precise information is obviously not available here (it seldom is in field studies), but by placing the census data as much as possible on a birds observed per man-hour basis, a good idea of the distribution of these species, and their comparative abundance in the state, can be obtained. When a large number of observations are used, certain patterns appear.

Hairy Woodpecker Abundance

Figure 1 is concerned with the relative abundance of the Hairy Woodpecker in various parts of the state, as indicated by the census records. It can be seen that the birds are most frequently reported from the southwestern part of the state. However, the information from some counties is quite scanty. To get a better sample, those counties east of the heavy line were put in one group, and those west of this line in another group. When this is done, the eastern group of counties (24) averages .11 bird per man-hour of observation. This is based on records from 259 censuses during the 21 years, with a total of about 3800 man-hours of observation. The western group (25 counties) averages .4 birds per man-hour of observation. (Data from 17 years, 201 censuses, 1990 man-hours). It is clear from these records that the Hairy Woodpecker is less abundant in the eastern part of the state, and more abundant in the southwestern part.

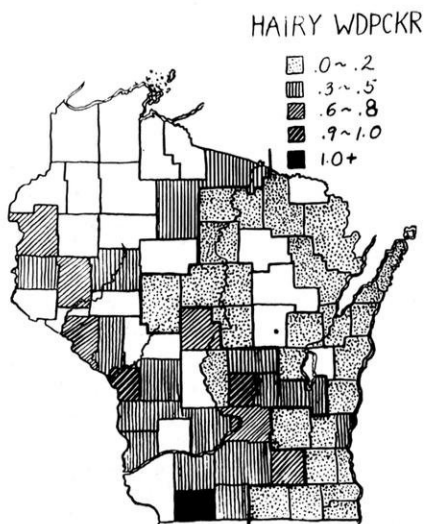


FIG. 1. BIRDS PER MAN-HOUR

3500 man-hours of observation. The northern group is the poorest sample—59 censuses in 14 years (450 man-hours of observation) resulting in an average of .2 birds per man-hour of observation.

As in the case of the Hairy, the Downy Woodpecker seems to be definitely most abundant in southwestern Wisconsin. The population levels appear to fall off to the east, and particularly to the north.

Wing and Jenks (1939) summarized Christmas census records of the Downy Woodpecker on a national scale. This was for 1900-1937 inclusive, so there is no overlap in the dates of that study and this one. For

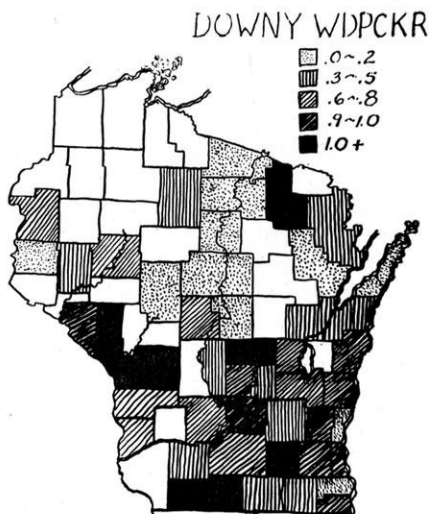


FIG. 2. BIRDS PER MAN-HOUR

Figure 2 shows the census reports on the Downy Woodpecker. Here again the greatest density appears to be in the southwest, with fewer reported from the east, and especially few reported on the scanty censuses in the north. Sample size again can be improved by grouping; the more abundant information allowing a little more detailed consideration than in the case of the Hairy Woodpecker.

The new grouping is shown in Figure 3. The southwestern counties show .8 birds per man-hour during 153 censuses (21 years) and approximately 1850 man-hours of observation. The eastern group (.5 birds per man-hour) is based on 248 censuses during the 21 years, and about

Wisconsin they found an overall average of .24 birds per man-hour. The records used in the present study give .56 birds per man-hour of observation. Because of the variables previously mentioned, it cannot be said that this represents a real increase. But since record keeping has been improved, and the amount of censusing has greatly increased in the last 20 years, it is probable that the second figure is the more accurate of the two.

A map prepared by Wing and Jenks shows the greatest densities of this species to the south of Wisconsin, especially the southeast, with a progressive decline to the west and southwest. The fact that Wisconsin itself does not fit

this pattern probably reflects the denser settling in the eastern part of the state, and the greater amount of deforestation there.

Finally, it is of interest to examine the comparative abundance of these species, as illustrated in Figure 4. Here the number of Hairy Woodpeckers seen is expressed as a percentage of the number of Downies seen. On Christmas censuses, the Downy is reported more frequently than the Hairy in all parts of the state. The state average for the Hairy is .23 birds per man-hour of observation, for the Downy it is .56 (Hairy/Downy—.4).

The disparity is greatest in the east where Hairy densities seem to be particularly low; here about three Downies are reported for every Hairy. In the south and central counties, containing the heaviest densities of both species, about two Downies are reported for each Hairy. In the north, particularly the northwest, where the density of each species is lower, the ratio is almost 1:1. This indicates that the Downy population falls off more rapidly to the north than does that of the Hairy.

This is only a generalized picture, and of course avian populations do not follow county boundary lines. Accumulation of more information would surely result in some modification of this discussion, especially in relation to the north-western part of the state, where the fewest censuses have been made. Jackson (1942), writing of this area, states that the Hairy is more abundant than the Downy, and Zirrer (1941), writing of Sawyer County, estimates 20 Hairies per Downy.

Despite the difficulties associated with the gathering of Christmas census data, and their interpretation, they provide a valuable mass of records. Used with care, they can sometimes give us worthwhile information on various species which is not otherwise available. The maps here presented probably reflect to

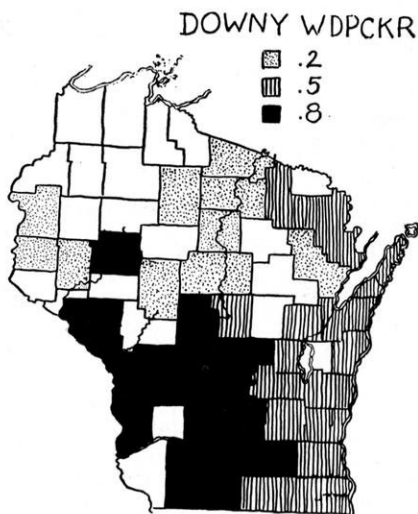


FIG. 3. BIRDS PER MAN-HOUR, BY COUNTY-GROUPS

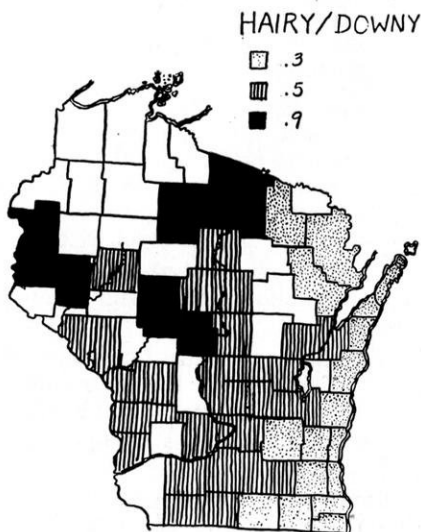


FIG. 4. COMPARATIVE ABUNDANCE

a considerable degree the actual distribution and abundance of these woodpeckers in Wisconsin.

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Bandages to Banding . . .

By LOUISE MILLER

Dr. Charles A. Kemper, a Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, physician, has banded more than 13,000 birds in the last five years as part of his ornithology hobby.

Ornithologists regard Kemper as an authority of the region. And he manages to wedge many pleasant outdoor hours in between his medical practice and a full family life. He doesn't limit his interest just to ornithology though, for he is also interested in all wildlife of Wisconsin.

Dr. Kemper writes a nature column in the **Chippewa Falls Herald-Telegram**, "Natives of Chippewa County." His subjects range from the Great Blue Heron to that subterranean engineer of the animal kingdom, the woodchuck.

To aid him in his study of birds, Kemper purchased a tract of land two miles east of Chippewa Falls. On this 80 acres, he has planted thousands of trees and shrubs, all carefully selected to attract birds. Here he spends his leisure time, taking field notes, and checking his bird traps. The birds are trapped for observation and banding with a fine hair-like net made in Japan, then released.

Even the yard of the Kemper home is designed for luring birds. Kemper has planted trees and shrubs and built a rock pond with running water for them.

Mrs. Kemper shares her husband's interest as do their children. The content of her home freezer is unique. Instead of food, it holds hundreds of frozen birds. Under certain weather conditions, birds fly into the television tower at nearby Eau Claire and sometimes hundreds are killed.

Kemper preserves the better specimens. From this supply, he furnishes the University of Minnesota with birds for study and for their museum of natural history.



CHARLES A. KEMPER, M. D.

PHOTO BY LOUISE MILLER

Invitations are constantly extended to the doctor to speak on wildlife. He illustrates his talks with colored slides.

It is not uncommon for the doctor to receive calls from persons asking for identification of birds, or advice on what to do with a sick canary.

Kemper writes on a wide variety of nature subjects. His lively style of writing has done much to awaken the residents of the Chippewa Falls area to the abundant and interesting wildlife "right in their own back yard." Kemper can always find an interested student of ornithology to go on field trips with him out to his 80 acre refuge—or "the farm" as he likes to refer to it.

Dr. Kemper is conservation chairman of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. He also is vice president of the Inland Bird-Banding Association.

Busy though this amiable doctor is, Kemper has begun writing a book on Chippewa County wildlife, at the urging and interest of his friends and readers. His book will be illustrated, as his articles have been in the past, with his own sketches.

The many long hours of research and study; the two or three times a day he journeys to his "farm" for field notes; the endless recording of the banding of birds and observations on their habitats; and his devotion to writing on ornithology for others to share, is just the busy doctor's way of relaxing and enjoying himself!

NEWS . . .

A group calling itself the "Animal Protective League," at 2545 N. 65th St., Wauwatosa, recently took advertising space in several suburban papers to appeal, for the birds, "Please don't kill us." The ads warn of dangers in the use of many insecticides and weed-killers.

A census of the rare Kirtland's Warbler has been completed by the Michigan Audubon Society, working with the University of Michigan, the U. S. Forest Service, and the Michigan Conservation Department. The count turned up 502 singing

males, a slight improvement over 1951, when a similar survey revealed 432 males. The Kirtland's Warbler nests only in Jack Pine stands where the trees are between five and 15 feet tall, and only in a few counties in the northern Lower Peninsula. The Forest Service has announced plans to manage about four square miles of the Huron National Forest in Oscoda County for these scarce little birds, and the state Conservation Department has also set up warbler management areas. One goal is to provide a continuous growth of pine in the necessary height range. It is certainly most encouraging to find governmental agencies so concerned with a "mere song-bird" that no one hunts and can't be sold.

BLUEBIRD TRAILS . . .

A GREAT SUCCESS

By CLARA HUSSONG

Green Bay Bird Club members, who sponsored a "Bluebird Trails" project among Brown County 4-H Clubs, are very happy with the results of the project.

Ten 4-H Clubs worked on the "Trails" project, setting up 17 trails of from 10 to 12 nesting boxes each, for a total of 173 boxes in all. One club set up five trails, totaling 50 houses, and another erected 40 houses. 4-H members built the houses themselves from scale drawings and instructions furnished them by the Bird Club.



