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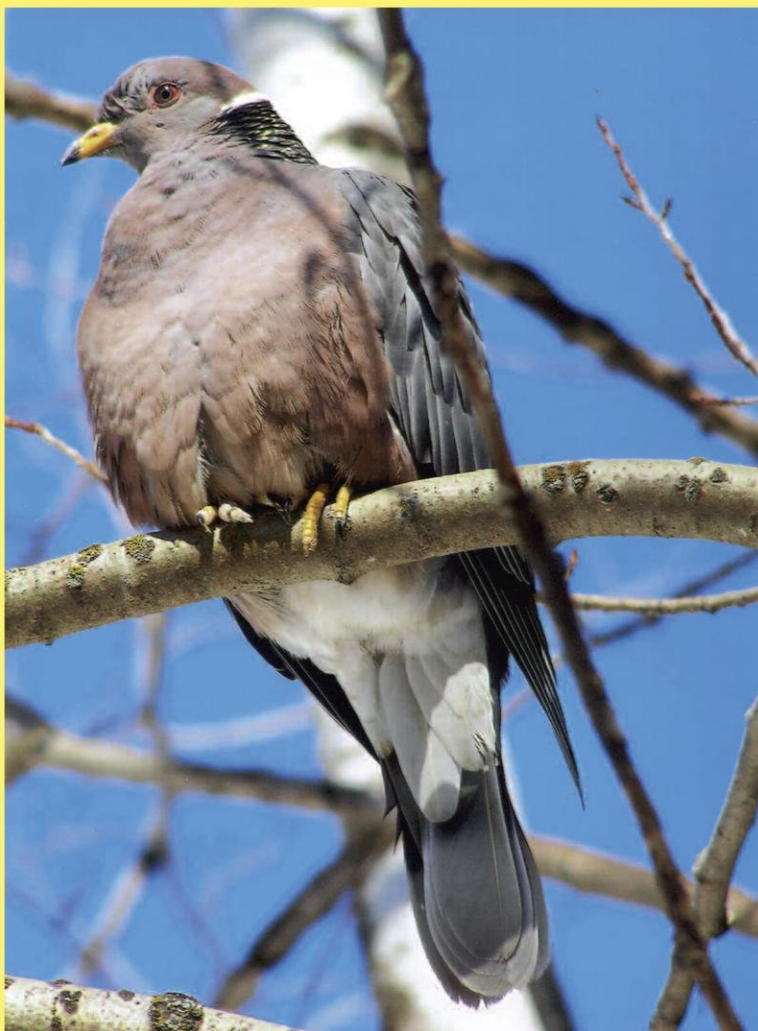
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The *Passenger* **PIGEON**



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T H E ***PASSENGER*** ***PIGEON***

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Send all manuscripts and related correspondence to the Editors. Information for "Seasonal Field Notes" should be sent to the Bird Reports Coordinator (see inside back cover). Art work and questions about the art should be sent to the Associate Editor for art (see left column). Manuscripts that deal with Wisconsin birds, ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and WSO activities are considered for publication. For detailed submission guidelines, see pages 3–5 of the Spring 2000 issue (Vol. 62, No. 1) or contact the Editors. As a general guide to style, use issues after Vol. 60, No. 1, 1998.

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Front Cover: This Band-tailed Pigeon was photographed by Jay Agger at his home in Roberts, St. Croix County, Wisconsin, where it visited his feeders from late November 2005 into March 2006.

A Word or Two of Thanks

Now that the recent heat spell has broken and it is no longer hot as an oven next to my computer desk here at home, I can finally sit down to write for a bit. I would like to focus most of this President's Statement on some well-deserved thank-yous.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our outgoing President of the WSO Board of Directors, Jeff Baughman. Jeff served WSO in exemplary fashion during his two-year stint as President, and was a pleasure to work with. Jeff's addition of a Convention Committee to the Board has already proven to be a great idea and one, which will continue to reap benefits for our annual springtime gathering. Thanks also to those who were willing to continue as officers on the WSO Board: Christine Reel (treasurer), Jane Dennis (secretary), Bettie and Neil Harriman (Pigeon editors). A special thanks goes to Jesse Peterson, who accepted his nomination as vice-president of the Board. Jesse will be doing double duty over the next four years, as he offered to stay on as membership committee chair as well. Thanks, Jesse! It is because of great and committed people such as these, as well as all of the capable committee chairs on the Board of Directors (whom Jeff ably thanked in his last President's Statement), that my job is made an easy one.

Speaking of Jeff's idea of the Convention Committee, kudos goes to committee chair Scott Baughman and his able helpers for the successful convention they put on for us this past spring of 2006 in Rhinelander. Those who attended were treated to beautiful northwoods surroundings, well-led field trips during which many northern bird species of interest were seen, an interesting program of presentations, and informative speakers on both Friday and Saturday nights. If you have not attended a WSO convention in the past, please consider attending the 2007 convention, which will take place in Richland Center next May. Watch your *Badger Birder* early next spring for details.

You will notice that this issue of the *Pigeon* includes an article on this year's recipient of the Silver Passenger Pigeon award, Bob Howe. This award, for distinguished service to WSO, is not awarded every year. No one could be more deserving than Bob. I have known Bob for roughly 20 years and have found him to be an ornithologist of the highest caliber, as well as a committed conservationist and a person who is always helpful and easy to work with. It was a pleasure to see the look of surprise spread across Bob's face at the annual convention in Rhinelander, as Daryl Tessen read the award announcement. It was fitting that the award was given to Bob on the 20th anniversary of his brainchild, the Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey. As most of you know, the Nicolet survey has proven itself to be one of the most important long-term forest bird monitoring projects in North America and beyond, and one which has demonstrated the value of citizen science. The year 2006 also marked Bob's retirement from the

WSO Board of Directors, which he had served on for more years that I can remember. Thanks Bob, for your many years of service to the Society and to Wisconsin's birds.

Lastly, WSO reached an exciting milestone in May of 2006 with the publication of the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*. My final thanks goes out to the editors of this well-done book: Noel Cutright, Bettie Harriman, and Bob Howe. These three individuals worked tirelessly to shepherd the Atlas along on its way to publication. Having served on the Atlas steering committee and worked on some species accounts, I have only a small glimpse into the enormous amount of work it took to put this book together. Imagine editing all those species accounts from so many different authors! We all owe them a debt of thanks, as the Wisconsin Atlas is one of the finest of state bird atlases around.

David W. Sample



"American Kestrel" by David Brandon.

Submission Guide Lines for Free-Standing Photography and Art

[Actually, this time the message is from the desk of the Art Editor for The Passenger Pigeon, David Kuecherer, in answer to the often-asked question of how to submit free-standing art work and photographs for publication in The Pigeon.]

Original art or photographs are eligible for publication. Vertical format is preferred, but horizontals can usually be cropped to fit the format of the journal.

Most art/photos will be reproduced in black and white. Good contrast is important. Cover art and selected images will be reproduced in color.

Art/photos can be submitted in several ways: Xerox copies of linear art; photographic prints or 35 mm slides; emailed images in jpeg format; or CDs of work in tiff format @ 300 dpi is preferred. (Our printer has the least trouble with these.)

Include written permission for the reproduction of your work—either as hard copy or emailed.

Provide a short (3–4 sentences) biography which can include your present interest in birds and birding. If desired, a link to a web site or directions to a gallery where more of your work can be viewed can be included.

CDs, prints, slides, or copies will be returned if requested.

Birds found in Wisconsin are preferred. Occasionally, birds from other locations are used to illustrate articles.

Since the journal is a quarterly publication, images submitted may not be used for several months.

All submissions should be sent to:

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726 Harvard Drive
Neenah, WI 54956

or emailed to: dkuecherer@new.rr.com

[Photographs (and all other graphics) that go in articles, including the seasonal reports and “By the Wayside,” should be sent to the Editors of The Pigeon, Bettie and Neil Harriman. But all other guidelines above apply to these photos as well.—*Bettie and Neil*]

Erratum: The photograph on page 182 in Vol. 68, No. 2 of The Passenger Pigeon should be credited to John Van Den Brandt.—The Editors.



These Ivory-billed Woodpeckers were created in charcoal and colored pencil by Mark Bowers, a Fish and Wildlife Biologist in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Scarlet Scalps and Ivory Bills: Native American Uses of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

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ABSTRACT

A variety of evidence from eyewitness accounts, artifacts, and Native American stories illustrates the significance of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers (Campephilus principalis) to Native Americans. This paper reviews the evidence from various tribes of the Great Lakes and Upper Plains, and suggests courage and hospitality as the primary symbolisms associated with the species. The paper confirms the previous observation of the great importance attached to the scalp and bill of the species and trade in those body parts. Reviewing the value of the species to Native Americans helps to establish what kind of evidence from Native American artifacts can be used in determining the former range of the species.

INTRODUCTION

Anyone seeking to understand the life history of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) will eventually have to make sense of remains of the species found among the artifacts of Native American tribes

(Jackson 2002, 2004). Some of those artifacts might represent genuine parts of the historical range of the species, but many likely represent items that entered the area through trade. Understanding the value placed upon the bird governs how its body parts may be interpreted as part of the ornithological evidence. For instance, if a bird's body part had little ritual value in a particular area, its remains found in an archaeological dig in that same area would indicate past occurrence. But if the bird's body part had great value, then its remains would most likely indicate trade for the artifacts if they were found far outside the known range of the species.

In the case of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, trade in body parts of the species is widely noted, especially in the case of its bill and scalp (Catesby 1731, Audubon 1840, Tanner 1942). The presence of an ivory-bill in a Native American grave in Colorado, far outside its historic range, further illustrates its important trade value (Bailey 1939, McAtee 1942b). However,

the issue is more confusing in the case of leg bones found in Native American archaeological sites in Illinois (Parmalee 1958, 1967) and Ohio (Wetmore 1943, Goslin 1945, McPherson 1950, 1951, Murphy and Farrand 1979, Leese *in press*), for which no particular value has been reported. A more in-depth review of the importance of the species among Native American tribes, and their use of particular body parts of the species, is necessary to answer those questions. Answering questions about Native American use of the species is therefore vital in determining the historical range of the species. Such study also fills in gaps in historical knowledge of the species' special place in the religions of the tribes of the area, a topic that has received renewed interest recently (Jackson 2004, Barker 2005a, Barker 2005b). Reviewing the value attached to the species by Native Americans also provides another interesting window into the value of the species for modern people.

Before proceeding, it is necessary to raise a caveat in the ongoing discussion of this topic. In addition to the evidence for trade in Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, there also is evidence of trade in Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) body parts (McAtee 1942a), and while one can readily discern the difference between the bills, distinguishing only the scalps of long dead specimens might prove difficult. Furthermore, eyewitness accounts and Native American stories do not readily distinguish between the species, suggesting that the two species had overlapping importance. Therefore, some of the accounts that follow apply to both species of woodpeckers with red crests, and one should be hesitant in

applying all of the observations to Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in particular.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

There is strong physical evidence of ritual value for woodpecker scalps and bills from the upper Midwest and Plains (see Table 1 for fuller description of all items described below). Remains of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker can be found in sacred bundles, on pipe stems, on amulets, and with burials among the Native Americans of the region. The evidence comes from the western Great Lakes and the Plains; no evidence of a particular use of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers has yet been uncovered from the eastern area of the Great Lakes (Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan).

Some of the best examples of pipes with Ivory-billed Woodpecker bills and scalps on them come from the Ioway tribe (Table 1), which ranged from present day Iowa to Oklahoma. These include a number of pipes held in the Milwaukee Public Museum. One of these pipes contains seven Ivory-billed Woodpecker heads (MPM 30137, Figure 1), and another has one Ivory-bill scalp and four Pileated Woodpecker scalps (MPM 30538, see Skinner 1926 and Barker 2005b). At least for the Ioway, it appears that the Pileated Woodpecker served only as a substitute for the more valued Ivory-billed Woodpecker (Skinner 1926). Another Ioway pipe, previously unreported, contains the scalp of an Ivory-bill and is held at the Detroit Institute of Art.

Whether these pipes were peace pipes or war pipes remains unclear from the evidence at hand. Some in-

Table 1: Ioway artifacts containing woodpecker body parts. Species are abbreviated as follows: Ivory-billed Woodpecker (IBWO), Pileated Woodpecker (PIWO), unidentified woodpecker (UNWO).

Description	Species and body part	Last known location and accession	Published description or image
Pipe of the Pigeon gens	7 male IBWO bills turned over scalps	Milwaukee Public Museum (hereafter MPM) 30137	Figure 1, also in Skinner 1926 XXXII, 3, and Jackson 2004, Figure 4.1
Pipe of the Female Buffalo gens	Female IBWO bill turned over scalp	MPM 30135 ¹	Skinner 1926 XXIX, 1 and XXX, 1
Pipe of the Female Buffalo gens	Female IBWO bill turned over scalp	MPM 30133	Skinner 1926 XXIX, 2 and XXX, 2
Pipe of the Male Buffalo gens	Female IBWO bill turned over scalp	MPM 30536a	Skinner 1926 XXIX, 3 and XXX, 3
Pipe of the Wolf gens	PIWO scalp	MPM 30532a-b	Skinner 1926 XXXII, 2
Pipe of the Bear (?) gens	4 PIWO scalps and a male IBWO scalp	MPM 30142	Skinner 1926 XXXII, 5 ²
Pipe of the Owl gens	IBWO bill turned over scalp	MPM 31491a-b	Skinner 1926 XXXIII
Pipe of the Buffalo gens (Missouri group)	PIWO scalp	MPM 30146	Skinner 1926 XXXIV, 1 and XXXV, 1
Amuulet with hawk and human scalp attached	IBWO scalps	MPM 31503	Skinner 1926 XXVIII, 2
Sacred bundle	Contains an IBWO scalp	MPM 31501	Blaine 1979, p. 107.
Pipe	Scalp (UNWO)	Detroit Institute of Arts 81.258	ioway.nativeweb.org/culture/pipe.htm

1. Skinner’s informants said that this pipe was used as a substitute for MPM 30133.
2. The descriptions in the text suggest that Skinner inadvertently reversed the citation for this pipe with MPM 30538, which appears in the same plate.

interpret the flattened shape to indicate a war meaning (see Jackson 2004). However, the position of the bills, bent back over the scalps, is sometimes interpreted as a sign of peace. Skinner in reference to the Ioway and related tribes (1926) and Fletcher in reference to the Pawnee (1996) both write that Native Americans placed the bill holding down the scalp to represent an attitude of peace. For instance, a Pawnee religious leader explained that placing the bill over the scalp

“shows that the bird may not be angry” (Fletcher 1996). While the exact use of these pipes remains a mystery, the pipes illustrate the great value placed upon the bills of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, either as a symbol of valor in war or as a symbol of friendship and peace.
Other examples of pipes using Ivory-billed Woodpeckers come from tribes throughout the upper plains. Jackson (2004) notes the presence of bills on the pipes of the Omaha tribe.