DRAWING BY CHARLES SCHWARTZ
FROM WISCONSIN CONSERVATION
DEPARTMENT

Directions were given them also on where to set trails; that is, the type of habitat, the height above ground, the distance between boxes, and other information. A certificate of award was promised the club whose trail was judged the best by a Bird Club committee.

Inspection of the trails by Bird Club members took place in June. Bluebirds have been scarce in this area for about four or five years, and hopes for getting this species to use the houses were not too high.

When the results of the inspection were added up, it was found that 106 of the 173 houses had been occupied, or were still in use. As might be expected, not all,

or even the majority, of the occupants were Bluebirds. Occupancy was as follows: Tree Swallows, 49; Bluebirds, 26; House Sparrows, 16; and Wrens, 15. Three trails had nine of 10 boxes occupied, and of these, two trails had four Bluebirds each.

Besides checking the trails to see how closely directions were followed, the inspection crew made notes of other details, such as the directions in which the houses faced and whether they were painted or not. It was found that neither of these details made any difference in the eyes of the birds. Unpainted as well as painted houses were used, and the occupants, including Bluebirds, chose openings which faced in all directions.

The biggest factor seemed to be the location. It was found that trails set up around open fields were the most successful in attracting both Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. Bluebirds especially avoided boxes set in or near a wooded spot. Even those houses which had a branch from a tree or bush obstructing the "flyway" into the entrance hole were shunned by this species. Wrens were most apt to use the houses in or near wooded areas, and sparrows those which were near farm buildings.

On the whole, trails which followed the instructions most carefully were the most successful. The club which set up the five trails of 50 houses, for instance, had a perfect score for building and erecting. Occupancy ranged from 50 to 90 per cent in their five trails, and there wasn't a sparrow in the lot.

Contacts with the various clubs were made through Jerry Apps, Brown County 4-H director. Mrs. Alice Weber, of the Bird Club, was chairman of the project.

Plans for Next Year

The 4-H Clubs which participated this year are planning to continue the project next year. Mr. Apps hopes to interest more of the county clubs in this activity.

To help them, and to spread the movement farther afield, the Bird Club is publishing two bulletins. One of these, called "The Leader's Manual," is meant for a sponsoring club, such as the Green Bay Bird Club was in this instance. The other, "The Project Manual," is for the use of the 4-H Club, Scout troop, school class, or other group planning to set up a trail.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Romig, 201 W. Whitney Road, Green Bay, prepared the material for the booklets, and they may be had by writing to the Romigs. To help pay the cost of preparing and mailing, the Bird Club is asking 10 cents for each Project Manual, and 25 cents for the Leader's Manual.

MORE NEWS . . .

The Wisconsin Conservation Department has promised us a summary of the Bald Eagle nesting reports sent in by its game managers. These are being passed on to the National Audubon Society as a contribution to its continental survey of eagle populations and nesting success. W.S.O. members who see eagles, and especially those lucky enough to have found active nests, should carefully record their observations and send them in to National Audubon at 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28. Winter concentrations along the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers are of special interest, too.

An example of the fearsome damage weather can do to a wildlife population is reported from Battery Island, in the Cape Fear River, North Carolina. **Wildlife in North Carolina** tells how 95% of the nests in a 400-nest rookery were destroyed by a violent hailstorm, which also killed an estimated 60% of the adult birds. Most of the casualties were Common or Snowy Egrets, Louisiana or Little Blue Herons, with some Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons and Ibises. One Black Skimmer, nesting on the ground below, was found lying dead atop its intact eggs. As an equally dramatic demonstration of how a population can snap back, within a month after the disaster there were 200 active nests in the colony.

FIELD NOTE SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions, if followed by each observer in submitting the quarterly reports of field notes for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, will make the reports more valuable, and also save quantities of time for the editors and file-keepers. Remember that your notes are not only used in seasonal summaries that appear in **The Passenger Pigeon**, they are also copied into permanent files that are valuable for future ornithological studies.

1. Use the prepared field note forms whenever possible; when other means of reporting field notes are used, be sure that species are listed in check-list order.
2. Be sure that the county in which an observation is made is unmistakably clear; use one form for your home county, and note observations from other counties on separate forms or sheets.
3. If a species arrived or departed during the period on which you are reporting, give arrival or departure date; if a species was present at the start or end of the period, indicate this by lines through the arrival or departure columns.
4. Include on a separate sheet as many general comments on the season as you are able to make: mention species that seem to be more (or less) numerous than usual, mention dates of unusually heavy flights, comment on the earliness or lateness of the season, comment on any unusual weather factors that seem significant.
5. If you have an arrival or departure date that seems unusual for a particular species, please point this out in the general comments; the charts in the "Wisconsin Birds" checklist are helpful in determining what dates are unusual.
6. Complete details should accompany the report of all rarities. If you are reporting on a species that is not listed on the field note forms, or on one which you believe to be very unusual for your region, a written account of the observation will make your record of much more value. This account should include: date and place of observation, habitat in which bird was found, your distance from the bird and the magnifying power of the glass you used, actions of the bird, size, shape, plumage characteristics, voice, etc. Ideally this should be written down in the field at the time of observation. Consult the "By the Wayside" section of recent issues of **The Passenger Pigeon**, for typical write-ups of rarities. One does not have to be an "expert" to have a rare record accepted; anyone who can fulfil these requirements for written documentation deserves to have his observation recognized. The kind of documentation we want is the kind that someone can re-read ten years from now and feel convinced that the observation is conclusive.

Editor's Note: This list of suggestions, prepared by Associate Editor Sam Robbins, is designed as a guide for all Field Note contributors. Many received it with their report forms some time ago; it is printed here for those who didn't and as a reminder for those who did. We all want records which appear in our journal to be recognized and accepted. Strict adherence to these simple guidelines will insure such recognition.



FIELD NOTES

By MARTHA and ROY LOUND

Summer Season

June 1-August 15, 1960

The hottest spot for 1960 summer rare bird records was Horicon Marsh. It produced more rarities than any other area of comparable size. This was especially encouraging after the rather gloomy picture observed there during several recent summers (See Owen J. Gromme's article, 1957 *Pass. Pigeon* 99-106).

As the term is used here, an unusual or rare record involves a bird which is found beyond the limits of its usually defined range or noted at a time of year when it normally would not be present.

Horicon Rarities

A Western Grebe was discovered on June 18 on the large body of water north of the Federal Dike Road by Helen Northup, J. A. Simpson and Ed Prins. (See "By the Wayside.") This was during the W.S.O. weekend campout, and almost everyone attending that event saw the grebe. Throughout the summer period it was seen by many persons, with the last report on Aug. 1. The 1960 revised **Wisconsin Birds** checklist records the Western Grebe as a rare transient and very rare winter visitant. No previous observations are recorded for the months of June, July and August. The easternmost breeding range, which normally defines the limits of summer occurrence, is listed by the A. O. U. Checklist as "western Nebraska, South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota."

A White-faced Ibis was first seen by Richard Thompson, a student assistant at Horicon Wildlife Refuge, on July 6. The bird was about 100 yards east of Conner's Ditch and 75 yards north of Highway 49 in an inundated area partially overgrown with burreed, cattails, bulrushes and grasses. The identification was confirmed the same day by the assistant refuge manager, L. E. Hovell, and later by the refuge manager, Les Dundas, who photographed the bird. Subsequent observations by some Milwaukee observers are set forth in the following excellent account by Harold Bauers:

"On July 8, 1960, Les Dundas, manager of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, told John L. Diedrich and William Schultz, Milwaukee Public Museum staff members, of the presence of this bird on Horicon Marsh. Diedrich and Schultz found the bird and had it under observation with a spotting scope at 75 yards for some time and came away with the conviction that they had seen the western or White-faced race of the

Glossy Ibis. On July 10, Owen Gromme, Curator of Birds and Mammals, and Clarence Jung, Honorary Curator of Birds, observed the bird and confirmed the identification. Milwaukee and Oconomowoc bird-watchers were alerted, in the hope that especially those who had previous experience with the two forms of dark ibis would be able to verify, support or correct the identification.

"I first saw the bird on the afternoon of July 9, but only at a distance and in poor light so that I could determine nothing more than that it was an ibis. However, on July 14 I had the bird under observation for an hour in good light at 100 yards with the scope. I will say that this bird differed from some of the ibises seen at Horicon in other years (one of which I saw under similar conditions of distance and light) in having a continuous narrow white line running across the forehead, behind the eye and under the chin. This line was sharply defined on its forward edge, bordering the face and bill, but shaded or blended into the bronze of the head on its after or feathered edge. Where white occurred in the ibises I saw at Horicon several years ago, it was in the form of irregular ragged-edged streaks or blotches bordering the bare skin of the face. I had noted the previous birds as being very dark throughout, but this bird was very bronze in color except on wings and back. I noted black legs in the others, but legs and feet of this bird looked deep red-brown in color."

There are no previous Wisconsin records of the White-faced Ibis.

Periodic reports of a Swainson's Hawk in Horicon Marsh were received throughout the summer. On August 6, along the Old Marsh Road, Keith Brown saw a "chunky gray hawk, lacking dark flight feathers and with a diffuse but clear white patch at the base of the unbanded tail." On the basis of comparison with others seen in the vicinity of his home in Arizona, he identified the bird as a light Swainson's Hawk. Later that same day, the bird was carefully observed by Sam Robbins, the N. R. Bangers, et al., all of whom agreed with Mr. Brown's identification. The Swainson's Hawk is rated as a rare transient visitant in Wisconsin. While there are prior reports for the months of April, May, June, September, October and December, there are none for July or August.

Other Rarities

The increasing number of competent observers who spend some time in the field during the summer period, especially in northern Wisconsin, undoubtedly accounts for the discovery of more rarities. Additional observation and knowledge could lead to considerable revision of present concepts of relative abundance and breeding status of some species. That is especially true of the northern one-third of the state where observation and study have been largely limited to a comparatively few specific areas. Following are some of the more unusual observations:

Jim Hale reported a flock of White-winged Scoters on Whitefish Bay, Door Co., seen daily June 19-22. While the White-winged Scoter is listed as an "uncommon transient visitant east," previous sightings have ended about mid-May and have not again occurred until mid-September.

On July 9, Keith Brown heard the distinctive call of a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker about 10 miles west of Mercer, Iron Co. Later the same day, near Rhinclander, one flew across Highway 51 and landed

nearby. There have been few summer observations of this species which is considered to be a "rare permanent resident north."

A male Bay-breasted Warbler, singing continuously, was watched for a considerable period of time in the Bark Bay area of Bayfield Co. on July 6 by the Roy Lounds. The only other summer date for this species, which nests well to the north of Wisconsin, is one by Sheldon on July 9, 1919.

On June 20, Tom Soulen heard and saw a male Wilson's Warbler in the U. W. Arboretum, Madison. The latest previous spring record was June 6, 1956.

The following statement from Kumlien and Hollister's **Birds of Wisconsin** as revised by A. W. Schorger sums up the summer status of the Lincoln's Sparrow: "A rather common migrant, but its status as a breeding bird is uncertain." Late in the afternoon of July 13 the Roy Lounds were in Forest Co., investigating a fairly open swamp sparsely dotted with small spruce and tamarack trees growing among the low shrubbery. "We thought it a likely place for Lincoln's Sparrows, and they were there—at least three pairs, possibly more. Undoubtedly one pair had a nest in the immediate vicinity as they were greatly perturbed by the intrusion. They flitted about, sometimes coming within 12 or 15 feet of us, calling incessantly. One bird, believed to be the male, acted as if it was trying to lure us away from the spot. The other bird, supposedly the female, would fly off at intervals and return with a mouthful of bugs and worms. After a lot of hopping around she would disappear in the shrubbery, reappearing sometime later at a different point with her bill empty. During this time, at least two other Lincoln's Sparrows were singing lustily farther out in the swamp. Although considerable time was spent searching for the nest, both that afternoon and the next morning, it was not located."

Relative Abundance of Certain Species

Studies and comments regarding the relative abundance of various species are always of interest to bird students—especially during very recent years when chemical sprays have been much in the news.

Dr. C. A. Kemper's banding records during the months of May, June and July from 1956 through 1960 show an alarming decline in Bluebirds each year and an almost unbelievable drop in Robins from 1959 to 1960. The following table shows the number banded each year.

Year	Robins	Bluebirds
1956	74	53
1957	43	42
1958	86	35
1959	123	14
1960	36	4

On the other hand, William Hilsenhoff's 1960 population study at Goose Pond, Columbia Co., showed no decrease in nesting species, perhaps largely due to the fact that recent spraying operations have had a much lesser impact on water and shore birds. There were differences, of course, but the overall population seemed to hold up well. The following table summarizes his findings. A dash indicates that the species was probably present but was not necessarily recorded; a blank space indicates

that the species was not seen on that date. (For Mr. Hilsenhoff's 1959 study, see 1960 *Pass. Pigeon* 36.)

	June 7	June 11	June 26	July 8
Pied-billed Grebe	—	3	—	2
Snow Goose	3	3		
Blue Goose	6	6		
Mallard	2	4	15	10
Black Duck	2	1	3	7
Gadwall		1	1	
Pintail	6	1	5	2
Green-winged Teal	2	2	8	9
Blue-winged Teal	40	26	25	20
American Widgeon	1			
Shoveler	10	4	3	7
Redhead	30	31	18	19
Common Goldeneye	1			
Ruddy Duck	11	12	28	21
Canvasback			1	
Hooded Merganser			2	
Coot	—	80	—	50
Semipalmated Plover	5			1
Killdeer	—	8	—	30
Black-bellied Plover			1	
Spotted Sandpiper			2	2
Solitary Sandpiper				1
Lesser Yellowlegs			2	8
Pectoral Sandpiper				3
White-rumped Sandpiper	8			
Baird's Sandpiper	2			
Least Sandpiper				7
Dunlin	6			
Semipalmated Sandpiper	25			17
Wilson's Phalarope	heard	1		

Records of individual species which are of particular interest follow.

Common Loon: Reported from Forest, Iron, Sawyer, Vilas and Washburn counties.

Western Grebe: One bird was discovered in Horicon Marsh on June 18 and was last reported on Aug. 1 (See "By the Wayside").

Double-crested Cormorant: Reported nesting in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins) and Burnett Co. (Wm. Southern).

Little Blue Heron: One immature bird seen flying over Horicon Marsh on July 25 (Sam Robbins).

Common Egret: Apparently up slightly in numbers from 1959 in Horicon Marsh (several observers). Only other reports were of one bird in Buffalo Co., June 1 (Sam Robbins), and present in Outagamie Co., Aug. 8 (A. S. Bradford).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: A nest was discovered in Milwaukee Co. (see "By the Wayside"), and at least one pair again nested in southern Racine Co. (J. A. Simpson). Single birds were seen in Horicon Marsh on June 29 (Tom Soulen, Peter Weber) and on Aug. 6 (Keith Brown).

White-faced Ibis: A bird of this species was present in Horicon

Marsh throughout the summer and was definitely identified (many observers).

Canada Goose: A pair nested in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins), and three pairs nested and raised young in Crex Meadows, Burnett Co. (Norman Stone). Observed in Horicon Marsh on Aug. 14 (Harold Bauers) and Aug. 15 (Ivy Balsom).

Snow and Blue Geese: Three Snows and six Blues were still present at Goose Pond on June 11 (Wm. Hilsenhoff).

Gadwall: One bird noted at Goose Pond on June 11 and again on June 26 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); also, single birds in Horicon Marsh on June 6 (Harold Bauers) and June 29 (Tom Soulen).

Pintail: Several present at Goose Pond during June and July (Wm. Hilsenhoff, Tom Soulen).

Green-winged Teal: Reported from Adams, Columbia, Dodge and Rock Counties.

American Widgeon: One bird seen at Goose Pond on June 6 (Tom Soulen) and on June 7 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); observed in Dodge Co. during June and July (Harold Bauers).

Shoveler: Several present at Goose Pond during June and July (Wm. Hilsenhoff); also reported from Dodge, Rock and Waukesha Counties.

Wood Duck: Reported from Adams, Dodge, Marathon, Outagamie, Rock, Washburn and Waukesha Counties.

Redhead: From 18 to 30 birds counted at Goose Pond between June 7 and July 8 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); only other reports were from Horicon Marsh.

Ring-necked Duck: A fairly common breeder in Crex Meadows (Norman Stone); young observed in Washburn Co. on June 27 (Wm. Southern).

Canvasback: Only report was of one bird at Goose Pond on June 26 (Wm. Hilsenhoff).

Lesser Scaup: One male in Dane Co. on July 10 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); 18 males in Lake Michigan, Manitowoc Co., on June 21 (John Kraupa); a considerable number on Lake Superior, Douglas Co., on July 6 (the Roy Lounds).

Common Goldeneye: Only record was of one bird at Goose Pond on June 7 (Wm. Hilsenhoff).

White-winged Scoter: A flock of 14 seen daily, June 19-22, on Whitefish Bay, Door Co. (Jim Hale).

Ruddy Duck: Quite common at Goose Pond (Wm. Hilsenhoff); noted in Milwaukee Co. on June 13 (Ivy Balsom); several reports from Horicon Marsh.

Hooded Merganser: A female with two young in Crex Meadows, July 26 (Norman Stone); two birds at Goose Pond, June 26, and one bird in Price Co., Aug. 13 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); a nest found in Washburn Co., June 18 (Wm. Southern).

Common Merganser: Reported only from Vilas Co. (A. S. Bradford).

Turkey Vulture: Reported from Forest, Marathon, Oconto, Outagamie, St. Croix, Vernon, Washburn and Waukesha Counties.

Goshawk: Individual birds were seen in three separate areas in Forest Co., July 12-16 (the Roy Lounds).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: One bird in Jefferson Co., June 21 (Tom Soulen); one bird in Price Co., Aug. 13 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); observed in

Washburn Co., June 24 (Wm. Southern).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Only reports were from Adams, Dane and Waukesha Counties.

Broad-winged Hawk: One was seen in the U. W. Arboretum on June 20 and 23 (Tom Soulen); otherwise reported only from the following central and northern counties—Adams, Langlade, Price, Vilas and Washburn.

Swainson's Hawk: One seen in Horicon Marsh on Aug. 6 by Keith Brown. Later on the same day it was carefully observed by Sam Robbins, the N. R. Bangers, Mrs. R. A. and Josephine Walker and the Roy Lounds.

Bald Eagle: Present in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins) and in Sawyer Co. (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum); fairly common in Vilas Co. (A. S. Bradford); several records in Washburn Co. (Wm. Southern).

Osprey: Nested in Adams Co. (the Fred Hamerstroms); a nest with three young in Washburn Co., June 14 (Wm. Southern); also reported from Forest, Outagamie and Vilas Counties.

Sandhill Crane: Reported only from Adams Co. (Sam Robbins).

King Rail: Recorded in Brown Co., Aug. 6 (Ed Paulson); Dodge Co., July 25 (Sam Robbins); Rock Co., July 14 (Frances Glenn, Bernice Andrews).

Semipalmated Plover: Five birds still present at Goose Pond on June 7, and one bird seen there on July 8 (Wm. Hilsenhoff). The latter is the earliest return date of record—six days earlier than in 1955.

American Golden Plover: The only reports were of fall migrants: one in Price Co., Aug. 13 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); two in Sheboygan Co., Aug. 15 (Mary Donald).

Black-bellied Plover: The bird seen at Goose Pond on June 26 by Wm. Hilsenhoff is the second summer record, the previous one being on June 23, 1951. The only other report was of returning migrants in Sheboygan Co. on Aug. 15 (Mary Donald).

Ruddy Turnstone: A late spring migrant on June 6, Dane Co. (Tom Soulen); first fall migrant on Aug. 10, Milwaukee Co. (Mary Donald).

Upland Plover: John Wilde recorded nine in Rock Co. this year, and reported that they seem to be steadily declining.

Solitary Sandpiper: An early fall migrant in Crex Meadows on July 4 (the Roy Lounds); one seen four days later at Goose Pond (Wm. Hilsenhoff).

Greater Yellowlegs: First fall migrants recorded in Dodge Co., July 15 (Ivy Balsom).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Wm. Hilsenhoff saw two birds at Goose Pond on June 26, and Tom Soulen saw two at Horicon Marsh on June 29. There are no records between June 16 and July 2 for previous years. Were these birds early fall migrants or were they non-breeding summer residents?

Knot: The only reports were of one bird in Milwaukee Co. on Aug. 11 (Mary Donald) and on Aug. 14 and 28 (Ivy Balsom).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Two birds seen at Goose Pond on July 8, presumably early fall migrants (Wm. Hilsenhoff), but not noted again until July 20 in Rock Co. (John Wilde). The earliest previously recorded fall arrival date was July 12, 1956, by C. A. Kemper in Chippewa Co.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Eight birds still present at Goose Pond on June 7 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); first fall migrant in Dodge Co., July 25 (Sam Robbins).

Baird's Sandpiper: Two late spring migrants at Goose Pond, June 7 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); two fall migrants in Milwaukee Co., Aug. 11 (Mary Donald).

Least Sandpiper: Two fall migrants at Crex Meadows, July 4, and several in Bayfield Co., July 6 (the Roy Lounds). Seven birds at Goose Pond, July 8 (Wm. Hilsenhoff). No other reports until July 28.

Dunlin: 20 birds still present at Goose Pond on June 6 (Tom Soulen) and six seen there on June 7 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); also recorded in Dodge Co., June 6 (Harold Bauers).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Three birds on July 25 and two on Aug. 6 in Dodge Co., identified by call note; also found in Dodge Co. on July 28 (Sam Robbins).

Stilt Sandpiper: Reported only from Dodge Co. on Aug. 6 and Adams Co. on Aug. 9 (Sam Robbins).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: About 150 at Goose Pond on June 6 (Tom Soulen), and about 25 still there on June 7 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); first fall migrant report was of 17 birds at Goose Pond on July 8 (Wm. Hilsenhoff).