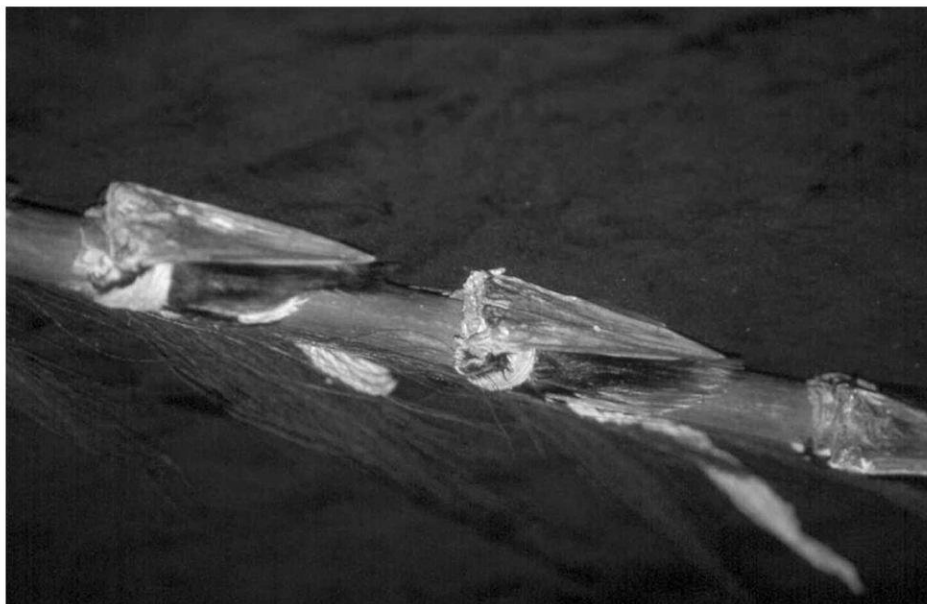


Figure 1: Detail of Ivory-billed Woodpecker scalps and bills on an Ioway pipe of the Pigeon gens (Milwaukee Public Museum #30137). The pipe contains seven Ivory-bill scalps and bills, all of them on the upper surface of the pipe with bills folded back over the crest as shown in the figure. The bills would have been pointed toward the smoker of the pipe. The image is courtesy of Jerome A. Jackson.

Another specimen in the Detroit Institute of Art comes from the Sioux and appears to contain the feathers of a Pileated Woodpecker near the smoker's end of the pipe, but the identification is uncertain. Additionally, the Peabody Museum of Anthropology at Harvard University and the Denver Art Museum contain a variety of pipes that were collected by early expeditions to explore the west, perhaps including the Lewis and Clark expedition. Most likely these pipes came from along the upper stretches of the Missouri River (see Table 2 and Figure 2). While the particular tribes from which these pipes were collected are no longer known, they represent additional evidence of the value placed on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker by

Siouan tribes far removed from the species' known historical range.

In addition to these examples of Ivory-billed Woodpecker on pipes, body parts of the Pileated Woodpecker were sometimes used alone. For instance, the Wisconsin Historical Society has within its collection an Ojibwe pipe with the remains of four Pileated Woodpecker scalps on it (see Table 2 and Fig. 3a and 3b). The pipe was given by Tay-che-gwi-au-nee, a son of Chief Buffalo, to James Duane Doty, an early governor of the territory of Wisconsin. The importance of red crested woodpeckers to that tribe of the Upper Great Lakes is also noted by Jackson (2004).

Ivory-billed Woodpecker parts were not limited to pipes, but also held a

Table 2: Miscellaneous Native American artifacts containing woodpecker body parts. Species are abbreviated as follows: Ivory-billed Woodpecker (IBWO), Pileated Woodpecker (PIWO), unidentified woodpecker (UNWO).

Description	Species and body part	Last known location and accession	Published description or image
Sioux Pipe	Possible scalp (UNWO)	Detroit Institute of Arts 81.234	www.dia.org/the_collection/overview/viewobject.asp?objectid=61523
Ojibwe Pipe	PIWO scalp	Wisconsin Historical Society Museum 1955.399.A	Figure 3.
Pipe ¹	IBWO scalp	Stonyhurst Mullanphy Collection, British Museum, accession not recorded	www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/stonyhurst/page2/tob.htm
Pipe ²	IBWO scalp	Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 99-12-10/53110.2	McLaughlin 2003, p. 237 or www.senate.gov/~conrad/nd/LandCinages/ree0048bs.jpg
Calumet stem ³	Six PIWO bills and one IBWO bill	Peabody Museum 99-12-10/53101.2	McLaughlin 2003, p. 224, closely resembles upper pipe stem in Figure 2.
Calumet fragments ³	Woodpecker bill (UNWO)	Denver Art Museum 1952.408	McLaughlin 2003, p. 216.
Calumet ³	Woodpecker bill (UNWO)	Denver Art Museum 1952.409	McLaughlin 2003, p. 217.

1. Provenience thought to be Great Plain before 1825, but no other information collected.

2. Provenience listed as Eastern Plains or Western Great Lakes.

3. The provenience of these items is the Missouri River, and they may have been gathered by the Lewis and Clark expedition, or by another early western exploration mission led by George C. Hutter.

prominent position in the sacred bundles of some Midwest tribes, including the Potawatomi (Jackson 2004), Ioway (Blaine 1979, Skinner 1926), and the Sac and Fox tribes (Skinnner 1925a, Harrington 1914, see Table 3). The body parts were often part of separate amulets within the bundles, and those amulets were put on before a battle (Harrington 1914). Some amulets were entirely separate from bundles, such as a necklace with 14 bunches of woodpecker tail feathers of undeter-

mined species (Harrington 1914). By wearing these amulets, warriors believed that they received the woodpecker's power of "seeking out and capturing his concealed prey" and putting "a great hole in the enemy" (Harrington 1914). The fact that human scalps from war victories were sometimes included in sacred bundles (Harrington 1914, Skinner 1925a), and even directly on amulets with Ivory-billed Woodpecker scalps (Skinner 1926, Plate XXVIII, 2), probably

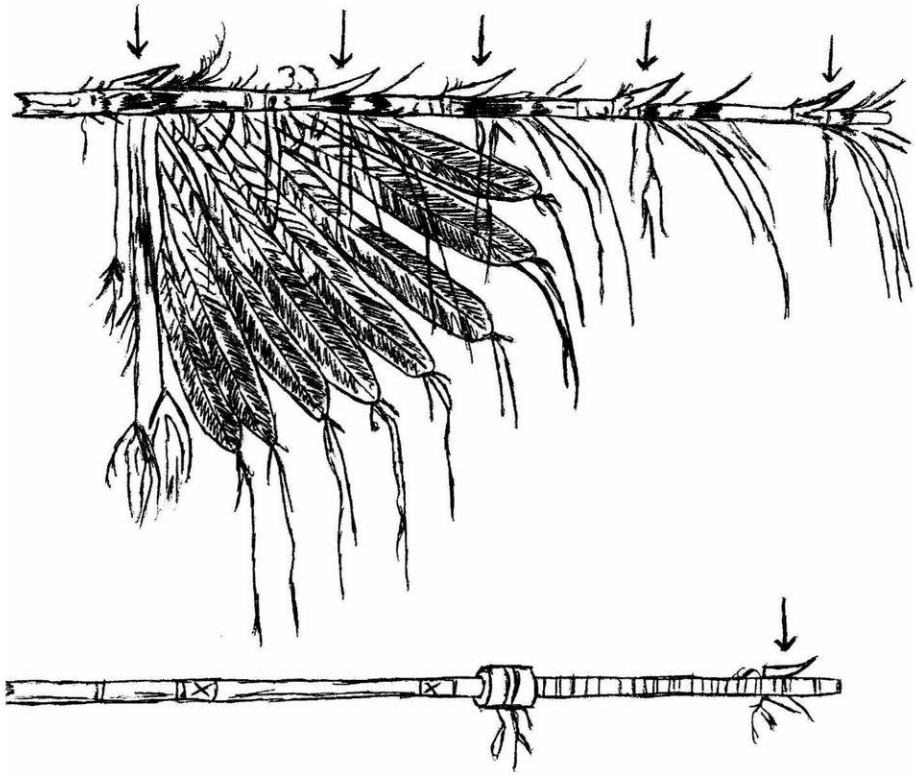


Figure 2: Two Native American pipes, probably from the Upper Plains, with woodpecker bills attached to them (indicated by the arrows). Note that the bills are always on the top of the pipe and pointed toward the smoker. Drawn after George Catlin (in McLaughlin 2003) by BEL.

explains the symbolism associated with the bright red crests of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in many of those bundles.

Bills of the species have also been found at Native American burials in Illinois (Parmalee 1967) and Nebraska (O'Shea et al 1982). Parmalee (1967) suggests that the Illinois examples may have been from a headdress or pipe placed in the grave. O'Shea et al. (1982) also support the hypothesis that these articles were originally part of a calumet that was buried with its owner (anthropologists still debate the differences between a calumet and a

pipe; calumets are often defined by their ceremonial, non-smoking use).

One of the most intriguing uses for the species is the possibility that its wings were also honored by some tribes. For instance, Jackson (2004) notes that a wing bone, probably from an Ivory-billed Woodpecker, was found in a Native American archaeological site in Texas. While that example is outside the geographical scope of this paper, woodpecker wings also occur in the archaeological remains in Kansas. For instance, a Pawnee religious site contained remains of a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes*



Figure 3a: Ojibwe presentation pipe given by Tay-che-gwi-au-nee to Wisconsin's territorial governor James Duane Doty in 1844. Note the four scalps (with only a few feathers remaining) of Pileated Woodpeckers where the horse hair pendants are attached to the main body of the pipe.



Figure 3b: The detail image shows two scalps. The pipe is Wisconsin Historical Museum object #1955.399,A. Images courtesy of Wisconsin Historical Society.

Table 3: Sac or Fox artifacts containing woodpecker body parts. Species are abbreviated as follows: Ivory-billed Woodpecker (IBWO), Pileated Woodpecker (PIWO).

Description	Species and body part	Last known location and accession	Published description or image
Buffalo tail amulet	IBWO scalp	Milwaukee Public Museum 31714	Skinner 1925, plate IX.
Split body headband	Female IBWO with two male scalps	Heye Collection ¹ within bundle 2/5317	Harrington 1914, plate XXX.
Medicine Bundle	IBWO	Heye Collection ¹ within bundle 2/7812	Not pictured, described in Harrington 1914, p. 226.
Hunting Bundle	Young IBWO head within cloth sack, with other objects	Heye Collection ¹ within bundle 2/8446	Not pictured, described in Harrington 1914, p. 244.
Eagle feather amulet in bone tube	IBWO scalp attached to tube	Heye Collection ¹ within bundle 2/8738	Not pictured, described in Harrington 1914, p. 201.
Small roach head dress	Hair dyed red and black with PIWO scalp attached	Heye Collection ¹ within bundle 2/8738	Harrington 1914, plate XXXI.
Split body headband	PIWO with 19 medicine packets	Heye Collection ¹ within bundle 2/8739	Not pictured, described in Harrington 1914, p. 184.
Two split body headbands	At least one of them is IBWO	Heye Collection ¹ within sacred bundle 2/8772	Not pictured, described in Harrington 1914, pp. 183–184.
Split head band	PIWO	Heye Collection ¹ within bundle 2/8561	Harrington 1914, plate XXX.

1.The Heye Collection is now part of the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution.

erythrocephalus) and an unidentified species in Kansas (O’Brien 1986). Another Kansas excavation of the much earlier Hopewell culture also revealed woodpecker wing bones of an unidentified species (Schultz and Spaulding 1948). While these records are inconclusive, they offer a glimpse into another possible early use of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS

The earliest eyewitness accounts describe the ritual use that Native American tribes made of woodpecker crests.

Jackson (2004) reviews a number of first hand accounts of the presence of the species’ remains, including a note from among the Ojibwe tribe. The accounts presented below expand upon those previous descriptions by giving some sense of the actual ritual usage of the objects. The most common reference is a description of woodpecker heads fastened to the calumets of the tribes. While most often interpreted as symbols of war, two eyewitness observers suggest that the calumets and pipes with which the bills and scalps were often associated may have also been a sign of hospitality.

For instance, Nicolas Perrot (1644–1718), one of Wisconsin’s early notable explorers, was greeted in a Miami village by a tribal elder whose calumet was ornamented with birds’ heads, likely those of woodpeckers. La Potherie recorded the event in his *Adventures of Nicolas Perrot*:

“The old man held in his hand a calumet of red stone, with a long stick at the end; this was ornamented in its whole length with the heads of birds, flame-colored, and had in the middle a bunch of feathers colored a bright red, which resembled a great fan. As soon as he espied the leader of the Frenchmen, he presented to him the calumet, on the side next to the sun; and uttered words which were apparently addressed to all the spirits whom those peoples adore. The old man held it sometimes toward the east, and sometimes toward the west; then toward the sun; now he would stick the end in the ground and then he would turn the calumet around him, looking at it as if he were trying to point out the whole earth, with expressions which gave the Frenchman to understand that he had compassion on all men. Then he rubbed with his hands Perrot’s head, back, legs, and feet, and sometimes his own body. This welcome lasted a long time, during which the old man made a harangue, after the fashion of a prayer, all to assure the Frenchman of the joy which all in the village felt at his arrival” (La Potherie *in* Kellogg 1917).

While, the phrase “heads of birds, flame-colored” is obviously not a conclusive reference to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, it seems a likely allusion to the Ivory-bill or the Pileated Woodpecker. Even though it could represent a Red-headed Woodpecker or even dyed feathers, the passage is still illustrative of the usage of one tribe. Far from being a war symbol, in this

case the calumet actually served as a symbol of hospitality.