Western Sandpiper: Two birds in Dodge Co. on Aug. 6 (the N. R. Bangers, the Roy Lounds, Sam Robbins, and Mrs. R. A. and Josephine Walker); one bird in Milwaukee Co., Aug. 10 (Mary Donald) and Aug. 14 (Ivy Balsom); one bird in Barron Co., Aug. 12 (Wm. Southern).

Sanderling: One bird seen in Ozaukee Co., June 19 (Ivy Balsom), 13 days later than any previous spring record. First fall migrants reported from Manitowoc Co., Aug. 2 (John Kraupa).

Wilson's Phalarope: Reported only from Goose Pond (Wm. Hilsenhoff, Tom Soulen), Burnett Co. (Wm. Southern), and Jefferson Co. (Harold Bauers).

Franklin's Gull: Recorded in Burnett Co., June 22 (Wm. Southern); one in Rock Co., Aug. 1 (Mary Donald).

Bonaparte's Gull: Reported present in Milwaukee Co. throughout the season (Ivy Balsom).

Forster's Tern: Observed in Washburn Co., July 2 (Wm. Southern), and in Adams Co., July 28 (Sam Robbins); over 50 seen in Horicon Marsh on June 29 and young birds were flying by July 25 (Tom Soulen).

Common Tern: Reported from Adams, Brown, Dodge, Milwaukee and Winnebago Counties.

Caspian Tern: Reported from Brown, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Rock and Washburn Counties.

Barn Owl: Nested in Ozaukee Co. where four young were banded by Dan Berger, and in Jefferson Co. where six young were banded by Melva Maxson. (A photo of the Jefferson Co. birds by Martha Lound appeared on the cover of **The Passenger Pigeon**, 1960 summer issue).

Short-eared Owl: One bird seen on the Federal Dike Road, Horicon Marsh, Aug. 13 (the Roy Lounds).

Saw-whet Owl: Heard at night in Vilas Co., Aug. 8-12 (John Wilde).

Pileated Woodpecker: Four young, which were out of the nest and well able to fly but were still being fed by the adults, were observed in Forest Co., July 13-14 (the Roy Lounds); also reported from Adams, Marathon, Pepin, Vernon and Washburn Counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A nest with young found in Price Co. (Wm. Hilsenhoff); two nests with young found in Forest Co., July 13-14 (the

Roy Lounds); an immature bird in Vernon Co., July 26 (Margarette Morse); also reported from Buffalo, Iron, Marathon, Rusk, Sawyer, Vilas and Washburn Counties.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: On July 9, in Oneida Co., a bird flew across the road and landed on a nearby tree; the same day one was heard in Iron Co. (Keith Brown).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Late migrants heard singing in Buffalo, La Crosse, Pierce and Trempealeau Counties on June 1 (Sam Robbins), and also observed on June 1 in Outagamie Co. (Daryl Tessen); found at least four in Langlade Co., June 15 (Tom Soulen); one seen in Washburn Co., Aug. 11 (Wm. Southern).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Late migrants heard singing in Juneau and Monroe Counties, June 1 (Sam Robbins); one seen in northern Langlade Co., June 13 (Tom Soulen); two in Forest Co., July 16 (the Roy Lounds); observed in Washburn Co., Aug. 11 (Wm. Southern).

Tree Swallow: Wm. Hilsenhoff observed an albino flying over Little John Lake, Vilas Co., on June 1-2. Its head, body and tail were entirely white, but the wings were a dusky gray color. It associated with other Tree Swallows which were numerous. C. A. Kemper commented that Tree Swallows were almost as scarce as Bluebirds in Chippewa Co.

Bank Swallow: C. A. Kemper stated that the population in Chippewa Co. was the lowest in five years.

Purple Martin: John Kraupa observed an all-white young bird on July 26 in Manitowoc Co. Its bill was flesh-colored but the eyes dark. It left the nest a few days later. C. A. Kemper reported fewer than in previous years in Chippewa Co.

Common Raven: Reported from these northern counties: Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Price, Vilas and Washburn.

Boreal Chickadee: Quite a few found in Forest Co., July 12-16 (the Roy Lounds); a pair observed in the same county, Aug. 6 (Keith Brown).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Five were heard on a two-hour drive through the Menominee Indian Reservation, June 14 (Tom Soulen); three seen on July 12, Marathon Co. (the David Bierbrauers); also reported from Price Co. (Wm. Hilsenhoff) and Bayfield Co. (the Roy Lounds).

Brown Creeper: Reported only from Adams Co., Aug. 10 (Sam Robbins).

Winter Wren: Reported from Langlade and Shawano Counties, June 13-15 (Tom Soulen); noted in Washburn Co., June 20 (Wm. Southern); found in several places in Forest Co., July 12-16 (the Roy Lounds).

Bewick's Wren: Present in Buffalo Co., June 1, and remained in Adams Co. until July 13 (Sam Robbins).

Mockingbird: Again nested near Beloit (Frances Glenn, Bernice Andrews); Mr. and Mrs. Theodore J. Peterson showed Sam Robbins one of a pair which nested in eastern Portage Co.; one seen near Arena, Iowa Co., July 7 (Mrs. E. N. Brown).

Hermit Thrush: Fairly common in Langlade Co., June 13-15 (Tom Soulen); common in Iron Co., July 9 (Keith Brown), and in Forest Co., July 12-16 (the Roy Lounds); also reported from Price Co. (Wm. Hilsenhoff) and Vilas Co. (A. S. Bradford).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: A late spring migrant present in Vilas Co., June 1 (A. S. Bradford).

Swainson's Thrush: The A.O.U. Checklist defines the range of this species as "south to the Great Lakes." While Wisconsin would seem to be a bit south of its usual nesting range, there were a number of summer reports: Eight were heard in the Menominee Indian Reservation, June 14 (Tom Soulen); one in Price Co., June 27 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); not too uncommon in Forest Co., July 12-16 (the Roy Lounds); one immature banded in Chippewa Co., July 2 (C. A. Kemper), and another immature banded in Rock Co., July 19 (Melva Maxson); also reported from Vilas Co., June 1 (A. S. Bradford), and Outagamie Co., June 1-13 (Daryl Tesen).

Eastern Bluebird: Although reported by most observers, it was described by Tom Soulen as "scarce both spring and summer" and by C. A. Kemper as "way down in numbers."

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Reported only by Sam Robbins who noted it in Pepin Co. on June 1 and found it present all summer in Adams Co.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Fairly common in Bayfield and Forest Counties, with young birds out of the nest but still being fed on July 12 (the Roy Lounds).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Noted in Washburn Co., July 30 (Wm. Southern).

Bell's Vireo: Wm. Hilsenhoff is quite certain that at least three pairs nested in the U. W. Arboretum in Madison. He found no nests but did see two immature birds. Otherwise, reported only from Trempealeau Co. on June 1 (Sam Robbins).

Solitary Vireo: Quite common in Bayfield and Forest counties, July 6-16 (the Roy Lounds); noted in Washburn Co., Aug. 14 (Wm. Southern).

Red-eyed Vireo: Tom Soulen counted an average of 75 per day, from 4 a. m. until noon, June 13-15, while taking trips into various parts of Langlade Co.; he never before had realized they were that numerous. However, C. A. Kemper reported a sharp reduction in numbers from 1959 in Chippewa Co.

Philadelphia Vireo: One was reported from Washburn Co., Aug. 14 (Wm. Southern).

Black-and-white Warbler: Reported from these counties: Adams, Bayfield, Langlade, Outagamie, Price, Sawyer, Shawano, Vilas and Washburn.

Prothonotary Warbler: Five in Buffalo Co. and one in Pierce Co., June 1 (Sam Robbins); observed in Grant Co. June 25 (the Roy Lounds).

Golden-winged Warbler: While the A.O.U. Checklist defines the breeding range as from central Wisconsin south, two of the three reports received were from northern counties: Adams (Sam Robbins), Price (Wm. Hilsenhoff) and Washburn (Wm. Southern).

Blue-winged Warbler: Last seen in Adams Co. on June 5, and singing males present in Buffalo, Pepin and Trempealeau Counties on June 1 (Sam Robbins); seen in Waukesha Co., June 13 (Ivy Balsom); present in Vernon Co. (Margarette Morse).

Brewster's Warbler: One was present in Adams Co. until at least June 18 (Sam Robbins).

Tennessee Warbler: A bird in spring plumage was reported from Waukesha Co., Aug. 11 (John Bielefeldt).

Nashville Warbler: Reported from these central and northern counties: Adams, Bayfield, Chippewa, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Price, Sawyer,

Shawano and Washburn. C. A. Kemper banded three in July—the first summer record for Chippewa Co.

Parula Warbler: A few in Langlade Co., June 13-16 (Tom Soulen); fairly common in some areas of Bayfield and Forest counties, July 6-16 (the Roy Lounds); common in Iron Co., July 9 (Keith Brown); reported from Vilas Co. (A. S. Bradford, Wm. Hilsenhoff); returned to Adams Co., July 25 (Sam Robbins).

Magnolia Warbler: Reported from these northern counties: Langlade and Shawano (Tom Soulen); Price and Vilas (Wm. Hilsenhoff); Bayfield and Forest (the Roy Lounds); Iron (Keith Brown).

Myrtle Warbler: Reported from Vilas Co., June 3 (Wm. Hilsenhoff) and July 8 (A. S. Bradford); two seen in Price Co., June 27-30 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); a pair in Iron Co., July 9 (Keith Brown); reported from Rusk Co. (Kenneth Parejko); a singing male in Forest Co., July 15 (the Roy Lounds).

Black-throated Green Warbler: A singing male was present in Rock Co., June 29 (Melva Maxson); common in Bayfield and Forest counties (the Roy Lounds) and in Iron Co. (Keith Brown); fairly common in Price Co. (Wm. Hilsenhoff) and in Shawano Co. (Tom Soulen).

Cerulean Warbler: While the A.O.U. Checklist defines the breeding range as extending south from southern Wisconsin, it has nested near the Audubon Camp in Washburn Co. (Wm. Southern); also reported from Adams, Dane and Waukesha Counties.

Blackburnian Warbler: Reported from these northern counties, where it nests: Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Price, Vilas and Washburn.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: A common summer resident in central and northern Wisconsin. Reported from Adams, Bayfield, Forest, Langlade, Marathon, Outagamie, Price, Rusk, Shawano, Vilas and Washburn Counties.

Bay-breasted Warbler: A singing male was observed at close range in Bayfield Co., July 6 (the Roy Lounds).

Blackpoll Warbler: Still present in Vilas Co. on June 1 (A. S. Bradford) and June 3 (Wm. Hilsenhoff).

Pine Warbler: Present in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins); heard in Vilas Co., June 3 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); seen in Washburn Co., July 6 and Aug. 10 (Wm. Southern); one observed in Iron Co., July 9 (Keith Brown).

Northern Waterthrush: Reported only from Iron Co. on July 9 (Keith Brown), Shawano Co. on July 20 (Mary Staeger) and Washburn Co. on Aug. 14 (Wm. Southern).

Louisiana Waterthrush: A summer resident in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins); one seen in Outagamie Co., Aug. 15 (Daryl Tessen).

Kentucky Warbler: Noted by these observers in the U. W. Arboretum, Madison: Tom Soulen on June 20-23, Tom Ashman on June 29, and Sam Robbins on July 5. The only other report was from Grant Co. where it is a regular summer resident.