Marquette also offers a description of the importance of the calumets and pipes among the Illinois tribe, which agrees in associating the calumet with the sun, as in the above example. He notes that a calumet:

“is ornamented with the heads and necks of various birds, whose plumage is very beautiful. To these they also add large feathers—red, green, and other colors—wherewith the whole is adorned. They have a great regard for it, because they look upon it as the calumet of the Sun . . .” (Marquette *in* Kellogg 1917).

He goes on to comment that the Illinois gave him a calumet to protect him in his journey among the other tribes of the area. Again, the calumet seems to be a symbol of hospitality. He also notes that there were calumets for both war and peace, “which are distinguished solely by the color of the feathers with which they are adorned; red is a sign of war” (Marquette *in* Kellogg 1917), but that comment does not fully solve the problem already noted in understanding the Ioway pipes.

One final example shows a pipe with bills attached as part of the costume of a Winnebago warrior. Red Bird, when he surrendered to General Atkinson, was apparently dressed in full attire:

“On each shoulder, in place of an epaulet, was fastened a preserved red bird . . . Across his breast, in a diagonal position and bound tight to it, was his war pipe, at least three feet long, brightly ornamented with dyed horse hair and feathers and bills of birds” (Strong *in* Historical Society of Wisconsin 1879).

The note is unremarkable except in confirming in vivid detail what was already suggested by the physical evidence of the pipes and amulets. Bills from species other than woodpeckers were apparently uncommon on Native American pipes (see McLaughlin 2003), and so the Winnebago very likely also used woodpecker bills as pipe ornaments.

NATIVE AMERICAN STORIES

While one must always interpret stories cautiously, they do provide an important lens by which to reconstruct natural history of past eras and the meanings associated with particular animals (Bigony 1982). Extensive reconstruction exists for the Winnebago tribe of Wisconsin (Bigony 1982), but the stories of other tribes provide insights as well. While not an exhaustive review of Native American folklore about woodpeckers, the following examples again confirm courage in war and hospitality as the two major meanings of woodpeckers to the Native Americans of the Midwest and Upper Plains.

A wide variety of stories shows that the woodpecker symbolized courage in warfare. For instance, the Ojibwe stories that formed a basis for Longfellow's poem "The Song of Hiawatha" feature a woodpecker named Mama who helps Manabozho (the Ojibwe name for Hiawatha) in a battle. As a reward for its help, Manabozho stained the woodpecker head with the blood of the slain enemy (Osborn and Osborn 1944, see also Longfellow 2000, "Song of Hiawatha" IX). The name Mama for the woodpecker seems curious, but actually has paral-

els to the Sac tribe which called an Ivory-billed Woodpecker head in a medicine bundle by the name of "ma ma wu" (Harrington 1914).

A similar legend comes from the Menominee people, but the woodpecker itself acts as warrior in the story. In the story, Ball Carrier asks the black-head woodpecker to kill a cannibal woman, but the woodpecker agrees to do so only if he receives her scalp of red hair as a reward. The black-head woodpecker kills the woman by flying at her heart, which was hidden under her hair. Upon killing her, the woodpecker places her scalp on his head, and thus "the black woodpecker has a black body and a red spot on his head" (Hoffman 1896). Although not as clearly associated with courage, an Ioway story recalls a similar event, in which the woodpecker earned his red crest and chisel-like bill from the great hunter Haxuga. The woodpecker gave Haxuga some good news and in return, the hunter painted the woodpecker's head red and gave him "his bone awl in his bill" (Skinner 1925b).

Two stories illustrate the woodpecker as a symbol of hospitality. The creation story of the Otoe people, a Siouan people related to the Ioway, records that the woodpecker volunteered his head as decoration for the first pipe shared by the founding brothers of the tribe (Anderson 1940). In a Winnebago story, the woodpecker produces bear meat for his brother, the Trickster, by strapping his awl to his bill and beating against the center pole of his home (Radin 1956). Incidentally, when Trickster tries to do the same, he only succeeds in knocking himself unconscious. The story has parallels among the Manabozho cycle

of the Ojibwe (Radin and Reagan 1928). The woodpecker's amazing ability to produce such a wealth of food suggests that it was a symbol of hospitality within the tribe.

While more ethnographic work would uncover further examples of woodpeckers in Native American legends, these stories illustrate the importance of crested woodpeckers (whether Ivory-billed or Pileated remains unclear) in the life of the Native Americans. Courage and hospitality appear to be the most common symbolism associated with the bird.

AREAS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

A variety of areas related to this topic remains unexplored. A few suggestions follow:

1. Audubon (1840) noted that scalps decorated the belts of Native American chiefs, but there is scant physical evidence for that. A review of clothing objects might illuminate this issue.

2. Among the tribes of California and the Northwest, woodpecker scalps occurred on ceremonial headdresses. A review of the west coast evidence could reveal if these scalps carried similar meanings to scalps on the pipes of the Native Americans of the Midwest and Plains area.

3. Paul Radin describes some of the sacred bundles of the Winnebago, and some objects shown in plate 57 of Radin (1923) might depict woodpecker scalps. More research on the sacred bundles of the Winnebago and Menominee tribes would increase our knowledge of the species' place in sacred bundles.

4. The use of woodpecker wings by

the Pawnee remains enigmatic. Positive identification of the finds cited above or from new sites would help to answer whether or not the tribe traded for the wings of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers.

CONCLUSIONS

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker served as an important religious symbol among the tribes of the Midwest and Upper Plains, particularly among the Siouan tribes. The ritual use of the species apparently included both war and hospitality. The large amount of physical evidence of its ritual use on pipes and in sacred bundles confirms previous assessments of a substantial trade in the bill and scalp of this species among those tribes. No evidence for a special value for the species appears among the tribes of Indiana, Michigan, or Ohio, or for the legs of the species, as were found in Illinois and Ohio. Thus, such remains probably represent parts of the species' former range.

Revisiting the importance of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker to the Native American tribes is important for more than just an historical understanding of the species and its range. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker's deep spiritual meaning for the tribes speaks of the species' deep meaning for modern humans too. Whether or not the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still exists in the Big Woods of Arkansas or elsewhere in the world, the bird lives in the memory conveyed by the pipes and stories described in this paper. And in learning about and respecting the early uses and meanings of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker to Native Americans, the

Ivory-billed Woodpecker still lives in the wilderness of our wonder and the habitat of our hearts.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Green Heron captured in mid-scratch by Dennis Malueg.



Female Red-bellied Woodpecker was caught napping by David Kuecherer.

An Evaluation of Avian Conservation Funding Mechanisms in Wisconsin

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INTRODUCTION

Wisconsin residents have enjoyed wildlife-based recreation for many years. Hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing have had rich traditions in the state. These activities have positively impacted local economies, created a unique history, promoted cultural socialization, and supported the preservation of all natural resources. Although funding has been available previously, current legislative cutbacks in general revenue dollars and operating budgets of state and federal agen-

cies may hamper the progress of natural resources conservation and management. This issue is urgent, and must be addressed immediately.

Recently, there has been growing interest from policy makers and non-consumptive wildlife users in the potential for innovative funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation projects. Avian conservation is currently funded by a variety of instruments including excise taxes, federal agencies, state agencies, and private conservation organizations. Traditionally, funding for non-game species has

been available primarily through agency budgets while consumptive activities have been funded through a wider variety of mechanisms. In addition, consumptive users have directly funded wildlife habitat conservation projects through a series of user fees (stamps, licenses, etc.), while non-consumptive users have relied on agency appropriations and private donations through conservation organizations.

The main objective of this article is to present a summary of existing conservation funding mechanisms in Wisconsin and to discuss their effectiveness in avian conservation. Second, the article evaluates current public support for specific birding conservation payment vehicles in Wisconsin. Finally, the feasibility of establishing an endowed conservation fund for the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Wisconsin is assessed.

FUNDING PROGRAMS

Conservation initiatives are well-established for game species. Hunters and anglers are required to buy licenses to exercise the privilege to hunt or fish. Several states and the federal agencies also require hunters and anglers to purchase stamps to pursue specific species. In Wisconsin, stamps are required for waterfowl, grouse, turkey, pheasant, and several fish species. The federal government also utilizes the Pittman-Robertson excise tax (firearms and ammunition) and the Migratory Duck Stamp to raise funds for national and state-level conservation efforts.

Public support for statewide nongame conservation programs come from a variety of sources (Hen-

derson, 1984). Program support for the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) IBA initiative has come from local and statewide ornithological societies, hunting organizations, land trusts, private corporations, universities, conservation clubs, and other agencies. Additional support could be sought from trappers, anglers, women's club members, civic clubs, garden clubs, conservation clubs, and other entities.

State of Wisconsin

Fish and Wildlife Account

The Fish and Wildlife Account (FWA) is utilized by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to operate all of their game management programs. In fiscal year 2004, a total of \$85.0 million was appropriated for these programs (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2004a). Of this total, \$58.5 million was raised by the sales of hunting and fishing licenses in the state (Table 1). Another \$7.5 million in dedicated funds were derived from the sales of hunting and fishing stamps for Great Lakes salmon, inland trout, sturgeon, turkeys, pheasants, and waterfowl. The remaining funds were derived from various federal and other sources. The federal government contributed \$10.8 million in matching funds. Of this total, \$4.1 million for conservation projects was received from Pittman-Robertson Act funding; \$6.7 million for sport fisheries projects was matched Dingell-Johnson Act funding. Another \$5.6 million was received from miscellaneous grants and other sources.

As with federal programs, administrative costs are limited by law. In Wisconsin, administrative costs cannot ex-

Table 1. Funds Spent on Fish and Wildlife in Wisconsin*

Funding Source	Amount (millions of dollars)
General License Fees	\$58.5
Dedicated Funds	
Salmon Stamp	1.1
Trout Stamp	1.3
Sturgeon License	0.1
Turkey Stamp	0.7
Pheasant Stamp	0.3
Waterfowl Stamp	0.5
Wildlife Damage	3.5
Total of Dedicated Funds Spent	\$7.5
Federal/Miscellaneous Funds	
Dingel-Johnson	6.7
Pittman-Robertson	4.1
Misc. Grants & Other Sources	5.6
Total Federal/Misc. Funds Spent	\$16.4
Total Fish & Wildlife Account Funds Spent	\$82.4

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2004a

ceed 16 percent of expenditures of the FWA in a fiscal year. The DNR was able to minimize administrative spending (just under 8%) in the 2004 fiscal year (Fig. 1). A portion of the FWA is dedicated to acquiring additional land for habitat. In 2004, \$9 million, or 10.6 percent, was spent on facilities and

land acquisition. This is accomplished by outright purchase or use of conservation easements. Once purchased, the WDNR is responsible for the maintenance of these properties (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2004a). In order to adequately plan for future land acquisitions, the

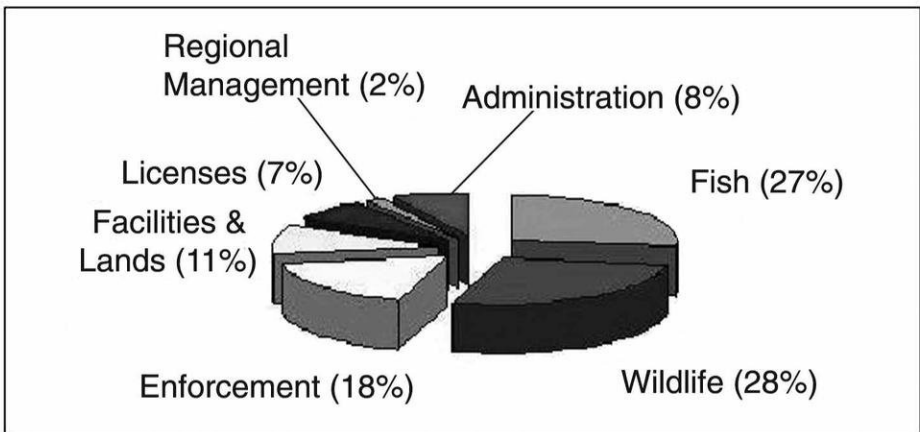


Figure 1. Percentage of Fish and Wildlife Funds Spent on Specific Categories.

WDNR conducts a planning process for state facilities. The master plans identify not only the appropriate amount of land and specific properties to be purchased, but also identify the activities which are best suited for each specific parcel.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund was created in 1989. Funds are dedicated to the acquisition of critical properties with high environmental value. Acquired properties are open to hunting, fishing, and non-consumptive wildlife recreation uses. The fund was re-authorized in 2000 and provides the WDNR with \$60 million annually for land acquisition and provides conservation grants to local communities (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2003).

This fund is the backbone of conservation initiatives. Annually, \$45 million is utilized to acquire lands for conservation purposes. The stewardship fund has several land acquisition priorities including state natural areas, streambank protection, habitat areas and fisheries, the Middle Kettle Moraine, and lands that preserve or enhance the state's water resources (Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, wild lakes, designated wild rivers, and coastal areas).

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources—Bureau of Endangered Resources (BER)

Currently, several methods are utilized to raise voluntary funds for nongame conservation programs in Wisconsin. Over two-thirds of the annual operating revenue for these BER programs is received from voluntary donations. These funds are used to

manage the over 56,000 acres included in the State Natural Areas program (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2005).

Income Tax Checkoff

Currently over 40 states allow residents to contribute to nongame management programs through an income tax check off system (Applegate and Trout, 1984). In Wisconsin, taxpayers receiving a refund can opt to donate a specified amount at their discretion to the Endangered Resources Donation Fund. All funds are used by the Bureau of Endangered Resources (WDNR) for their conservation initiatives. Major recipients of these funds include the Natural Heritage Inventory which surveys and analyzes the distribution of endangered resources using GIS technologies; general maintenance of State Natural Areas; all private lands-based non-game and endangered species conservation programs; and basic program support. In 2004, over \$630,000 was raised through income tax checkoff by private individuals and corporations (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2005b). This amount declined to approximately \$545,000 in 2005 (Irene Schmidt, Program Specialist, WDNR, 2006, personal communication). These funds are matched by General Program Revenue Funds (The Nature Conservancy 2004). Approximately 40,000 individual and corporate contributions were made to the fund in both 2004 and 2005; this represents approximately 4 percent of filing taxpayers statewide (Irene Schmidt, Wisconsin DNR, 2006, personal communication).

License Plates

The State of Wisconsin sells license plates to fund endangered species management. Each license plate fee includes a \$25 contribution which goes to the general operating fund in the BER. These funds are used for public education as well as other conservation programs. In 2005, approximately \$559,000 was generated from license plates sales. These revenues have been fairly constant over the past several years (Irene Schmidt, Wisconsin DNR 2006, personal communication). Overall, over 22,400 license plates have been sold.

Adopt an Eagle Program

Interested individuals can contribute a minimum donation of \$100 to the WDNR BER to “adopt” an eagle’s nest. Proceeds collected from this program directly benefit research efforts which monitor the overall health and status of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) population in Wisconsin (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2004b). Specific monitoring activities include aerial population surveys, rehabilitation programs, and habitat protection programs. Donors receive a certificate acknowledging their contribution, a calendar, and other eagle-related publications. Although contributions vary annually, donors have given over \$10,000 to the program during the current fiscal year. It is impossible to track the exact number of annual donors to the “Adopt an Eagle” Fund because attendees of nature festivals such as Bald Eagle Days in Sauk City have provided contributions at an unattended collection site at the festival.

Trumpeter Swan Fund

Similarly, the Trumpeter Swan Fund assists in the reintroduction of the Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). Reintroduction programs have released captive raised cygnets in the Crex Meadows State Wildlife Area. WDNR biologists have served as surrogate parents teaching reintroduced birds how to forage and protect themselves in the wild (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2004c). Efforts have resulted in a small breeding and migratory population in northern Wisconsin. Funds raised have been utilized to perform aerial surveys, monitor the overall health of the population, administer a banding program, and provide public education programs. Donors can contribute at several different plateaus starting at \$35. Like the “Adopt an Eagle” Fund, donations vary each year. During the current fiscal year, almost \$16,000 has been raised for Trumpeter Swan reintroduction efforts.

Federal Funding

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act of 1934 (Duck Stamp Act)

This Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act requires waterfowl hunters 16 years and older to purchase and possess a federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl. Approximately 98 percent of all funds raised are utilized to purchase wetlands throughout the United States for inclusion into the National Wildlife Refuge System or through leases (United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2005). In addition, the act authorized the acquisition of waterfowl pro-

duction areas (WPAs) from the revenues generated by the sales of the stamp. Since its inception in 1934, over \$700 million has been raised resulting in the acquisition of over 5.2 million acres of wildlife habitat (United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2005).

*Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act
(Pittman-Robertson Act)*

In 1937, Congress passed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, better known as the Pittman-Robertson Act (P-R). The law placed an 11 percent excise tax on rifles, shotguns, and related ammunition. In 1970, this was expanded to include a 10 percent excise tax on handguns and an 11 percent excise tax on archery equipment (Phenicie 1987).

P-R revenues do not go into the general treasury; instead, they are forwarded to the USFWS where, by law, they are apportioned to the states and U.S. territories according to a formula that depends on the amount of land a state has designated for conservation purposes and the number of licensed hunters in the state. Once the funds are apportioned, states must utilize the funds within one calendar year. If this condition is not met, the funds must be returned to the USFWS where funds will be spent on conservation and research projects consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (Phenicie 1987).

To be eligible for P-R funds, states must meet two conditions. First, they must file a detailed five-year plan detailing their conservation initiatives and projects. Second, states must provide a 25 percent match for all P-R funds received. Finally, all revenues received from hunting and fishing licenses must be earmarked for wildlife

conservation efforts (Williamson 1987). The Wisconsin Legislature must allocate license revenues for conservation purposes if they are to continue to receive federal matching funds from the aforementioned excise tax.

P-R funds can be used for several purposes. Most P-R funds are spent directly on "wildlife restoration projects." By law, a wildlife restoration project is defined as the selection, acquisition, restoration, rehabilitation, improvement, or maintenance of areas of land or water adaptable as feeding, resting, or breeding places for wildlife. Research projects on wildlife management are also funded under the P-R Act. These projects have benefited both game and non-game species alike. Funds are also used for non-conservation projects like hunter education programs (Phenicie 1987).

The fund has been effective in raising monies for conservation efforts. Since its inception in 1937, the P-R has raised a total of \$4.4 billion. Fiscal payments for the P-R Act in the fiscal year 2001, for example, exceeded \$7 million dollars. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to allow this total to increase in subsequent years to reflect the change in the consumer price index over the preceding fiscal year (United States House of Representatives 2000). Not only has the amount raised been impressive, but also administrative costs have been kept to a minimum. Legislation states that up to 8 percent of funds raised can be used for administrative costs. Historically, administrative costs have not exceeded 5 percent (Dunlop, 1999). Due to its successes, in 1950 Congress voted to give the P-R Act "indefinite appropriation." Unlike many

other federal programs or state excise taxes, P-R enjoys "permanent-indefinite" appropriation status. In other words, the program will continue to benefit conservation efforts forever.

Other Funding Sources

Other innovative funding sources are used by conservation agencies elsewhere. A brief explanation of these programs follows.

Conservation Sales Tax

Missouri instituted a one-eighth of 1 percent conservation sales tax on all goods sold in 1977. All funds were dedicated to a special fund for land acquisition purchases under the "Design for Conservation" program (Low 2004). The sales tax raises between \$150 to \$180 million dollars annually; this accounts for 60 percent of the annual operating budget for the Missouri Department of Conservation. The remaining 40 percent is generated from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses (Low 2005, personal communication). To date, funds have been used to acquire more than 1,000 parcels or over 1,000,000 acres of land. Today, emphasis is shifting gradually from acquisition to development. Projects planned for the future include increasing public access to the waterways and increasing the number of recreational trails.

Conservation Excise Taxes

Several states including Alabama, Minnesota, and others have enacted legislation which places an excise tax on gasoline, cigarettes, or other consumer goods. The Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust Fund was established in 1992 by voter referendum. The

fund in Alabama was established strictly for the acquisition of land for the purpose of increasing wildlife habitat and natural diversity. Revenues are generated from excise taxes on the sale of oil and gasoline (The Nature Conservancy 2004). Since 1992, the fund has purchased 48 tracts of land encompassing over 113,000 acres (Outdoor Alabama 2004). A portion of the excise tax on cigarettes in Minnesota is earmarked for conservation efforts. A 2¢ per pack tax is appropriated to the Minnesota Future Resources Fund. This tax yields approximately \$8 million dollars per year. Funds are used for habitat acquisition, recreational trail development, and facilities development (The Nature Conservancy 2004).

METHODS

In the following sections, we address a portion of a Wisconsin study regarding bird watchers' and wildlife viewers' attitudes towards funding sources and the Wisconsin Important Bird Areas Program.

Sample Survey

A revealed preference analysis was performed to elucidate birder motivations and estimate the economic values associated with recreational bird watching in the Horicon Marsh area between April 2004 and December 2004. Survey participants were asked a series of questions regarding their opinions on various conservation funding vehicles. Funding mechanisms examined included a one-time tax assessed to all Wisconsin residents, an excise tax on bird watching equipment (binoculars, spotting scopes,

field guides, etc.), and a voluntary wildlife viewing stamp. Participants were asked if they supported each of the preceding options. Open-ended follow-up questions allowed participants to specify their willingness to pay for each funding mechanism. Specific dollar amounts were requested for the general one-time tax and wildlife viewing stamp; a percentage was requested for the excise tax.

Two distinct sub-populations of bird watchers were studied. The first included “general Horicon users” (Subgroup 1). These individual were contacted within the Horicon Marsh during a systematic intercept survey within the Horicon Marsh area. The second group was “ornithological club members” (Subgroup 2). These individuals were classified as such if they were a member of at least one local, state, or national bird watching club. A total of 361 individuals were surveyed.

General Horicon users surveyed included attendees of the Horicon Marsh Melodies Festivals and the Fall Naturalist Lecture series. Also, recreational bird watchers participating in organized bird watching field trips at Horicon Marsh were surveyed.

Ornithological club members were also intercepted in several ways. First, field trip participants from local birding clubs, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology field trips, and bird hikes which were scheduled in association with the Marsh Melodies Festivals and

Fall Naturalist Series events were systematically intercepted. A letter was also mailed to each bird club within Wisconsin to request volunteers to participate in the survey. Finally, club members were intercepted while viewing birds at various locations throughout the marsh.

SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents were asked to indicate their support level for various payment vehicles (a general one-time tax assessed to all Wisconsin residents, an excise tax on bird watching equipment, and a wildlife viewing stamp) which would benefit a conservation fund specifically designed to acquire habitat and land for the Important Bird Areas program. Respondents from the two subgroups responded differently to these questions.

Subgroup 1 believed several methods should be used to successfully manage bird populations through habitat acquisition (Table 2). Most either supported (43%) or strongly supported (22%) the creation of a wildlife viewing or bird watching stamp. Subgroup 1 respondents were split in their opinion on the appropriateness of the other fundraising methods (Figs. 2, 3, and 4). For example, 53 percent of general Horicon users either supported or strongly supported a general one-time tax, while 20 percent opposed this idea.

Table 2. General Horicon User Support for Conservation Payment Vehicles.

Payment Vehicle	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support
General One-time Tax	20.0%	26.8%	35.5%	17.7%
Birding Equipment Excise Tax	27.7%	26.4%	36.4%	9.5%
Bird Watching Stamp	15.5%	18.7%	43.4%	22.4%

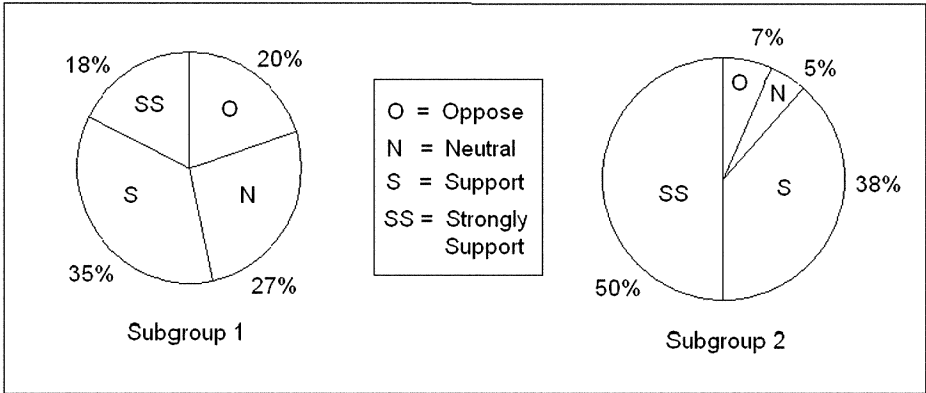


Figure 2. Support for General One-time Statewide Tax.

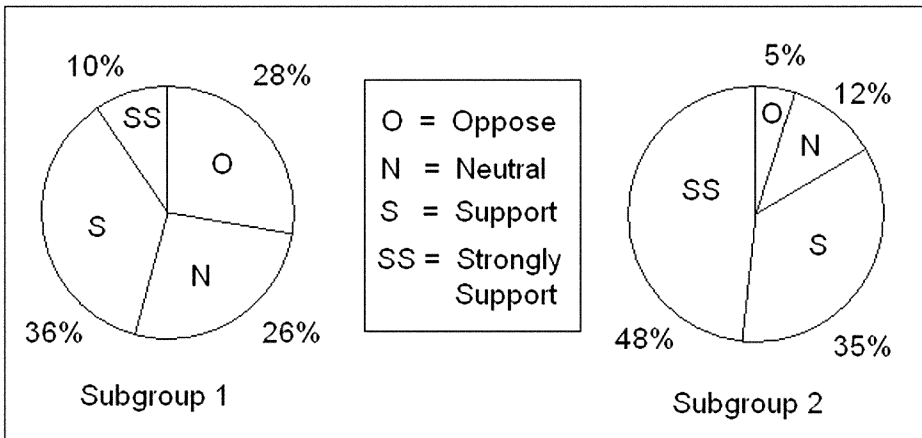


Figure 3. Support for Birding Equipment Excise Tax.

Ornithological club members were more supportive of conserving bird populations throughout Wisconsin than general Horicon users (Table 3). Over 85 percent of ornithological club members polled either strongly supported (59%) or supported (28%) the establishment of a bird watching stamp to raise funds for habitat acquisition for the IBA Program. Similarly, most club members surveyed indi-

cated they either strongly supported (48%) or supported (35%) an excise tax on bird-watching-related equipment. Ornithological club members also either strongly supported (50%) or supported (38%) a general tax on all Wisconsin residents.

Statistically significant differences were noticed in the amount the two subgroups were willing to pay for specific conservation fundraising initia-

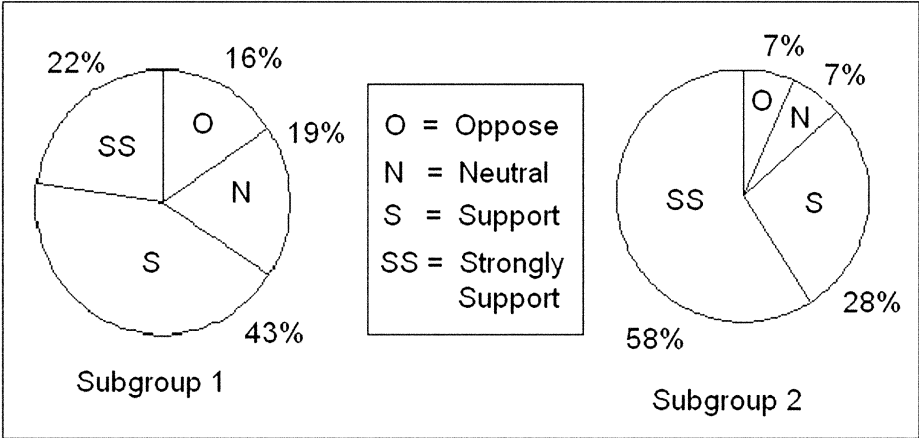


Figure 4. Support for Voluntary Wildlife Viewing Stamp.

tives (Table 4). Subgroup 1 believed that a voluntary annual bird watching stamp at a mean annual cost of \$16 would be a useful management tool, while Subgroup 2 thought the stamp should be available at a mean annual cost of \$23. Subgroup 2 members also supported all other management options. The mean value for a general

one-time tax assessed to all Wisconsin residents was \$273. They also indicated the mean excise tax on birding related equipment should be 3 percent which was not significantly different from Subgroup 1.