Mourning Warbler: A fairly common resident north, with reports from these counties: Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Outagamie, Price, Shawano and Washburn. Tom Soulen counted 26 on June 15 in Langlade and Shawano Counties.

Yellow-breasted Chat: One heard in Buffalo Co. on June 1 (Sam Robbins); one heard in the U. W. Arboretum, Madison, where a pair

were present a week earlier, June 4 (Roy Lound); a pair nested in Rock Co. (Frances Glenn, Bernice Andrews).

Wilson's Warbler: Tom Soulen heard and saw a male in the U. W. Arboretum on June 20; the latest Wisconsin record by far.

Canada Warbler: Departed from Adams Co., June 2 (Sam Robbins); by no means common in Langlade Co., June 13-16 (Tom Soulen); scarce in Forest Co., July 12-16 (the Roy Lounds); two observed in Price Co., June 27-30 (Wm. Hilsenhoff).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Reported from these counties: Adams, Brown, Buffalo, Chippewa, Dodge, Polk, Rock, Washburn and Waukesha.

Orchard Oriole: The only report was from La Crosse Co., June 1 (Sam Robbins).

Brewer's Blackbird: Still present in Waukesha Co. on June 13 (Ivy Balsom) and Dane Co. on June 14 (Tom Ashman); reported as a summer resident in Adams, Bayfield, Langlade, Marathon, Outagamie, Price and Washburn Counties.

Dickcissel: Varying reports as to its relative abundance were received from different sections of the state. R. B. Dryer reported them abundant in Columbia Co. although rare most years; Tom Soulen counted 80 in south-central Sauk Co. on June 19; C. A. Kemper reported "none around this summer" in Chippewa Co.; Viratine Weber reported them scarce in Vernon Co.; Mrs. Joseph Mahlum stated that they were much less common than in 1959 in Rock Co. Also reported from Adams, Dane, Jackson, Marquette, Pepin, Trempleau and Waukesha Counties.

Evening Grosbeak: A flock of six to eight birds, both male and female, were observed in the Menominee Indian Reservation, June 13 (A. S. Bradford).

Purple Finch: A fairly common resident in the northern part of the state. Reported from Bayfield, Forest, Langlade, Marathon, Price, Rusk, Shawano and Washburn Counties.

Pine Siskin: On July 6 in Bayfield Co., two birds were both seen and heard (the Roy Lounds).

Red Crossbill: Two birds were found in northern Langlade Co. on June 13 (Tom Soulen).

White-winged Crossbill: Found in some numbers in Bayfield Co. on July 6 and in Forest Co. on July 12-14 (the Roy Lounds).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Numerous reports from central and southern counties. The high count was 25 in south-central Sauk Co. on June 19 by Tom Soulen.

Henslow's Sparrow: Reported from Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green Lake, Rock, Vernon and Waukesha Counties.

Lark Sparrow: Summer resident in Adams Co. and seen in Juneau Co. on June 1 (Sam Robbins).

Slate-colored Junco: Reported from Vilas Co. (A. S. Bradford); quite scarce in Bayfield and Forest Counties in early July (the Roy Lounds); abundant in Iron Co., July 9 (Keith Brown).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Reported from Adams, Bayfield, Chippewa, Langlade, Marathon, Price and Washburn Counties. Present in Wauke-

sha Co. until June 9 (John Bielefeldt); two immatures banded in Chipewa Co., July 25 (C. A. Kemper).

White-throated Sparrow: C. A. Kemper stated that he was "surprised" to band an immature on July 27. Also reported from Bayfield, Forest, Langlade, Price, Sawyer, Shawano and Vilas Counties.

Lincoln's Sparrow: At least three pairs found in Forest Co. on July 13, with all markings noted; furthermore, some of them were singing (the Roy Lounds). Keith Brown reported that he believes he saw some in bogs north of Mercer on July 9, but, not being aware of their relative scarcity, he did not positively identify them.

CALL FOR MOCKINGBIRD RECORDS

In the past few decades in Wisconsin there has been an increase in numbers of species of birds that originally were more southern in distribution. It is possible that the Mockingbird is now continuing this trend in Wisconsin. In order that this phenomenon may be followed closely and be more meaningful to state ornithologists, I should like to document past and present distributional and breeding records of the Mockingbird in the state. Therefore, please send me all breeding and non-breeding observations of this species, listing: day, month, and year when seen; exact location of occurrence when possible; numbers seen; and habitats in which they occurred. In case of nesting records, please include also a description of the nest, number of young observed, and if nesting occurred in succeeding years. Thank you for your cooperation.

Emil K. Urban
Department of Zoology
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

MORE NEWS . . .

Please don't forget our Yellow-headed Blackbird Breeding Colony Survey, which is still calling for reports on past or present populations of these strangely scattered birds. Even scraps of data on old colonies are needed to help fill in gaps in the survey. All information should be sent to our Research Committee chairman, Prof. Robert A. McCabe, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6.

The latest news from Honey Creek, aside from the field trip reported elsewhere, concerns a minor tragedy for the fence, good use by school groups, and the "donor's roll." One fence post tottered and collapsed after a woodpecker chewed it up, permitting cattle to get in briefly through the gap. Many classes from nearby schools have visited the Honey Creek tract, some more than once, and the total

number of signatures in the register continues to grow. The Madison Audubon Society recently visited the area for a picnic. As for donations, they are still being accepted, but the "honor roll" of donors will be printed in the next issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*, and anyone who wants to be included will have to be prompt with his or her contribution. It should be directed to Mrs. Alfred Holz, at Green Bay. Label it as a Honey Creek gift, and it will go towards repaying our treasury for the advance it made on the purchase.

Our federal government has ratified the International Convention for the Prevention of the Pollution of the Sea by Oil, and implementing legislation appears to be making progress in the Congress. This measure will provide much greater protection for oceanic birds against the deadly threats of oil pollution in harbors and coastal areas.

By The Wayside . . .

A Western Grebe at Horicon. About 10 a. m., on June 18, 1960, I saw a Western Grebe on the large body of water north of the Federal Dike Road—unmistakable long erect neck, gleaming white with black at the back and on the head. Judge Simpson viewed it at once in his Bal-scope and corroborated my identification; it was the first time he had seen it in Wisconsin. Ed Prins was there, also, and confirmed the marks—light yellow bill, eye ring about the eye—in his Bal-scope. Many of the W.S.O. campout people saw it that day and other W.S.O. members in subsequent weeks.—Helen Northup, Madison.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nesting in Milwaukee County. On May 22, 1960, the nest of a Yellow-crowned Night Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, was discovered by a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee ornithology class, along the Root River in southern Milwaukee County (about 200 yards north of the Racine County line, and one mile west of Route 41).

The nest was discovered when an adult bird was flushed from it and flew to a nearby tree where it remained in full view while we examined the nest. The bird was identified without question. The nest was located on a nearly horizontal branch of an elm tree, overhanging the river and about 15 feet above the water level, which at that time was still quite high after the spring floods. We examined the nest by climbing a tree on the opposite side of the river and looking down at it. It contained three bluish-green eggs.

The nest was visited again on June 11, 1960, when it was empty and apparently deserted. No adult bird could be located in the vicinity. The river level was much lower and there were numerous signs of fishermen or hikers tramping along the banks near the nest tree. It must be concluded that the nest was unsuccessful.

It may be well to place on record an earlier observation of this species in this vicinity. On June 14, 1958, I glimpsed an immature—plumaged night heron along the Root River in northern Racine County, a few miles east of the 1960 nest site. I believed this bird to be of this species (with which I have had previous experience in Tennessee). Later on the same day, and not far away, I came upon an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron feeding on the bank of the Root River. This bird was seen at close range and definitely identified.—Charles M. Weise, Milwaukee.

MORE NEWS . . .

The Conservation Department has released a folder describing the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area in Marinette County. This tract, of which more than 3000 acres is now in state ownership, is about the last wild stretch of shoreline left on the west side of Green Bay. Eventually it will comprise 4,856 acres, of which at least 300 will be a waterfowl refuge. It will be

managed for waterfowl, fur animals, and upland game, as well as for non-game species. The area is a favorite stopping place for swans, contains a remnant flock of Prairie Chicken, and both Sandhill Cranes and Yellow Rails nest in its marshes. Copies of the folder may be obtained by writing to the Department at Box 450, Madison 1.

AN UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE WITH AN AMERICAN BITTERN

In April, 1960, I took my ornithology class up to Plainfield to take part in the Prairie Chicken research program under the direction of the Hamerstroms. Coming back from an early morning stint in one of the blinds, I noticed an American Bittern about 75 yards from the road. I stopped the car, ran the window down and prepared to get a picture of the bird. To my amazement, the bittern began to approach the car. It continued to come closer until it got to the ditch bank only about 20



"THE BITTERN
WALKED DIRECTLY
TOWARD ME
AND AT A DISTANCE
OF ABOUT 20 FEET
STOPPED AND
WATCHED ME FOR
TWO OR THREE
MINUTES
WHILE I TOOK
PICTURES OF IT."

PHOTO BY
CARL M. HULBERT

feet from the car. There it stopped and eyed me from its characteristic pose. I took a picture and advanced the film. I had no more than completed this task when the bittern turned and faced me and as if to challenge my presence began its "pumping" call. It would suck in its breath and throw out its breast features and emit its booming "dun-kee-doo." It repeated the call several times, pointed its bill at the sky, watched me for two or three minutes, and then repeated its series of "oong-ka-choonk," as some prefer to interpret it. I took pictures of the bird in its watchful position and also as it faced me at the "top" of its call. It was a rare opportunity for a camera fan and an exciting experience for a bird watcher.—Carl M. Hulbert, Milton College, Milton.

"THEN, AS IF
CHALLENGING ME,
IT BEGAN ITS
'PUMPING,'
OONG-KA-CHOONK-
OONG-KA-CHOONK,
DRAWING IN ITS
BREATH AND
THROWING OUT ITS
DARK BREAST
FEATHERS.
MY CAMERA
CAUGHT IT IN
THE MIDDLE OF
ITS CALL."

PHOTO BY
CARL M. HULBERT



MORE NEWS . . .

Wisconsin birders are seldom faced with the problem of oil-soaked water birds, but it's always a possibility along our Great Lakes shorelines. The recent "accidental dumping" of 15 tons of heavy bunker oil into Milwaukee's inner harbor is a case in point. This could have happened in the winter, when large numbers of ducks would have been affected. A "recipe" suggested by the New Zealand Forest and Bird Protection Society and transmitted by **The Florida Naturalist** offers a solution. The victim, kept warm and fed the best available food for a day prior to treatment, is then given a dry shampoo consisting of powdered chalk and fuller's earth. This draws out the oil within 24 hours. After a few days' rest, the bird should be ready for release.

The Florida Naturalist also quoted a letter to the editor of **The Miami Herald** describing the slaughter of large wading birds by local hunters. We feel of course that this is most deplorable wherever and whenever it may happen, but we also feel that it is a relatively uncommon occurrence in Wisconsin. However, it pays to be vigilant. Anyone who observes this type of activity, which is illegal except under very carefully defined conditions, and only with certain species, should immediately contact the local law enforcement officer of the Wisconsin Conservation Department. These wardens are entrusted with the task of protecting birds of prey, songbirds, waders, and all others, as well as the apprehension of the more typical game and fish violator. The warden's name and address may be obtained by contacting any Department employee, office, or field station, or by contacting the main office at Box 450, Madison 1.