In summary, notable differences were observed between what the subgroups were willing to pay for each of

Table 3. Ornithological Club Member Support for Conservation Payment Vehicles.

Payment Vehicle	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support
General One-time Tax	6.7%	5.0%	38.3%	50.0%
Birding Equipment Excise Tax	5.0%	11.7%	35.0%	48.3%
Bird Watching Stamp	6.6%	6.6%	27.9%	59.0%

Table 4. Mean Open-ended Valuations for Payment Vehicles.

Payment Vehicle	General Visitation		Specialized Visitation	
	Mean	SE*	Mean	SE*
General One-time Tax	\$107.38	31.49	\$272.86	101.57
Birding Equipment Excise Tax	2.38%	0.27	3.12%	0.45
Lifetime Birding Stamp	\$117.45	16.53	\$266.63	48.25
Annual Birding Stamp	\$15.96	3.25	\$22.72	3.03

*Standard Error of the Mean

the payment methods; statistically significant differences were observed between these two groups for all payment vehicles with the exception of an excise tax on birding equipment.

DISCUSSION

There are several explanations for the significant differences in support between general Horicon users and ornithological clubs. First, people probably feel that they are already unfairly burdened by high taxation rates. Over 10 percent of the respondents involved in Smart Growth comprehensive planning process in eastern Waushara County indicated that existing property taxes and other excise taxes (gasoline) were placing a financial burden on them and their township (East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission 2005). Second, there is a general distrust of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by some individuals in the general population. Citizens often criticize WDNR personnel at public hearings for "shoddy science" and "fiscal mismanagement." Kinnell et al. (1998) determined that duck hunters and wildlife viewers did not trust government taxes earmarked for specific purposes. Finally, many respondents indicated that wildlife viewing should be free on state lands as natural resources are public goods, (ignoring the fact there are costs involved and government would need to get them from reallocation of current allocations or from new revenues.)

Familiarity with hunting stamps is likely instrumental in the support of both study samples. The Wisconsin DNR has successfully managed Wild

Turkey, Great Lake salmonids, and other game species using hunting stamps (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2004c). When asked for a substitute payment vehicle, hunters expressed greater trust in funds collected from the sale of the Migratory Duck Stamp (Kinnell et al. 1998). The support for an annual wildlife viewing stamp is understandable due to an established familiarity with stamps and license fees.

The Wisconsin Important Bird Area (IBA) Program is overseen by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI). WBCI has developed several criteria to evaluate natural areas for their importance in avian habitat. An IBA must maintain one or more important ecological features. First, the site must serve as habitat for a threatened, endangered, or species of concern. Second, the site must support a population of endemic or restricted-range species. Third, the site must contain an assemblage of species whose distributions are largely or wholly confined to a single biome. Finally, the site must support a large number of waterbirds. The IBA approach encompasses an ecosystem management strategy. The goals of the IBA are not to protect a single species, but instead to protect the habitat on which birds rely. Since several taxa of birds can share the same habitat (MacArthur and MacArthur, 1961), the IBA program identifies the habitat characteristics that are required for an assemblage of birds. By assessing both the spatial scales and ecological needs of bird populations instead of a single species, conservation actions can be directed comprehensively to all priority avian species within an ecosystem.

Ornithological club members (Sub-

group 2) displayed significantly greater support for all three payment vehicles. Ornithological club members are highly educated and already involved in conservation initiatives (Eubanks et. al., 1999). Like hunters, committed bird watchers understand that they are responsible for the preservation of avian habitats since they directly utilize natural resources. In addition, this group believes that all citizens directly utilize natural resources. Accordingly, all citizens should help pay for a habitat-based initiative such as the IBA program as it indirectly benefits mammals, amphibians, and other animal species. Thus, support for a general tax on all Wisconsin residents was noticeably higher among Subgroup 2.

To date, environmental taxation is relatively unknown to policy makers and the general public alike (Hoerner and Erikson 2000). Few programs exist such as the sulfur emissions trading permit program. Industrial companies are allowed to emit a specific amount of sulfur dioxide based upon a stock exchange program for environmental pollution control (Tietenberg 2001). Furthermore, the general population is not currently united on taxation issues. In order for future conservation taxes or stamps to be successful, two conditions must first be met (Hoerner and Erikson 2000). First, an environmental issue such as habitat conservation must be perceived as a pressing concern by the general population. Second, a specific tax dedicated to habitat preservation must be perceived as a solution, or a significant part of the solution, to habitat conservation.

A person's support for a specific taxation method (or other payment vehi-

cle) will be dependent on the level of commitment the individual has to conservation (Kinnell et al. 1998). This implies that support for any of the three offered payment vehicles will be directly correlated to the extent to which one participates in birding. These trends are corroborated by this study. In general, Subgroup 2 members were more supportive of all three payment vehicles. Furthermore, dedicated bird watchers may also believe that it is their responsibility to pay for habitat conservation. Kinnell et al. (1998) determined that Pennsylvania duck hunters felt obligated to pay for habitat conservation as a primary user of the natural resource base.

Current programs are not uniform in who pays for the maintenance and preservation of natural resources. According to McNeely (2001), the population of taxpayers should pay for the costs of establishing and maintaining wildlife habitat, a public good. Some resource use involves direct participant benefits, and user fees can be justified. Currently only Wisconsin State Parks and select recreational trails assess user fees to visitors, while State Natural Areas and Wildlife Areas do not. A consistent entrance fee policy would allow the public to better understand the need for increased public support of public wildlife habitat throughout the state and the "public goods" character of benefits received from such areas.

Case Example

Since its inception in 1986, the Natural Resources Foundation (NRF; 2006) has worked closely with the WDNR to protect and preserve natural resources in Wisconsin. Initially

founded as a "Friends of the WDNR" group, the NRF works to promote the knowledge, enjoyment, and stewardship of Wisconsin's natural resources and serves as a community foundation for the state's highest conservation needs. The group raises monies through public fundraising efforts and through individual, corporate, and foundation giving. The funds are allocated to finance conservation projects on public lands such as State Natural Areas. NRF fundraising has also been used to fund conservation projects by nonprofit groups and perform public outreach/education projects as well. The fundraising efforts of the NRF have subsidized projects such as the Whooping Crane (*Grus americanus*) introduction.

The NRF uses endowment funds as a principal tool in funding conservation projects in perpetuity. The Wisconsin Conservation Endowment is a permanent endowment fund established to meet a variety of conservation needs including endangered species protection; habitat protection and restoration; environmental education, community-based conservation; and protection of Wisconsin's waters. The Foundation also manages a general conservation fund to address a variety of conservation needs as they arise. The fund contains various individual funds which are invested and managed as a whole. To date, one individual fund is dedicated to avian conservation and habitat enhancement—the Dorathea Buckeridge Drotning Fund for Whooping Crane conservation.

Endowment funds are established to provide income for a specific conservation effort such as the protection and enhancement of avian habitat.

NRF endowment funds are established by donor-restricted gifts and expenditures are limited according to donor wishes. Some endowment funds, donor-advised funds, allow the donor to advise the Foundation on how the money is to be distributed. The principal of a permanent endowment must be maintained in perpetuity. As such, conservation funds are financed with interest from each fund. The NRF has allowed 5 percent of its endowment funds to be withdrawn annually to fund conservation projects. As with most endowment funds, monies cannot be withdrawn immediately. Instead, the catalyst donation is held for at least one year so interest may accrue.

Endowments differ from traditional funding sources in several ways. Previously discussed methods allocate monies to various projects, while endowment funds, unless unrestricted by the donor, usually target one specific interest. Historically, endowments have been managed to preserve capital while providing sufficient operating income. This provides a sustainable source of funding. Government spending is often allocated annually with the intent of spending the entire operating budget. Fundraising efforts from private individuals have also relied on one-time donations.

Due to the structured funding of endowments, an Important Bird Area Endowment Fund managed by the NRF or WBCI would provide a feasible option for avian habitat conservation in Wisconsin. Management goals for habitat projects would be overseen by WBCI to ensure complex and diverse habitat goals are met. Overall, an endowment fund dedicated to this purpose would provide: (1) safety of prin-

cial, (2) a reasonable market rate of return, and (3) sufficient liquidity to meet WBCI projects management needs.

Although WBCI would advise the NRF board on the distribution of funds from the IBA Endowment, individual nonprofit organizations and local bird clubs would still be essential in completing individual conservation projects. Organizations could submit proposals to WBCI for funding. Currently, a WBCI committee administers monies from the State Wildlife Grants. This committee could also distribute interest from the IBA endowment as well.

To establish an IBA endowment fund, several funding sources are needed. First, a catalyst grant is needed. A one-time \$20,000 gift would allow the donor(s) to advise how the monies are distributed; the donor could establish the parameters discussed in the preceding paragraph. Although this may appear to be the limiting factor in the success of an endowment, the source may be readily available. The Quad 30 campaign has raised over \$38,000 for bird conservation (N. Cutright, pers. comm.). These funds would provide the impetus for an IBA endowment. Additional funds must come from other sources. The Quad 30 campaign continues to raise funds; future contributions can be added to the endowment. Next, new fundraising initiatives will be needed to grow the fund's private donations to the Quad 30 campaign and funds from other WSO or WBCI fundraising initiatives can be added as they are received.

Other governmental funding mechanisms (excise taxes, wildlife viewing stamps, etc.) may or may not be used

to support an endowment or its programs. Funds received from legislative payment are, by statute, funneled through the legislative budget and typically are targeted for a specific state agency such as the WDNR. With legislative approval upon the creation of an excise tax or wildlife viewing stamp in the future, funds may be further redirected to an IBA endowment fund. Preliminary research has indicated Wisconsin residents support a wildlife viewing stamp; furthermore, the federal government has had high success rates with excise taxes such as P-R funds. Further research should be conducted to determine the characteristics of an effective program and the overall support from a statewide audience.

CONCLUSIONS

The general public may collectively feel that the WDNR, USFWS, and other governmental conservation agencies should be primarily and fiscally responsible for wildlife conservation. Even with shrinking governmental budgets, the general public may feel that the governmental agencies should continue to do their current workload with less funding. However, this attitude may contribute further to the decline of wildlife species and natural areas. Reduced funds for wildlife conservation may hamper efforts to protect birds and their habitats if new approaches to broaden the tax base for conservation from mostly users and concerned citizens to the general public are not implemented.

A more proactive approach is needed. Society can no longer view natural preserves as a free public

good. There is a need to internalize costs of resource preservation to ALL Wisconsin residents. The benefits received from natural resources should be more widely understood and, in some instances, offset with resources use fees. However, all citizens who use natural resources either through consumptive or nonconsumptive uses receive benefits from the natural resource base. Wisconsin residents receive benefits from natural resources preservation areas through off-site uses such as the ecological services (biodiversity, groundwater recharge, flood retention, etc.) that these resources provide. Thus, the responsibility for non-game wildlife conservation must be understood as belonging to all citizens.

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50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

The WSO has a long tradition of conducting and supporting ornithological research, especially cooperative programs. This issue lists the cooperative projects so far completed.

- “1939 – Spread of Starling in Wisconsin
- 1940 – Bald Eagle Range and Population Study
- 1941 – The Spread of the Cardinal Through Wisconsin
- 1942 – A Range and Population Study of the Purple Martin in Wisconsin
- 1946 – Further Studies on the Cardinal
- 1947 – The Dickcissel in Wisconsin
- 1949 – The American Egret in Wisconsin
- 1950 – The Yellow-headed Blackbird in Wisconsin
- 1951 – The Red-bellied Woodpecker in Wisconsin
- 1953 – Meadowlarks in Wisconsin
- 1955 – The Red-tailed Hawk in Wisconsin”

This issue also contains an account of a Black Rail seen by Mae and Alvin Peterson as part of their May Day count in the La Crosse area. From Onalaska, they “drove north to Midway and there took a country road to a nearby mud flat where sandpiper, herons, ducks, rails and Yellow-throats were numerous. We added the Yellow-headed Blackbird, Dowitcher, Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits, Red-backed, Pectoral, Least and other Sandpipers, and Green-winged Teal to our list. The real find here, however, was a Black Rail. It was seen twice, briefly, while running from one clump of vegetation to another, at a distance of not more than ten feet.” As a side note, they added a Bewick’s Wren to their list at Grandad Bluff.

(Excerpts from Vol. 18(3), 1956)

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Janet Flynn called this painting of Whooping Cranes "Unison Flag."

Lessons From the Seasons: Winter 2005–2006

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My first bird of the New Year was not a checklist highlight. To the contrary, it's guaranteed every year. When I opened my door to gather the morning newspaper, there, perched at the top of the silver maple in my front yard and in full song, was an American Robin. The day before, while helping with the Poynette Christmas Count, I encountered skunk cabbage on the verge of blooming. Temperatures both days in the upper 30s with a warm south wind evoked thoughts of March. These two days provided a brief snapshot of this winter.

The bird response phenomenon was more than in my little world; it was happening all across the state. Birders were reporting exceptional numbers for many species that normally are found in very low numbers or not at all. Examples of these unprecedented numbers can be understood by adding the reported numbers and assuming that at least a few birds wintered in areas not covered by birders. Scores of Yellow-rumped Warblers, hundreds of Hermit Thrushes, thousands of Eastern Bluebirds and tens of thousands of

American Robins most assuredly spent the winter in Wisconsin.

The precursor for this record-setting event occurred in the fall. Already reported in the fall "Lessons," it's a lesson worth repeating. The benign weather from early October through mid-November set the stage for these half-hardy species to linger in fall or maybe even attempt to overwinter. The below-normal weather from mid-November to December 21 was not harsh enough to push the species farther south. Half-hardy species such as blackbirds, American Robins, Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Eastern Bluebirds were found in record numbers on many Christmas Counts. The exceptionally mild January provided the right conditions for the birds to make it successfully through a Wisconsin winter.

Other phenomenal events made this winter incredibly memorable. Gyrfalcons and gulls aside, the most remarkable happening was the massive Snowy Owl invasion. This winter, well over 100 sightings were scattered throughout the state. The average of past invasion years is in the neighbor-

hood of 25. Myths still abound in explaining nature's functions. I heard reports of several diseases including viruses that caused brain malfunctions as being the reason for the irruptive behavior. The causal factor is mostly a dramatic drop in prey (lemmings and voles) to the north, although patchiness of prey populations, the crustiness of the snow cover, and temperatures also play a role.