The 1961 Convention

By CLARA HUSSONG

Birds need more "lebensraum" (living room), was the theme which developed from the papers and program material presented at the 22nd annual meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. The meeting was held May 19-21 at the Carroll College Union in Waukesha.

Vice-president Robert Adams of Waukesha was program chairman of the meeting, attended by 289 members and friends of W.S.O. This was the largest attendance at an annual meeting for more than 10 years. There were 246 at the Saturday evening banquet.

The Friday evening reception was sponsored by the Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club of Waukesha. Stephen Briggs' movie of "Strange Birds of Midway" was shown by C. E. Nelson.

An exhibit of paintings, prints and photographs was also on view Friday evening and all through the convention period. These included paintings by Owen J. Gromme, of the Milwaukee Public Museum, for his forthcoming book **Birds of Wisconsin**; and prints by early ornithological artists, displayed by Stanley Polacheck of Milwaukee.



BREAKFAST IN THE KETTLE MORaine

PHOTO BY CHARLES A. CONRAD

Field trips held early Saturday and Sunday mornings were in charge of Clarence Anthes of Waukesha. A breakfast at the Kettle Moraine State Forest was included in the Sunday morning trip, with more than 100 members participating. About 100 bird species were spotted, including Wood Duck, White-rumped Sandpiper, and many species of warblers.

Contest winners in the painting and photography field were as follows. In paintings: Tom Uttech, Wausau, first (watercolor of Cedar Waxwing); W. H. Boose, Wild Rose, second; Mrs. Joseph Mahlum, Beloit, third; and Clarence Anthes, Waukesha, fourth. In photography: Norval Barger, Jr., Madison, first; Ralph Morse, Rockton, Ill., second and third; and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Koenig, Sauk City, fourth.



THE EFFICIENT BOY SCOUT KITCHEN

PHOTO BY CHARLES A. CONRAD

Dr. Roy Christoph of Carroll College welcomed the convention members at the opening of the program session Saturday morning. Fran (Mrs. Fred) Hamerstrom, of Plainfield, W.S.O. president, responded to the welcome.

Tom Soulen of Madison opened the program of papers and lectures with his talk on "Land Cover Maps and Their Use in a Preliminary Survey of the Birds of Langlade County." His talk described four mornings of birding, mostly "by ear," in coniferous areas of Langlade County. Some of the northern birds he discovered (June 13-16, 1960), included Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers, the Red Crossbill, and White-throated Sparrow.

In "Homing in Bank Swallows," Ted Sargent, of the University's Department of Zoology, described experiments carried on with Bank Swallows to discover how they find "home." From these experiments, it seems that swallows go by landmarks in returning to their nests from short distances, but were aided by some other sense or instinct when transported 50 or 100 miles from home.

Howard Young, of the State College at La Crosse, studied the Christmas counts as published in *The Passenger Pigeon* from 1939 to 1959 for his report on "The Downy Woodpecker and the Hairy Woodpecker in Wisconsin." Among his discoveries was the apparent fact that both birds

are more common in the southwestern part of the state than elsewhere, and that the Hairy is probably no more of a "deep woods" type of bird than the Downy. It is only shyer, Young believes, and perhaps less vocal.

Dan Berger, of the University of Wisconsin, told of "Operation Snowy Owl," as carried on during the past winter in Wisconsin. In this project, 63 Snowy Owls were captured in baited traps, banded and spray-painted in an effort to study their movements while wintering here. It was one of the largest flights of this bird to the state, perhaps the very largest, Berger said. A few birds were recaptured or sighted again, he reported, most of them close to the spot where they were originally trapped.

Clarence Jung, of Milwaukee, told of his interest in hawks in "Fall Hawk Migration and the Weather." From his observations, a "good hawk day" can be predicted, he believes. When there is a low in Wisconsin, and a high moving in from the west, look for hawks to come in a day or two Jung said.

The Gloomy Duck Picture

No improvement in the duck picture can be expected in Wisconsin until there is an improvement in both the breeding and wintering areas of these birds, according to Laurence Jahn of the Wildlife Institute, stationed at Horicon. Their grounds are shrinking because of farming practices detrimental to their cover, drainage of potholes and marshes, and the rechannelling of streams, Jahn said in his talk, "Waterfowl Conservation Accomplishments and Needs."

The good news that about \$2,000 has already been contributed by W.S.O. members and friends for the completed purchase of Honey Creek Bog in Sauk County was conveyed by Harold Kruse of Loganville. He showed pictures and maps of this interesting bog area which might have been lost as a natural area without its purchase by W.S.O.

Saturday afternoon speakers included Paul and Em Hoffman of Waukesha; Emil Urban of the University's Department of Zoology; Robert Ellarson of the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin; and George Hartman, Cy Kabat and Don Thomson of the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

In "Beauty on Parade," the Hoffmans showed movies of birds and flowers through the seasons in Wisconsin. Urban's talk, illustrated with slides, concerned the Golden Plover in its Arctic nesting grounds on St. Lawrence Island. The young of these birds are very precocial, Urban reported, leaving the nest within two hours after hatching.

First year females of the Tree Swallows do not build as large a nest as older birds, Robert Ellarson reported in his paper on "Some Differences in the Nesting Phenology of Adult Versus Yearling Female Tree Swallows." The younger females also have smaller clutches of eggs, he said. These findings were based on examination of tin can nesting boxes set up in the University Arboretum at Madison.

Open and semi-open oak woodlands are the best for Turkeys, George Hartman reported in "The Wild Turkey in Wisconsin." The state reintroduced this bird, which had been practically extinct in the state for many years, in 1954. The right habitat, and non-interference by man, are their greatest need in getting reestablished.

Cy Kabat and Don Thomson stressed the need for good cover for the Bobwhite. The birds do best in places where there are brushy thickets, ravines and hedgerows next to open fields. Although they are not as common in the state as they were 100 years ago, according to Kabat, they are increasing in some areas.

C. E. Nelson was toastmaster at the banquet, during which the art awards were made.

"Wisconsin Birds," and "Waterfowl and Shorebirds of a Manitoba Marsh" made up the movies shown after the banquet by Ruth and Cleveland Grant of Mineral Point. Many of the waterfowl pictures were made at the Delta Marsh in Canada. As an encore the Grants showed some beautiful shots of grizzlies, moose, caribou and Dall sheep in Alaska.

THE 1961 BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting of the annual convention was called to order at 3:50 p. m. on May 20, 1961, at Carroll College, Waukesha. About 75 persons attended. Mrs. Hamerstrom presided.

Since the minutes of the 1960 annual meeting were published in **The Passenger Pigeon** (spring 1960 issue, Vol. XXII, No. 1), the reading of the minutes was omitted.

Mrs. Alfred Holz, treasurer, reported cash on hand \$1,723.97; cash in savings account \$3,343.65; land values \$4,291.39; government bonds \$1,139.20; store inventory \$3,775.00; total net worth of \$14,273.21.

Research Committee—Prof. Robert McCabe reported that his committee hopes to bring up to date and complete the project on the study of the Yellow-headed Blackbird covering a ten-year period of research. He requested that any additional data be sent to him as soon as possible.

A proposal for a new study has been made by the Rev. Samuel Robbins. Prof. McCabe asked Mr. Robbins to present the plans for it. The project, which Mr. Robbins said might be called "A Summer Bird Count," is being proposed because of two factors: one, the tremendous number of reports, which has grown to 350 for the Christmas Bird Count; and two, the need for more information on breeding bird populations. He said that if a task force such as the one which is active during the Christmas Count would respond with a summer count, we would have information on increases or decreases of certain species—such as the Phoebe or the Bluebird—in a given area over a period of years. We could find out how the population changes, how quickly the birds come back after a decline, and what may be affecting increase or decline. The big value would be in having the same people covering the same area year after year and in being able to compare the same territories under the same conditions. Mr. Robbins said he feels this project would be a real breakthrough for the amateur. He proposed fairly definite ground rules, namely:

1. Dates—June 15 to 25.
2. Hours—4 to 10 a. m. (the time for most reliable counts).
3. Area—Keep it limited to an area easily covered.
4. Weather—Avoid a windy day.

Conservation—Dr. Kemper called attention to the article by Dave Duffy in the **Milwaukee Sentinel** on May 14 stating that there is a move-

ment afoot for opening a season on hawks and owls. He urged W.S.O. members to write the **Sentinel** expressing our reasons for opposing such a reactionary movement.

The federal legislation which he urged us to support included the following: 1.) The Wilderness Bill, S.174; 2.) A bill to help control billboard advertising along Interstate highways, which certain commercial interests oppose; 3.) The international treaty for control of oil pollution on the oceans; 4.) Bill H. R. 4668 for coordination between pesticide-using agencies and those concerned with wildlife; 5.) Acquisition of wetlands, Bill H. R. 4603. (A later version, replacing H. R. 4603, is H. R. 7391—Editor.)

On the state level, the Society was urged to support Gov. Nelson's proposed ten-year program to acquire areas for public recreation, state parks, and natural areas.

Membership—Miss Crabb reported 90 new members gained during 1961, which brings the total to 931 members.

Publicity—Mrs. Ray Hussong sent out 57 news items to newspapers in various parts of the state.

Editor's Report—Mr. Roark hopes to have the next issue of **The Passenger Pigeon** out sometime next week. His comment was that it is indeed gratifying to receive so many fine contributions.

Endowments and Advertising—Mr. Polacheck stated that the Kellogg Seed Company ad had been cancelled. He asked for suggestions for new advertisers and urged the members to patronize the advertisers.

Field Trips—Mr. Peartree announced two trips: May 28, a day at Honey Creek, and June 17 to 18 at Horicon Ledges Park.

Associate Editor—Mr. Robbins reported that field note support is growing. New guides to help us make the very best possible reports have been prepared and will be sent out this month. He pointed out that significant trends should be reported and that if we have what we consider early or late dates we should send in details. He said that the thoroughly documented reports are the more valuable. He announced that Mr. MacBriar, spring season editor, has resigned, and deserves a vote of thanks for his fine work. Mr. Tom Soulen will take over the task of editing the spring records.

Mrs. John McEwan, retiring file keeper, he added, deserves a great deal of appreciation for the fine permanent file she has kept. Wisconsin is almost the only state that maintains a permanent file of bird records. She was given a vote of thanks for her fine work.

Public Relations—Mr. Holz reported that the response to the blue card sent out with the annual dues notice was gratifying and that he plans to write a report about the project for our magazine.

The National Audubon Society has a film explaining the activities of the Wisconsin Audubon Camp. This fine program deserves the support of W.S.O., and since the Wisconsin Conservation Department does not have funds in its budget to purchase the film (cost—\$100.00) the Department has approached W.S.O. to help buy the film. The board of directors has voted to contribute \$25.00. Mr. Holz urged other bird clubs throughout the state to consider contributing to this fund, which would help the Camp's conservation efforts with tremendous far-reaching results.