Many other species utilize lemmings as a vital food source. Obvious birds are Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl. Not so obvious is the extensive utilization of lemmings by Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers. Moreover, gulls, especially Glaucous Gulls, feed heavily on these little rodents. This information is leading somewhere and that is a thought provoking and as yet unanswered question. Does the crash of lemming populations have a correlation with the numbers of Jaegers and Glaucous Gulls seen in Wisconsin?

Recent trends of warmer falls and especially winters are having a dramatic effect on another species. Carolina Wrens have for decades appeared in the state after a series of mild winters, though never in the numbers as seen in the past few years and especially this winter. The forty or more Carolina Wrens recorded appeared to have successfully survived the winter. Successful nesting documented in the spring reports indicates fit birds. This species has shown significant increases according to Breeding Bird Survey data. Range-wide increases point towards large-scale climate change, because this species is

quite susceptible to harsh winters. After severe winters in the early 1980s, the population was depressed as far south as northern Alabama, and it took several years for the species to fully reclaim its "normal" range.

Seemingly independent from the weather and food availability factors, two other species had an excellent winter.

The 12 to 14 reported Varied Thrushes in the state were at or near record levels. This species of the Pacific Northwest normally winters in coastal areas from Washington to southern California. This mild winter band along the coast seems to indicate a relatively short and direct migration route. Every year, however, several birds end up well east of their normal winter range, sometimes as far as New England. Why a small fraction of the population regularly flies east is unknown.

The other species making these strange migrations is the Townsend's Solitaire. This species is an enigma to me. Wandering in a semi-nomadic fashion is par for the course. Great fluctuations in the magnitude of migration seem to depend on fruit resources. In Wisconsin, the species does exhibit its nomadic tendencies, but, in recent years it appears that Devil's Lake State Park, especially the east bluff is a "regular" wintering ground. Nine individuals were reported this past winter. Further investigations and monitoring of this species are needed to answer this enigmatic riddle of nature.

The Winter Season: 2005–2006

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I'll begin with a question. How does one capture the appeal of winter, a season so many people flee, given the opportunity, or begrudgingly endure? But winter, like all seasons, has its charms, and they can vary from the sparkling beauty of hoar frost crystals and the gentle falling of a white carpet to the poet's "dear delights of the long, long nights." I especially like the comment of Henry Beston in his classic *The Outermost House*. "Winter is no mere negation, no mere absence of summer; it is another and a positive presence . . . a phase of earth . . . half real, perhaps, and half subjective."

This winter's "positive presence" in Wisconsin began with cold and snowy weather; the landscape was all white, and the highs were in the teens and twenties, some 10–20 degrees below normal. For me, it also began with swans. I'll quote from my journal for 4 December: "Snowfalls and mainly nw winds, with scuttling clouds, the past few days; lows in the single digits. This morning at 0855 I park by the sw corner of Devil's Lake as a group of 7 swans flies east and low overhead. Snow is blowing off the trees as a group of 13 appears, also low, at 0910, but these birds circle by the lake. I wonder if they will land, but after 10

minutes they head east. At 0922 I again hear yodeling, but this time from the north—a group of approximately 300 is high over the Steinke Basin area. At 0955 a flock of about 150 appears high over the south shore area, and less than a minute later a group of 300 appears high over the Steinke Basin area. Where are these birds coming from, and where are they heading? Did they begin their journey from the Mississippi River? The pools there are freezing over, I find out from Wisbirdnet, and swans were flying over La Crosse today, and also over Madison and Milwaukee. I expect that some of these birds continued eastwards across Lake Michigan into Michigan and perhaps beyond."

Temperatures moderated in the second week, but the highs still were below freezing. Snowfalls continued on a regular basis, and below normal temperatures returned in the middle of the month. But then the winter solstice ushered in milder, often marginal weather with freezing rain and widespread thaw, which prevailed for the remainder of the month—December 2005 was really two months, weather-wise. The first three weeks were wintry, the rest of the month was March-like. In the last week, robins began to ap-



pear on residential lawns, for example in Baraboo, presumably hunting worms in the newly exposed and essentially frost-free ground.

The spring-like weather continued into January, where on the first day of the new year, in Baraboo, a bat was flying and a chorus frog was calling. But this mild spell was accompanied by overcast days, and I was reminded of the Louie Armstrong song “Blue Skies.” I wanted to change “blue skies” to “gray skies”—“Nothin’ but blue skies do I see.” Finally, in the second

week of January, sunny days (with even milder temperatures) returned. Open ground became widespread, and leads began to appear on ponds and shallower lakes; one began to think ice break-up. Open water became more prevalent than in December; in the Madison area, for example, a variety of waterfowl could be found in Lake Monona by the Madison Gas and Electric warm water outlet—no big surprise, but also in Lower Mud Lake by McFarland. On 29 January, as reported by William P. Mueller, Lake

Geneva in Walworth County was at least half-open and ice-free, and people were fishing from boats.

The mild weather extended across much of North America; numerous recreational events were cancelled or altered. People, including meteorologists, were asking, "What happened to winter?" Mike Halpert, a forecaster for the federal government, had this to say in mid month: "We don't see the return of that arctic air." Occasional snowfalls, for example on the 20th over much of the state, at least made it look wintry, but above-normal temperatures continued.

Various natural events can be used to compare the seasons from year to year. The drumming of the Ruffed Grouse, for example, is usually first heard sometime in March or April. This season, in Monroe County, Lennie Lichter heard drumming on 14 January (he first heard it in 2004 on 19 February, also an early date). Also earlier than usual were these events: a pair of Eastern Bluebird inspecting a nest box in Devil's Lake State Park on 27 January, a chipmunk above ground in Oshkosh on 28–29 January (Bettie Harriman) and in Oconto County on the 29th (Tom Erdman), and pussy willow emerging in the Bong Recreational Area on 28 January (Daryl Tessen).

The jet stream, that high-altitude river of air that flows from west to east across North America dividing warm air from cold, usually follows a zig-zag course across the United States and Canada in winter. But in January 2006 it instead flowed eastwards in almost a straight line across the northern part of the United States, essentially forming a fence keeping cold air out and allowing milder air in. As a result, this

month turned out to be the warmest on record for a total of 15 states, including Wisconsin, and the second warmest on record for another 3 states. Whatever would February bring?

Initially it brought more mild weather, and I began to wonder: is Devil's Lake going to open up in February for the first time ever? But then the jet stream began sliding into a more typical winter pattern, and snow (up to 10 inches) and low temperatures returned on the 15th. Temperatures moderated towards the end of the month, and early migrants, such as geese, Sandhill Crane and Red-winged Blackbird, began to appear in numbers.

I'll emphasize the comment of Tom Soulen, Summer Field Note Compiler: "The number of contributors who provide information on weather unfortunately continues to dwindle." Don't be shy, folks—send in weather summaries with your reports. For this winter, Tessen emphasized changeability—much snow and cold, then record warmth and low snowfall, then cold and heavy snow again. Ryan Brady noted that waterways were frozen much of the period in Ashland and Bayfield Counties, while in Iron County Bruce Bacon reported a mild January, with less than a foot of snow on the ground. In southern Wisconsin both Tom Ashman (Dane County) and Karen Etter Hale (Jefferson County) reported wintry conditions in early December and mid February, unusually mild conditions in between, and seasonal temperatures in late February. Dane County had a record period (43 consecutive days) with temperatures above 30 degrees every day, and Jefferson County had a high tem-

perature of at least 30 degrees every day in January; also in Jefferson County in January, it rained on 8 days and snowed on only one.

And now the birds. Remember all those Great Gray Owls from the winter of 2004–2005? Brady, in his paper in the Spring 2006 *Passenger Pigeon* (Great Gray Owls in Northern Ashland and Bayfield Counties, pages 19–34), documented at least 31 in Bayfield and Ashland Counties during the summer of 2005, and believed that at least another 20 or so went undetected. There was no evidence of nesting. After mid October 2005, Great Gray Owls became scarce, and this winter he found just 4 in January and 3 in February. Additional owls from last winter's incursion may have been overlooked, and hopefully Brady's suggestion to survey for nesting individuals in spring and summer 2006 was heeded.

Ursula Petersen (Snowy Owl irruption in Wisconsin in winter 2005–2006, printed online 26 March 2006) summarized the Snowy Owl incursion in Wisconsin for the period 17 November 2005–15 March 2006. She was able to track a total of 112 owls: 81 adult females and young, 12 adult males, and 19 undetermined. More than half were found along the Great Lakes, including an estimated 38 individuals, approximately 30 of them immatures, in the Ashland area (Brady). This species was found in a total of 31 counties as far south as Dane and Kenosha Counties. Some died from accidents and starvation, while others apparently found sufficient food.

Three other non-passerines are worthy of note. Red-throated Loon was reported from Lake Michigan (Ozaukee County) in December, and (Milwaukee,

Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties) in February; there have been only two earlier records: 16 January 1949 in Milwaukee County, and 7 January–1 May 1987 in Manitowoc County. Red-necked Grebe was found in Ozaukee County in December, and (Wisconsin's second February record) 8 February. And in St. Croix County a Band-tailed Pigeon frequented a feeder throughout the period and into the spring. [See cover photo and "By the Wayside."]

The following passerines are worthy of note. Northern Shrike was especially numerous in the Ashland area, where Brady reported a total of 208 sightings of possibly dozens of birds within 20 miles of Ashland; at least 21 had territories within a 5-mile radius of the city. Two primarily southern species, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren, were found in record numbers on a record number of Christmas Bird Counts. Golden-crowned Kinglet, after the Christmas Bird Counts, was reported from a dozen counties, north to the Ashland area, Langlade County, and Florence County. American Robin continues to be widespread and numerous in winter, and this winter the Hermit Thrush was also in relatively high numbers. Varied Thrush was reported from approximately 11 counties, a total of at least 14 birds. Bohemian Waxwing was found on 10 Christmas Bird Counts, a total of 329 birds, and in 7 northern counties and one southern county after the Counts. The only warbler for the winter period was the Yellow-rumped. Lapland Longspur was in record numbers on the Christmas Bird Counts, and reported from 10 counties after the Counts, while Snow Bunting was wide-

spread throughout, except for the southwestern quarter of the state.

Only two of the winter finches, Purple Finch and Pine Siskin, were widespread and numerous. The others, exclusive of the Christmas Bird Counts, were noted as follows: Pine Grosbeak from 10 northern counties and Winnebago County; Red Crossbill from 4 northern counties, and White-winged Crossbill from 5 northern counties; Common Redpoll in 13 northern counties and Winnebago County, and Hoary Redpoll in one county; and Evening Grosbeak in 10 northern counties and Milwaukee County. Evening Grosbeak has been decreasing in numbers on the Christmas Bird Counts, especially in the northeast and Great Lakes regions, since approximately 1980, after the last major outbreak of spruce budworm during the 1970s (long-time birders will remember those big winter flocks of Evening Grosbeak in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s). This finch feeds heavily on spruce budworm larvae, and also feeds the larvae to its young, so its numbers rise and fall with the availability of this insect (see *American Birds*, Volume 58, pages 26–33).

Exotics continue to make news. The Great Tit (including nesting birds) has now been reported from several counties (Racine and Milwaukee Counties this period). A European Jay was photographed at a feeder in Plymouth, Sheboygan County, 12 December (Graham Hoffman and Kristin Hoffman). In Iron County at his feeder, Bacon found a dead Pine Siskin **and** (on 10 January) a dead Eurasian Siskin; it was photographed and will be given to an educational institution. This was Wisconsin's second record for this species; the first was found on

the Kenosha Christmas Bird Count in 1973 (*Passenger Pigeon*, Spring 1974, Volume 36, Number 1, page 38). From Bristol in Kenosha County, Nancy Wisowaty reported Eurasian Tree Sparrow at her feeder, a total of 4 on 17 February and 2 on the 18th; this is the fifth Wisconsin record for this species. It was first noted in 1966 in Waukesha County (Robbins, Samuel D., Jr. 1991. *Wisconsin Birdlife*. UW Press, Madison, page 606), and subsequently in Pierce County, Rock County, and Door County; generally the birds overwinter at feeders, the latest date being 30 March. Still another exotic, European Goldfinch, has been noted in recent years (including one at a feeder in Sauk County in the winter of 2002–2003, which I chose not to report at the time). This winter one was seen on 14 December in Green County by Andy Paulios. It should be emphasized that the origin of all these birds is unknown, and that the Records Committee rejected the Eurasian Siskin and the Eurasian Tree Sparrow because of the uncertainty of origin.

Late fall migration was reported for Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Cackling Goose, Tundra Swan, and Sandhill Crane, and inferred for various waterfowl and gulls.

Spring migration was reported for these species: Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross's Goose, Canada Goose, Cackling Goose, Trumpeter Swan, various ducks, Northern Harrier, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Sandhill Crane, American Robin (?), Song Sparrow (?), Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

These signs of spring, in addition to those mentioned earlier, were also



Figure 1. It is uncommon to see a Pileated Woodpecker, even rarer to see a male and female together. On 5 December 2005 my wife and I first saw one, then two, Pileateds coming to our suet feeders (rarer yet). But on 15 December, something special happened: Both the male (left) and female came to the same suet feeder at the same time. The result? One of my rarest wildlife photographs.—Kent Hall, Stevens Point, Portage County.

noted: a newly fledged House Sparrow on 16 December in Neenah, Winnebago County (Kevin Kearns; perhaps better considered a sign of the fall season); Northern Cardinal singing on 1 January in Dane County (Martin Evanson); Great Horned Owl calling on 9 January in Douglas County (the LaValleys); and Mourning Dove calling on 27 February in Oshkosh, Winnebago County (Paul Bruce).

A total of 109 people contributed reports, photos, and sketches for 60 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. The counties with the most coverage (five or more contributors per county) were the following: Ashland, Bayfield, Brown, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Washington, and Winnebago. Twenty-one counties were covered by just one con-

tributor per county: Adams, Barron, Burnett, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Fond du Lac, Iron, Jackson, La Crosse, Langlade, Lincoln, Menominee, Monroe, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, Shawano, Trempealeau, Waupaca, and Wood. These 12 counties were not covered: Price and Clark in the northern half of the state; Pierce and Pepin along the state's western boundary; Vernon, Richland, Grant, and Lafayette in the southwestern corner; Juneau, Marquette, and Green Lake in central Wisconsin; and Calumet in eastern Wisconsin.

The following statewide species are not included in the species accounts: Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker (Figure 1), American Crow, and Black-capped Chickadee.

These abbreviations are included

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

There were 99 Christmas Bird Counts in Wisconsin this winter. Once again my thanks to Bob Domagalski for sending a copy of the Christmas Bird Count report in time for me to include the highlights in this seasonal summary.

Thanks also to Noel Cutright for sending a copy of the Wisconsin results of the Great Backyard Bird Count for 2006, updated 7 March; a total of 115 species was reported.

REPORTS

(1 December 2005–28 February 2006)

Greater White-fronted Goose—One on the Hudson CBC, and (A. Holschbach, Thiessen) one in Dane County 9–14 January. Migrants (or likely migrants) in Rock County 12 February (Yoerger), Dane County 25 February (Yoerger), and (total 6) Racine County 27 February (Gustafson).

Snow Goose—3 December, 6 in Dane County and 50 in Racine County. Total 5 on 4 CBCs. Migrants (total 6) in Racine County 17 February (Pugh), and (a group of 80–100 and a group of 8) in Kenosha County 20 February (m. obs.).

Ross's Goose—An immature on Lake Kegonsa, Dane County, 2 December (Thiessen). From 1–6 migrants in Racine County, 23 February–EOP (documented by DeBoer, Gustafson, Howe, Wood).

Canada Goose—TTP in some 20 counties scattered throughout the state, including Douglas County (maximum 23 on 5 January—LaValleys). Ziebell in Winnebago County reported a maximum of 500 on 4 December. Migrants in several southern and eastern counties by 17–18 February (m. obs.).

Cackling Goose—Exclusive of the CBCs, December and January records (mainly just one bird) for these counties: Waukesha, Jefferson (24 on 3 December—Hale), Iowa, Dane, Ke-

waunee, and Milwaukee. Migrants in February in Kenosha County (several on the 20th—McFall) and Racine County (20 on the 23rd—Farr).

Mute Swan—After the CBCs, reports for 9 counties: Marinette, Oconto, Sheboygan, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth, Waukesha, Dane, and Columbia. Maximum 9 in Dane and Columbia Counties (m. obs.).

Trumpeter Swan—After the CBCs, these reports: Douglas County, 6 on 11 January; Polk County, a pair on frozen Clear Lake, 25 February; a banded pair which nests in Polk County with young in Barron County from approximately mid December–EOP; Waupaca County, 21 January; and Ozaukee County, 20 February—EOP (m. obs.).

Tundra Swan—A big flight on 4 December (see the introduction to this seasonal summary); a number of flocks on this date in Sauk, Dane, Jefferson, Walworth, and Racine Counties. Latest date in the Ashland area—26 December, and latest date in Winnebago and Door Counties—17 December. A total of 250 on 18 December in Dane County (m. obs.).

Wood Duck—After the CBCs, these reports: one in Racine County 12 January; one in Milwaukee County 7–12 January; and 2 TTP and a migrant pair on 28 February in Dane County (m. obs.).

Gadwall—TTP in these counties: Chippewa (3 pair), Dane (maximum 150 in mid February), Milwaukee (maximum 76 on 29 January), Racine, and Rock; also one in Columbia County on 29 January, and one in Sheboygan County on 3 February. A group of 4 on 18 February in St. Croix County may have been migrants (m. obs.).

American Wigeon—TTP (1–2) in Winnebago, Sheboygan, and Milwaukee Counties (m. obs.).

American Black Duck—TTP in some 17 counties in eastern, south central, and northwestern Wisconsin, north to Marathon, St. Croix, and Barron Counties, and the Ashland area (m. obs.). After December, maximum 40 on 11 February in Winnebago County (Ziebell).

Mallard—TTP in eastern and south central Wisconsin, also Marathon County, St. Croix County, Barron County, and the Ashland area (m. obs.).

Northern Shoveler—After the CBCs, these reports: a female TTP in Chippewa County

(Polk), and TTP in Dane County, maximum 79 on 3 January (Thiessen).

Northern Pintail—After the CBCs, these reports: Dane County, two TTP, also a group of five (likely migrants) on 28 February; one TTP in Milwaukee County; and TTP in Rock County (m. obs.).

Green-winged Teal—Other than the CBCs, one report: a female on the Wisconsin River in Sauk County, 13 January (Thiessen).

Canvasback—Total 143 on 14 CBCs. Later reports: TTP (1–5) in Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Racine, and Rock Counties, also January records for Kewaunee and Walworth Counties (m. obs.).

Redhead—Total 320 on 14 CBCs. TTP in Dane, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Rock, and Sheboygan Counties; after the CBCs, maximum 10, except in Milwaukee County, where Tessen noted 200+ on 1 January and 450+ on 25 February. The latter report undoubtedly included migrants; also migrants in the last week of February in Racine and Winnebago Counties. January reports for these counties: Brown (2), Kewaunee (20), and Walworth (m. obs.).

Ring-necked Duck—Total 26 on 4 CBCs. TTP in Dane County, maximum 2, and Milwaukee County; 26 February in Rock County (m. obs.).

Greater Scaup—TTP in Lake Michigan, north to at least Kewaunee County, maximum numbers (2000–3000) in December; also TTP in Walworth County. After the CBCs, also in Marathon County (29 January) and Winnebago County (11–23 February).

Lesser Scaup—TTP in Lake Michigan, north to at least Sheboygan County; Dane County; Rock County; Walworth County; and Winnebago County. After the CBCs, maximum 36 on 2 February in Ozaukee County (m. obs.).

Harlequin Duck—Maximum 2 females in Milwaukee County, 17 December–7 January (documented by Bontly, Gustafson, Wood); in Racine County, a male from 31 December–20 February (documented by Diehl, Gustafson, Hughes), and a female on 27 February (E. Howe—photo).

Surf Scoter—Milwaukee County, one on the CBC, and (Tessen) one on 28 January; Racine County, one on 24 February (Gustafson); and Kenosha County, 2 on 20 February (McFall).

White-winged Scoter—Door County, 27 December; Milwaukee CBC, one; and Racine County, 15 on 10 December (Pugh), latest date 1 January.

Black Scoter—Sheboygan County, one on 3 December; TTP in Ozaukee County (documented by Wood); Milwaukee County, 23 December–12 February, maximum 2; Racine County, 11 December; and Dane County, 3 December and the CBC (m. obs.).

Long-tailed Duck—TTP in only one county—Milwaukee (maximum 46 on 2 February); also February Lake Michigan records for Sheboygan County (100 on the 11th), Ozaukee County (200 on the 11th), and Racine County (8 on the 24th). An immature male on the Wolf River in Winneconne, Winnebago County, 27 February (Maleug —photo).

Bufflehead—TTP in Lake Michigan, north to at least Sheboygan County; a January report for Kewaunee County. Maximum 190 on 7 January in Milwaukee County. Also these reports after the CBCs: TTP in Walworth County, 29 January in Marathon County, and (migrants?) 2 in Marinette County 17 February (m. obs.).

Common Goldeneye—TTP in these localities: the Ashland area; St. Croix County; the Wisconsin River from at least Dane and Sauk Counties north to Marathon County; Marinette County; Outagamie County; Winnebago County, where Ziebell reported a maximum of 160 on 11 February; Lake Michigan in southeastern Wisconsin, where Frank reported a maximum of 534 on 2 February in Ozaukee County, and a maximum of 850 on 29 January in Milwaukee County; and Walworth and Rock Counties. The LaValleys reported a total of 52 on 5 January in Douglas County.

Barrow's Goldeneye—After an absence of a year, this species was again found in Lake Michigan. Tessen reported an adult male in Ozaukee County, 3 December, and an adult male was noted at Doctor's Park in Milwaukee County, 11 December–14 February (documented by Bontly, Frank, Stutz, Tessen, Wood).

Hooded Merganser—TTP in these localities: Lake Michigan in southeastern Wisconsin; Dane County; Dodge County; and Walworth County. Maximum after the CBCs, 29 on 4 January in Dane County (Thiessen). Possible migrants (1–2) in Marinette County 20 February, and Sauk County 28 February (m. obs.).

Common Merganser—TTP in these localities: Lake Michigan from Kenosha County to

Door County; Marinette and Oconto Counties; Outagamie and Winnebago Counties (maximum 414 on 11 February in Winnebago County—Ziebell); the Wisconsin River in southern Wisconsin; and Rock and Walworth Counties. Possible migrants in Marathon County, 25 February–EOP (m. obs.).

Red-breasted Merganser—TTP in these localities: Lake Michigan in southeastern Wisconsin, and (maximum 1–2) Dane County. One on 9 January in Bayfield County, and in Marathon County from 29 January–EOP (m. obs.).

Ruddy Duck—Total 66 on 9 CBCs. After the CBCs, Lake Michigan records for Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties, generally just one bird, also Rock and Walworth Counties, and (TTP) Dane County (m. obs.).

Gray Partridge—Total 57 on 6 CBCs. Later reports: Brown County, 7 and 9 February, maximum 10 (m. obs.), and Marathon County, 12 on 1 January (J. Holschbach).

Ring-necked Pheasant—Brady reported releases in the Ashland area. In northeastern Wisconsin, north to Oconto County (m. obs.).

Ruffed Grouse—Total 130 on the CBCs, the lowest number since the 1969 Count when 125 were tallied; when calculated on the basis of field party hours, the lowest relative number ever.

Spruce Grouse—No reports, including the CBCs.

Sharp-tailed Grouse—Gilman CBC, 7, and Grantsburg CBC, 7; no later reports.

Greater Prairie-Chicken—Adams CBC, 21, and Spencer CBC, 12; one later report—2 on 10 January in Portage County (Tessen).

Wild Turkey—After the CBCs, reports for 27 counties, north to Burnett, Washburn, Marathon, Langlade, Florence, and Marinette Counties (m. obs.).

Northern Bobwhite—Total 64 on 5 CBCs; no later reports.

Red-throated Loon—These records for Lake Michigan: at least 2 in Ozaukee County, 3 December–3 February (documented by Kavanagh, also noted by Tessen and Uttech); 3 in Sheboygan County 3 February (documented by A. Holschbach); and one in Milwaukee County

12 February (documented by Prestby). Unusual for February; only two earlier records.

Common Loon—Single birds on the Kenosha, Madison, and Trempealeau CBCs. Later reports for Milwaukee County: one on 7 January, and (calling!) 2 in winter plumage on 2 February (Frank).

Pied-billed Grebe—2 December in Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties; 2 on the Lake Geneva CBC, and one still in Walworth County 5 February; and (Thiessen) one in a river in Stoughton, Dane County (BOP and EOP), for the third consecutive winter.

Horned Grebe—Early December records (1st through the 3rd) for Dane, Racine, and Waukesha Counties (m. obs.). Later reports: Lake Geneva in Walworth County 29 January (Mueller), Milwaukee County, 13 December–7 January (m. obs.), and Ozaukee County 28 January (Wood). Single birds in all cases.

Red-necked Grebe—Tessen in Ozaukee County found 2 on 3 December, and (Wisconsin's second February record) one on 8 February.

American White Pelican—This species was noted in Brown County, 4 on 6 January and one on 21 January (Tessen), and in Buffalo County, one on the Mississippi River just above lock and dam 5 on 10 February (Schnabel), Wisconsin's 10th and 11th winter records.

Double-crested Cormorant—Total 52 on 7 CBCs. Later reports: Brown County, 9 on 6 January and 2 on 21 January (Tessen); Winnebago County, 1–2 through 14 January (Ziebell); and Ozaukee County, one through 12 January (Frank, Uttech).

Great Blue Heron—TTP in these counties: Buffalo, Dane, Iowa, and Rock; February records for Columbia, Milwaukee, and Walworth Counties (m. obs.). Mainly single birds.

Turkey Vulture—22 January, one in Sheboygan County (Brassers).

Bald Eagle—TTP in some 10 northern counties, including Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Florence, and Oconto Counties, also TTP in a number of central and southern counties (m. obs.). After 20+ years, the first immature on the annual eagle count in Jefferson County on 12 January (Hale).

Northern Harrier—TTP in Dodge and Winnebago Counties, with February records for

10 counties, north to Marathon County (4 on 11 February). Migration most pronounced from 25–28 February (m. obs.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk—After the CBCs, noted in 14 counties scattered throughout the state except for the southwest and the northeast (m. obs.).

Cooper's Hawk—After the CBCs, noted in 21 counties, north to La Crosse County, Marathon County, Langlade County, and Oconto County (m. obs.).

Northern Goshawk—After the CBCs, reports for these counties: Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Florence, Marinette, and Oconto (m. obs.).

Red-shouldered Hawk—Total 20 on 15 CBCs. Later reports: Iowa County, TTP, maximum 3 on 23 February (A. Holschbach), and Milwaukee County, 23 December–12 January (m. obs.).

Red-tailed Hawk—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Douglas, Marathon, and (?) Oconto. Noted in the Ashland area 2 January, and in Florence County 4 January (m. obs.).

Rough-legged Hawk—TTP in much of Wisconsin. Latest dates reported for extreme southern Wisconsin were 18 February in Rock County, and 22 February in Waukesha County (m. obs.).

Golden Eagle—Exclusive of the CBCs, these reports: 2 on 21 January in Buffalo County (Polk), and one on 10 January in Jackson County (Tessen).

American Kestrel—Northward to these counties: Bayfield, one on 8 January; Barron, TTP; Taylor, 15 January; Marathon, TTP; and Oconto, TTP (m. obs.).

Merlin—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 10 counties, including Rock and Walworth (m. obs.).

Gyr Falcon—Brady for Ashland and Bayfield Counties, 3 December–6 February, reported an adult gray morph (probably a male), which he believed was the same bird that overwintered here last year (documented by Brady, Prestby, Wood), and also an immature gray morph (probably a male), 15–17 January. Also a gray morph in Brown County, 13–17 February (documented by Baumann, Bohm), and an undocumented bird in Manitowoc County on 9 December.

Peregrine Falcon—TTP in these counties: Winnebago (one pair), Milwaukee, and Racine, and probably TTP in Sheboygan and Ozaukee Counties (m. obs.).

Virginia Rail—Total 6 on 3 CBCs. No later reports.