Mr. Holz reported receiving the suggestion that an occasionally published bulletin would be of great interest to W.S.O. members. A show of hands substantiated the suggestion. Mr. Holz said it was Harold Liebherr's idea.

Mr. Holz invited members to send him good ideas and if there are complaints to just think them over.

Bookstore—Mr. Kruse reported that over \$3,000.00 worth of merchandise was sold during the period from April 1, 1960, to April 1, 1961. He told of a new book called **Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts** covering 30 different areas, which is being prepared and will be off the press soon. Most of the articles have appeared in **The Passenger Pigeon**. This book will probably sell for \$2.00 or less. A motion was made, seconded, and passed, to give the Kruses a vote of thanks.

Dues—The president told of the need for raising dues. Mr. Holz explained that the need was largely due to a rise in printing costs, but that we also need funds for various conservation efforts. The membership was asked to show their enthusiasm for the raising of dues and we had a fine showing of hands.

Nominations—Mr. Ray Hussong presented the following slate: Editor, Eugene Roark; President, Edward Peartree; Vice President, Nils Dahlstrand; Secretary, Clara Barger; Treasurer, Phyllis Holz. A motion was made that the nominations be accepted and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the slate. (Nominating Committee: Mr. Robbins, Chairman, Mrs. Carl Frister and Ray Hussong).

Statement from Mrs. Hamerstrom

A vote of thanks for the outgoing officers was proposed and adopted. President Hamerstrom responded with the following statement:

"These are my last few minutes as president. I will tell you what my hopes were for this year. The purchase of Honey Creek Bog was pure velvet—something fine and unexpected. Many worked hard on this.

"For my part, I had hoped to do something for Prairie Chickens and for hawks and owls. Some money has been raised for Prairie Chickens.

"I was a student of Aldo Leopold's. When he died, he was working on something he deeply believed in and that I too am convinced is important. He was working to legalize Falconry in the State of Wisconsin. Dave Duffy's group is recommending open seasons on hawks and owls. This I deplore. On one hand, some recommend shooting raptors; on the other hand, Wisconsin does not even allow people to have hawks and owls for hunting. Hundreds, perhaps thousands would be shot if protection were removed. Few, perhaps dozens, would be trained for hunting and take their part in our culture if Falconry were permitted. Certainly Peregrines must be protected and used under a permit only. There are many common hawks.

"Falconry is one of the highest types of sports—one spends hours and hours with a bird—one takes very little game—there is no crippling loss. Michigan and Illinois both have fine Falconry laws.

"In these, my last few moments as president of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, I make a plea for understanding and encouragement of Falconry in Wisconsin."

Mr. Kruse moved that W.S.O. endorse a resolution supporting, in principle, Gov. Nelson's proposal for the purchase and development of

state wetlands, natural areas and parks. Motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara L. Barger
Secretary

FIELD TRIP NEWS

CEDAR GROVE HAWK TRIP

The annual visit to Cedar Grove to view the hawks in migration is planned for Sunday, October 1. We will meet on "Cemetery Ridge" at 8:00 a. m. Because as good W.S.O. members we don't want to interfere with the banding and visual migration studies carried on there, all who attend should adhere to these rules. Please stay on the ridge, or bird only to the west or in back of the ridge, and keep out of all posted areas. The personnel from the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station will bring some of their catch up on the ridge for the group to see.

1961 SUMMER CAMPOUT

The Summer Campout was held on June 17 and 18 at Horicon Ledges (Dodge County) Park. Sixty-three happy birders from Beloit, Randolph, Loganville, Hartford, Milwaukee, Kewaunee, Madison, Fort Atkinson, Wausau, Racine, Kiel, and Oconomowoc were in attendance. Field trips were led by Carl Frister. The Saturday trips were on Highway 49, the old marsh road, and in the Federal Dike area. A bonfire, a songfest led by Dorothy Frister, and popcorn made by Mrs. Brown and Claire Peartree highlighted the evening. The Sunday trip took us to Meiske and Burnett Ditches on the west side of the marsh. Ninety-one bird species were recorded. Highlights were Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Baird's Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope with young, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

HONEY CREEK TRIP

The Honey Creek Valley trip was held on May 28 with weather to match the beauty of our own little spot of unspoiled nature and the area surrounding it. For many of the 85, who registered from all over the state, it was the first look at the 85 acres W.S.O. has obtained at the foot of the valley. Hikers walked the two miles plus up the rugged but breathtakingly scenic valley to the natural waterfall at its head. A few also toured the unglaciated bog on the south side of the road. Only 79 species of birds were recorded, but among them were 15 kinds of warblers! Included were Cerulean, Brewster's, Kentucky, and Mourning Warblers, as well as Louisiana Waterthrush, plus Pileated Woodpecker, Turkey Vulture, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ruffed Grouse, and Tufted Titmouse. The male Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the nest, many species of ferns and orchids, nodding trilliums, and the state record Blue Beech tree were other highlights. We hope that members who still have not seen Honey Creek will be on our next organized trip, or will get there on their own.—Ed Peartree.

BOOK REVIEWS*

THE GOLDEN PICTURE BOOK OF NATURE WALKS. By Clara Hussong, illustrated by Marjorie Hartwell. Golden Press, Inc., New York, 1961. 60 pp. \$1.50.

This is a "Fun-to-learn Golden Book" that demonstrates nature appreciation in the out-of-doors through the four seasons. Intended for the instruction and enjoyment of children in the upper elementary grades, it is unusually well illustrated with accurate colored drawings and sketches. To introduce readers to basic ideas in ecology, in outdoor settings, plants and animals are interwoven into various community types. Complete interrelationships of living things in their habitats are stressed. Weeds, reptiles, and insects are considered, along with more conspicuous forms, in meadow, woodland, marsh, and pond communities.

Adventurous challenges, so effective with impressionable fifth and sixth graders, are offered as titles to several chapters. Subjects such as hibernation, metamorphosis, predation, and reproduction are very well handled in this introduction to nature interpretation. The dangers of fires, poisonous plants and animals, trespassing, and other possible nature hike risks are discussed briefly.

Comment from teachers who have had the opportunity to use this book have been very favorable, and gratifying. It is to be listed in the revised bibliography of conservation publications which is prepared by the state Conservation Curriculum Committee.

"Nature Walks" is an excellent addition to any library.—Robert O. Ellingson.

THE BIRD WATCHER'S GUIDE. By Henry Hill Collins, Jr., illustrated with color photographs and line drawings. Golden Press, Inc., New York, 1961. 128 pp. \$3.95.

Both the amateur and the veteran bird watcher will find this book useful. Henry Collins, who wrote the recently published compact **Field Guide to American Wildlife** (Harper), has included just about everything a bird watcher needs to know about this hobby.

For the beginner, there is information on how to become a bird watcher, what equipment he will need, where to look for birds, how to get close enough to identify them, and tips on learning various bird voices. Field trips, and "the biggest sporting event in the bird watcher's year"—the Big Day, or the May Day Count, as we call it in Wisconsin—are explained.

For the bird watcher of many years' standing, there are new ideas on kinds of birding trips; tips on baiting birds for close viewing; and a "reminder calendar" of what's new in the bird world for each month of the year. The "old hand," of course, will also find this book just the thing to give to someone just getting interested in the sport, as well as those who ask the perennial question: "Why do you like to watch birds?"

*Available from the W.S.O. Supply Department.

There are drawings of feeders, bird baths and nesting boxes, and lists of plants attractive to birds. The food preferences (in the lines of bushes and trees) for 80 species are given. Everyone who likes birds about his home will find this useful.

Included also are the names of local bird clubs and national and international bird societies, useful reference books, and bird club publications, including **The Passenger Pigeon**.—Clara Hussong.

NEW 'BIRD HAUNTS' BOOK

"A major event in the publishing world," at least as far as W.S.O. is concerned, has just occurred.

Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts, the long-awaited collection of "Haunts" articles from the pages of **The Passenger Pigeon**, is off the presses and ready for sale. Harold Kruse, in charge of our bookstore, has a supply and will be happy to accept orders.

The first "Haunts" article appeared in the Spring issue in 1953, eight years ago. It described the Mazomanie area, and was written by Sam Robbins. Robbins not only originated the series, he has piloted its progress through 30 articles on as many areas, and he edited the final collection. Nine of the articles have not appeared in the magazine, but were assigned to or obtained from the authors with varying amounts of persuasion and reminding.

Al Holz of Green Bay contributed the lovely cover, and to him and to Sam Robbins, we all owe a great deal. This book will become as indispensable to Wisconsin birders as the checklist or Peterson, and we suspect that out-of-state visitors who learn of it will use it with equal enthusiasm.

We sincerely suggest that every W.S.O. member will want a copy, and that as a gift to anyone with any interest in birds at all, **Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts** will prove hard to match.

The price has been set at a very reasonable \$1.75, postpaid. W.S.O. members, of course, are entitled to the usual ten per cent discount. Order from the W.S.O. Supply Department, in care of Harold Kruse, Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville.—The Editor.

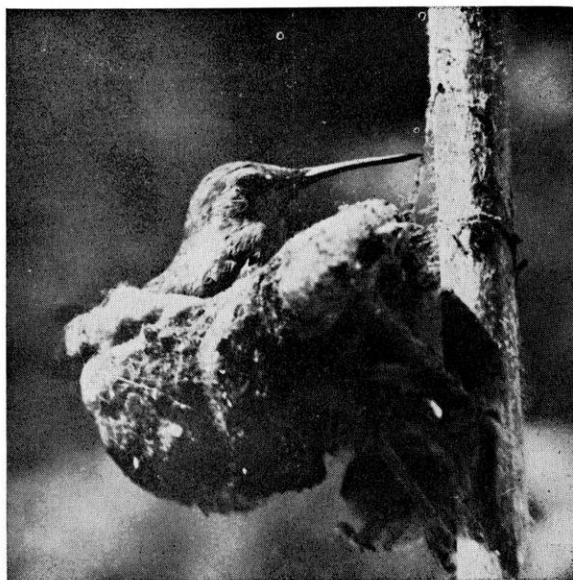
MORE NEWS . . .

W.S.O. members who maintain gardens and may be disturbed by the constant advice to use chemical insecticides, might like to look at **Gardening Without Poisons**, written by Beatrice Trum Hunter and available for 35 cents from "Friends of Nature," 346 Concord Ave., Belmont 78, Massachusetts. The booklet discusses biological control of garden pests by such means as insect and animal and bird predators, fertilization and soil enrichment, insect traps, etc.

Joint Resolutions designed to extend to the Golden Eagle the protective provisions of the Bald Eagle Act have been introduced into both houses of the U. S. Congress. Supporters, including the National Audubon Society, argue that many young Bald Eagles are killed "in error" when hunters mistake them for unprotected Golden Eagles. They also insist—and most W.S.O. members would undoubtedly agree—that the Golden Eagle is worthy of this protection in its own right. Members may wish to express support for these resolutions by writing to their representatives.

HUMMINGBIRD TRAGEDY

The picture of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird on its nest was taken by the late Mrs. Herbert Christensen, of Wausau, along about 1943. The nest was built on the stalk of a hollyhock plant that grew beside the kitchen door of the home of Mr. Charles F. Smith of Wausau, Wisconsin. Inasmuch as the hollyhock plant, as evident from the picture, was mature and gone to seed, the nesting must have taken place rather late in the summer and it may be assumed was not the season's first nesting.



HUMMINGBIRD
NEST
BUILT ON
HOLLYHOCK
STEM,
IN WAUSAU
ABOUT 1943

PHOTO BY
MRS.
HERBERT
CHRISTENSEN

Three nestlings were hatched, but about a week later a violent summer storm broke the hollyhock stalk off just below the nest and the young birds were spilled out on the ground and drenched by rain. As the nest had been an object of neighborhood interest, I went over to Mr. Smith's house immediately after the storm to see how it had fared, found the young birds in sorry condition but still alive and picked them up and took them home, where my mother assumed their care and endeavored to nurse them through to maturity. We dried out the nest and kept the nestlings in it. My mother fed them on sweetened water, using a medicine dropper, but her care was unavailing and one by one they died. As I remember it, one of them lived several days. We had raised a Ruby-throated Hummingbird by this method one time years before, which grew to maturity and became a very tame household pet; but that bird was more mature when it came under our solicitude and had not suffered the drenching that the little ones received. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird tames quite readily but won't stand close confinement. They seem not to be greatly disturbed by observation of their nests by human beings. The mother of these little birds paid no attention to the approach of people to the nest, hence the close-up picture.—Harold L. Geisse, Madison.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Right Now! (State-wide)**—Field notes for the period June 1 through August 15 should be sent to the Associate Editor, the Rev. Sam Robbins, Roberts, Wisconsin.
- October 1, 1961 (Cedar Grove)**—W.S.O. Hawk Trip to Cedar Grove Ornithological Station. See "Field Trip News" in this issue.
- October 8, 1961 (Sturgeon Bay)**—Green Bay Bird Club Annual Fall Foliage Field Trip, Potawatomi State Park
- October 8, 1961 (Governor Dodge State Park)**—Wisconsin Nature Conservancy Field Trip; botany, geology, and birds. Assembly point at Parking Lot 31 on Agriculture Campus, Madison, at 1:00 p. m.
- October 15, 1961 (Milwaukee)**—Wisconsin Nature Conservancy Field Trip to prairie remnants, etc. Assembly point at Southgate Shopping Center, at 10:00 a. m. Bring lunches.
- October 24, 1961 (Madison)**—Madison Audubon Screen Tour, with Leonard Hall speaking on "An Ozark Anthology," at Central High School at 7:30 p. m.
- October 24, 1961 (Beloit)**—Beloit College Audubon Screen Tour, with Eben McMillan speaking on "The Shandon Hills," at the College.
- October 25, 1961 (Milwaukee)**—Milwaukee Audubon Screen Tour, with Eben McMillan speaking on "The Shandon Hills," at Shorewood High School at 8:00 p. m.
- October 25, 1961 (Manitowoc)**—Roger Tory Peterson Bird Club Audubon Screen Tour, with Leonard Hall speaking on "An Ozark Anthology," at Washington Junior High School at 8:00 p. m.
- November 19, 1961 (Green Bay)**—Green Bay Bird Club Primitive Plant Study Field Trip to the Town of Scott.
- December 5, 1961 (Madison)**—Madison Audubon Screen Tour, with Cleveland Grant speaking on "Land of Early Autumn," at West High School at 7:30 p. m.
- December 7, 1961 (Milwaukee)**—Milwaukee Audubon Screen Tour, with Cleveland Grant speaking on "Land of Early Autumn," at Shorewood High School at 8:00 p. m.
- December 13, 1961 (Beloit)**—Beloit College Audubon Screen Tour, with Cleveland Grant speaking on "The Heart of the Wild," at the College.
- December 14, 1961 (Manitowoc)**—Roger Tory Peterson Bird Club Audubon Screen Tour, with Cleveland Grant speaking on "Land of Early Autumn," at Washington Junior High School at 8:00 p. m.
- January 14, 1962 (Manitowoc)**—Roger Tory Peterson Bird Club Audubon Screen Tour, with Robert C. Hermes speaking on "Nova Scotia—Land of the Sea," at Washington Junior High School at 3:30 p. m.
- January 15, 1962 (Milwaukee)**—Milwaukee Audubon Screen Tour, with Robert C. Hermes speaking on "Nova Scotia—Land of the Sea," at Shorewood High School at 8:00 p. m.
- January 16, 1962 (Madison)**—Madison Audubon Screen Tour, with Robert S. Hermes speaking on "Nova Scotia—Land of the Sea," at West High School at 7:30 p. m.

- January 21, 1962 (Green Bay)**—Green Bay Bird Club 26th Annual Banquet.
- January 28, 1962 (Adams and Juneau Counties)**—S. Paul Jones Bird Club (Oconomowoc) second annual trip to Petenwell Dam for eagles, Necedah refuge, and the Adams County area.
- February 1, 1962 (Milwaukee)**—Milwaukee Audubon Screen Tour, with William Ferguson speaking on "Once Around the Sun," at Shorewood High School at 8:00 p. m.
- 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.
- March 6, 1962 (Milwaukee)**—Milwaukee Audubon Screen Tour, with Alfred Bailey speaking on "Sub-Antarctic Isle," at Shorewood High School at 8:00 p. m.
- March 19, 1962 (Manitowoc)**—Roger Tory Peterson Bird Club Audubon Screen Tour, with Olin Sewall Pettingill speaking on "Sea Ice and Fire," at Washington Junior High School at 8:00 p. m.
- March 21, 1962 (Madison)**—Madison Audubon Screen Tour, with Olin Sewall Pettingill speaking on "The Faraway Falklands," at West High School at 7:30 p. m.
- April 5, 1962 (Madison)**—Madison Audubon Screen Tour, 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 Screen Tour, with Roger Tory Peterson speaking on "Wild Europe," at Washington Junior High School at 8 p. m.
- April 17, 1962 (Beloit)**—Beloit College Audubon Screen Tour, with John Moyer speaking on "Jungle Trek," at the College.
- May 25-27, 1962 (Rhineland)**—Tentative dates for 1962 W.S.O. Convention, in the new Rhineland district high school. Details to be announced.
- 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.

MORE NEWS . . .

The Circulation Manager, Mrs. R. J. Roark, 101 Roby Road, Madison 5, has again asked us to mention the availability of back issues of **The Passenger Pigeon**. Not all issues are in stock, but recent volumes are in pretty good supply. Payment of 50 cents per issue should accompany orders. Anyone having unwanted back numbers, or knowing of back issue files which pass into the hands of disinterested persons, should also contact Mrs. Roark. She is always anxious to fill gaps in the supply which is available for sale to new members, libraries, and schools.

Here's a reminder from the supply department: the Peterson series field guides to eastern birds, western birds (new edition) and European birds are now priced at \$4.95 each, rather than \$4.50 as before. W.S.O. members, of course, get a 10% discount, and orders are sent postpaid.

Minnesota has recently "elected" the Common Loon as its state bird, and Canadians, polled by a newspaper nature writer, have voted for the Canada Goose as their national bird. Wisconsin sticks with the Robin, which seems strange, considering the way we treat Robins with our DDT spray!

THE BLEAK DUCK PICTURE

Many W.S.O. members will have noticed, on the outdoor page of their newspaper, or in sports magazines, dire predictions and dreary statements on the 1961 waterfowl situation. Relatively few of us, perhaps, are duck hunters in the usual sense, but are there any among us who fail to thrill at the sights and sounds of ducks and geese in their annual migration? We who look at waterfowl through the barrel of a scope instead of over the barrel of a shotgun, and we who may do both, should be vitally interested in and concerned about the current duck picture.

The basic problem is drought—three years in a row of inadequate rainfall and snowmelt. Breeding stock returning to the great North American “duck factory” on the prairies of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Dakotas, Minnesota and Montana found the little potholes dried up and the big ones shrunk far below normal size. Some flew farther north to nest, some crowded into the still-shrinking puddles they could find, others just gave it up and didn’t breed at all. Man-made damage to the nesting grounds, through drainage (often with government financial and technical aid) hasn’t helped any. Even with reduced seasons and bag limits in the last year or two, the populations of some species have continued to decline or at best failed to increase.

This spring, a reduced breeding flock found the drought worse than ever. No rain came to fill the marshes, and many broods were lost in the struggle to reach water, many nests abandoned when surrounding water turned to caked mud. All reports indicate a tragically poor record of breeding success over most of the major duck-producing area. In Wisconsin, and other relatively less important duck nesting states, there has been good production, but this cannot offset failure in Canada.

The result, for the hunter, is a 30-day season this year, with his daily bag cut to two ducks. Many sincere, conservation-minded sportsmen are arguing that even this is too generous, or that it should start and end sooner to “harvest” more of the abundant local hatch and miss more of the northern flight. Some say the fact that there is **any** season is due to a fear in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service that no one will buy a duck stamp, crippling the wetland acquisition program which is now even more vital.

Whether or not this season will do further damage to our total waterfowl situation remains to be seen. Wintering counts and next year’s breeding season will tell the tale.

As for duck stamps—the \$3 federal “permits” every duck or goose hunter over 16 must buy each year, and from which the proceeds go into wetlands acquisition—there’s no doubt that sales to hunters will drop. This reduction in a vital effort can be in part compensated for by Ducks Unlimited, other sportsmen’s groups, and state conservation agencies. But it also represents a golden opportunity for the gunless “hunters” of America’s waterfowl—people like us. Nothing in the regulations prevents **us** from buying one, two, ten or 100 duck stamps. As a prominent political figure of today likes to ask, how do **you** stand, sir?

(Adapted from newsletter of Madison Audubon Society)

MORE NEWS . . .

Wisconsin is well represented in the latest issue of **The Condor**, nationally distributed and highly respected journal of the Cooper Ornithological Society of California. The first article, "Avian Daybreak and Evening Song in Relation to Time and Light Intensity," is a summary and analysis by Alfred E. Eynon, of the University of Wisconsin, of data collected by the late Aldo Leopold at his Sauk County "farm" and Madison home. Leopold is listed as senior author. Robert McCabe, chairman of the University's Department of Wildlife Management and of our Research Committee, is the author of a paper on "The Selection of Colored Nest Boxes by House Wrens" in the Arboretum at Madison. Lastly, Gordon Orians, now with the Department of Zoology at the University of Washington but once a contributor to this journal and a Wisconsin native and student, contributed an article on "Social Stimulation Within Blackbird Colonies."

In its 1960 banding report, the Inland Bird Banding Association listed 19 Wisconsin banders as making a "contribution" of 9,514 birds banded. These banders, nearly all of whom are known to be W.S.O. members, must have some interesting ornithological experiences they could share with us in the pages of **The Passenger Pigeon**. We hope they will.

At its state convention last May the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs honored two people whose "bird" activities have received recognition from W.S.O. as well. Mrs. Edward Ziebell, of Grafton, was awarded one of six Conservation Certificates for her leadership in making Grafton known as the first bird sanctuary village in Wisconsin. This accomplishment was described in **The Passenger Pigeon** for Winter, 1959. Tom Uttech, Wausau, was named winner of a statewide art contest sponsored by the Women's Clubs and a greeting card firm. He was also the winner of the bird art contest at the W.S.O. Convention at Waukesha, as described elsewhere in this issue.



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