American Coot—TTP in these counties: Dane (approximately 140—Tessen), Ozaukee, Milwaukee (maximum 90 at BOP—Tessen, 18 on 12 January—Frank), Racine, and (Lake Geneva) Walworth (hundreds on 29 January—Mueller).

Sandhill Crane—Dischler reported a flock of approximately 45 flying southeast over Poynette in Columbia County on 2 December at 10 AM. February records, mostly from the 24th to the 28th (beginning on the 10th in Ozaukee County), in 8 eastern and southern counties (m. obs.).

Killdeer—La Crosse and Columbus CBCs, total 3. One later report: one on 29 January in Sauk County (Prestby and Stutz).

Wilson's Snipe—Excluding the CBCs, these reports: maximum 2 in Oconto County, 4–20 December and 13 February (Smiths), and one in Milwaukee County 19 January (Frank).

Ring-billed Gull—In Lake Michigan, TTP north to Sheboygan County, 21 January in Kewaunee County, and 2 January in Marinette County. In Lake Superior, through 10 January in Douglas County, and (one bird) 6 January in Bayfield County. Also TTP in these counties: Winnebago, maximum 200 on 28 February; Waukesha; Walworth; and (?) Dane (m. obs.).

California Gull—A second winter bird at the McKinley Marina in Milwaukee County, 3 December (documented by Idzikowski), and a first winter bird at South Shore Park in Milwaukee County, 11 December (documented by Idzikowski).

Herring Gull—TTP in Lake Michigan, north to Marinette County; through at least 18 December and reappearing 12 February in Oconto County. In Lake Superior, TTP in Douglas County and the Ashland area, with 800+ in Bayfield County on 3 January, and 200 on 22 January. Also TTP in these counties: Winnebago, maximum 1500 on 14 January; Marathon; Columbia; Sauk; Dane; and Waukesha (m. obs.). Pugh tallied 650 on 24 February in Racine County.

Thayer's Gull—Lake Michigan reports for Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Kewaunee Counties, maximum 5, from 3 December–27 February. Also Walworth County (the Lake Geneva CBC), Dane County (the Madison CBC), and Sauk County one on 20 January).

Iceland Gull—Lake Michigan reports for Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Kewaunee Counties, maximum 3, 17 December–27 February (m. obs.; documented by Frank, Gustafson, Wood). In Bayfield County, Brady documented a second winter bird with 800+ Herring Gulls, 3 January, and Mueller and Prestby documented a second year bird, 22 January. Also these reports: one on the Lake Geneva CBC in Walworth County, and an adult from 14–25 February in Waukesha County (Gustafson).

Lesser Black-backed Gull—Including the CBCs, Lake Michigan reports for Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, and Brown Counties, maximum 3, approx. 17 December–27 February (m. obs.; documented by Frank, Gustafson, Prestby, Tessen). Also these reports: 4 on the Lake Geneva CBC, one on the Madison CBC, and one on the Wisconsin River in Columbia County, 11 December (documented by A. Holschbach), and 29 January (documented by Prestby).

Glaucous Gull—Total 35 on 8 CBCs. Lake Michigan reports for these counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Kewaunee, 3 December–26 February, maximum 12 on 21 January in Kewaunee County (m. obs.). Lake Superior reports for Douglas County (9 on 21 December—LaValleys), and Bayfield County (a first winter bird 30 December–3 January, and a second winter bird 31 December—Brady). Also these reports of single birds: Marathon County, 18 January; Winnebago County, 9 December–EOP; and the Lake Geneva CBC.

Great Black-backed Gull—Total 12 on 6 CBCs. Lake Michigan reports for Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, and Manitowoc Counties (m. obs.), maximum 22 on 21 January in Kewaunee County (Tessen). Brady found two first winter birds, 31 December–3 January, in Bayfield County. Also these reports: Marathon County, 30 December–14 January, maximum 2, and Winnebago County, 1–27 December, one (m. obs.).

Rock Pigeon—North to the following counties, where TTP: Bayfield, Ashland, Florence, Marinette (m. obs.).

Band-tailed Pigeon—One coming to a feeder in Roberts, St. Croix County, from “late” November 2005 into April 2006 (Agger).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Total 16 on 3 CBCs: Bridgeport, Pardeeville, and Hales Corners. No later reports.

Mourning Dove—North to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas (maximum 12 on 3 February—LaValleys), Bayfield, Ashland, Forest, Florence, (maximum 52 on 11 January—Kavanagh), and Marinette (m. obs.).

Eastern Screech-Owl—TTP in these counties: Dane, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Waukesha, and Winnebago (m. obs.).

Snowy Owl—At least 112 in 31 counties. TTP in some counties, for example Winnebago. See the introduction to this seasonal account for a summary of Ursula Petersen's online report.

Northern Hawk Owl—No reports in stark contrast to last winter.

Great Gray Owl—In Ashland and Bayfield Counties, at least 4 in January and 3 in February; doubtless more were present (Brady, Wood). See the introduction to this seasonal account.

Long-eared Owl—Total 21 on 10 CBCs. Later reports: TTP in Ozaukee County (Uttech), and Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County, 17 December–21 February, maximum 10 (Gustafson).

Short-eared Owl—Total 21 on 12 CBCs. Later reports for these counties: Iowa (14 January), Dane (apparently at least one TTP), Dodge (12 February), and Waukesha (21 January–25 February, maximum 9).

Boreal Owl—An undocumented bird (digital photos—but not submitted?) found injured in Marinette County on 19 February (Johnson).

Northern Saw-whet Owl—Total 22 on 9 CBCs. Later reports: Dane County (31 December and 8 January), Sauk County (at least 8 calling in Devil's Lake State Park on 7 February—A. Holschbach), and Iowa County (8 February).

Belted Kingfisher—TTP, or presumably so, in these counties: Dane, Iowa, Marathon, Washington, and Waupaca (m. obs.).

Red-headed Woodpecker—Total 55 on 23 CBCs. After the Counts, noted in Dane,

Kenosha, Walworth, and Washburn Counties (m. obs.).

Red-bellied Woodpecker—CBC numbers continue to rise. After the Counts, northernmost reports in the following counties, where TTP: Barron, Marathon, and Oconto (m. obs.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Total 50 on 28 CBCs, which are record highs for both number of birds and number of Counts. After the Counts, just a half dozen or so reported in 4 counties: Dane, Iowa, Sauk, and Waukesha (m. obs.).

Black-backed Woodpecker—Including the CBCs, records for Vilas and Forest Counties, and (one in late February—Kearns) Winnebago County.

Northern Flicker—Like the sapsucker, a record number of birds (394) on a record number (60) of CBCs. After the Counts, found in 14 counties, north to Trempealeau, Waupaca, and Oconto Counties (m. obs.).

Eastern Phoebe—One in Sauk County 21 December (Persche), and one in Columbia County 25 November–22 December (Schwalbes). First winter records in 3 years.

Northern Shrike—After the CBCs, reports for 23 counties scattered throughout the state, except for the extreme southwestern and central counties. Especially numerous in the Ashland area; see the introduction for this seasonal account. Still in southern Wisconsin, for example Waukesha County, EOP (m. obs.).

Gray Jay—Total 36 on 9 CBCs. After the Counts, noted in these counties: Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Price, Vilas, Oneida, Forest, and Florence (m. obs.).

Blue Jay—Near record numbers on the CBCs.

Common Raven—Southernmost reports for La Crosse County, where Ruhser noted one on 12 December (“uncommon”), Adams County (10 January), and Kewaunee County (6 and 21 January). Polk reported one on 27 January in Dunn County (“unusual”).

Horned Lark—High numbers (6703) on the CBCs. TTP in scattered counties, for example Barron, Dane, Outagamie, Winnebago, and (?) Rock. Maximum numbers generally in February, for example the 12th in Oconto County and the 20th in Outagamie County (m. obs.).

Great Tit—Reports for Racine and Milwaukee Counties. See the discussion of exotic species in the introduction for this seasonal account.

Boreal Chickadee—Including the CBCs, reports for the Ashland area, and Vilas, Oneida, and Forest Counties (m. obs.).

Tufted Titmouse—This species continues to increase in both number of individuals and number of Counts on the CBCs. TTP in these counties: La Crosse, Sauk, Columbia, Iowa, Dane, Jefferson, Green, Rock, Walworth, Waukesha, and Winnebago (m. obs.).

Red-breasted Nuthatch—High numbers on the CBCs, mainly in northern Wisconsin. After the Counts, reports for 23 counties, including 11 south central and southeastern counties (m. obs.).

White-breasted Nuthatch—Northwards to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Forest, Florence, and Marinette (m. obs.).

Brown Creeper—After the CBCs, just two northern reports: Florence County, 4 January, and Marathon County, 17 February (m. obs.).

Carolina Wren—Moore reported 2 at a feeder in Merrill, Lincoln County, 4–20 December (documented and photographed). Total 22 on 15 CBCs, both record highs. After the Counts, reports for Door County, at least 3 TTP, including one frequenting an old, seldom used garage (documented by Tielen, Wilkie); Outagamie County, a sound record for 26 February (Zimmer); Sauk County, at least one pair, probably two TTP in Devil's Lake State Park (m. obs.; documented by A. Holschbach, Wood), and at least one TTP in Baraboo (Swengel); Dane County, one TTP (documented by Evanson); Milwaukee County, one in Lake Park 10–25 February (documented by Frank, Prestby); and Racine County, at least 2, TTP? (documented by Gustafson). Most, but not all, at feeders.

Winter Wren—Total 18 on 13 CBCs. After the Counts, January reports for Columbia, Dane, and Milwaukee Counties, and a February report for Racine County; single birds in all cases (m. obs.).

Golden-crowned Kinglet—After the CBCs, reports for 12 counties, including the Ashland area and Florence County. TTP in these counties: Winnebago (several groups of 3–6), Jefferson, Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee (m. obs.).

Eastern Bluebird—The total number on the CBCs, 779, is approximately 4 times the previous high number from 2003. TTP in some 12 counties, north to La Crosse, Sauk, Columbia, Outagamie, and Oconto Counties; maximum 6–14. Two in Marathon County on 25 February.

Townsend's Solitaire—TTP in Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County, maximum 9, possibly 12, on 14 January (Swengel), documented by Wood. Also on the Lake Geneva CBC, 2, and one in Ashland County 1–25 February (photographed and documented by Brady).

Hermit Thrush—Total 34 on 19 CBCs, a record number of birds and Counts. After the Counts, single birds TTP in Winnebago, Dane, Waukesha, and Milwaukee Counties, also one on 28 January in Kenosha County (M. obs.).

American Robin—Widespread for the 8th consecutive winter. For the CBCs, the second highest number (6179) on a record number of Counts (71). TTP in at least 20 counties, north to the Ashland area and Marinette and Oconto Counties. After December, maximum numbers usually 20 or so, with several notable exceptions: hundreds, virtually all males, at the MacKenzie Environmental Center in Columbia County 31 January (Dischler), and a peak of approximately 650 on 7 February in Waukesha County's Vernon Marsh, where this species roosted all winter (Gustafson). Likely migrants in southern Wisconsin 24–28 February, and (?) in St. Croix County 18 February, when approximately 30 were noted (m. obs.).

Varied Thrush—Before the CBCs, reports for Brown County, 11 December, one at a feeder in Green Bay (via R. Howe), and one (immature male ?) in Dane County, 17 and 21 December (documented by Ashman, Thiessen). Total 4 on 4 CBCs. Brady reported 2 TTP in Ashland County, and 2 TTP in Bayfield County. Solitary adult males appeared after a snowstorm at feeders, 18–19 February, in 3 counties: Winnebago (documented by Schwarz), Washington (reported and sketched by Klitzke), and Green (reported by Zielinski, documented by Prestby, photographed by Yoerger).

Gray Catbird—One on each of 3 CBCs: Appleton, Oshkosh, and Sturgeon Bay. No later reports.

Northern Mockingbird—One on the Peshtigo CBC the only report.

Brown Thrasher—Including the count period, total 4 on 4 CBCs. One later report: one in Ozaukee County 10 February (Frank).

European Starling—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Bayfield, Ashland, Forest, Florence, and Marinette. Haseleu reported a flock of 3000–4000 on a barn in St. Croix County 25 February.

American Pipit—Noted for the 5th consecutive winter. Two on 5 December in Kewaunee County (Tessen), and January records for Milwaukee County—one at the soccer fields near Lake Park on the 7th, and two associated with algal mats along the Lake Michigan shoreline just south of the soccer fields on the 27th (documented by Gustafson).

Bohemian Waxwing—Total 329 on 10 CBCs. TTP in the Ashland area, with a flock of 275 on 17 January (Brady). Also large flocks in Vilas County (200+ on 9 January—Prestby, and 175 on 22 January—Mueller), and in Oneida County (1000+ in Rhinelander on 3 February—Richmond). After the CBCs, also reported from these counties: Florence, Marinette (maximum 60 on 17 February—Kearns), Chippewa (approximately 50 on 2 February—Giamati), and Washington (one with approximately 25 Cedar Waxwing on 31 December—Diehl). [Figure 2]

Cedar Waxwing—Second highest number (6834) on the CBCs. TTP in south central Wisconsin and northward to Winnebago County, where Ziebell reported a maximum of 260 on 11 February. January reports for Oneida, Forest, Oconto, Brown, and Kewaunee Counties, and through 15 February in Marinette County. Migrants by mid February in southern Wisconsin (?).

Yellow-rumped Warbler—Total 18 on 12 CBCs. After the Counts, these reports: one in Waunakee, Dane County, 22 January—EOP at a feeder, "drinking water from small icicles and picking at maple buds," eating suet and tree sap, also (rarely) safflower seeds, and possibly box elder bugs frequenting the sunny side of the house (McDowell—photos); one in Milwaukee County 7 February (m. obs.); one in Janesville, Rock County, 11 February (Lawton); and TTP in Kenosha County, maximum 21 in 5 areas on 10 February (Jacyna).

Eastern Towhee—Single birds on each of 3 CBCs: Beloit, Shiocton, Woodland Dunes NE. No later reports.

American Tree Sparrow—Probably TTP, at least 2, in the Ashland area; a "large flock" in December and January, lower numbers in February, in Washburn County; and TTP in Oconto County. BOP and EOP in Florence and Marinette Counties (m. obs.).



Figure 2. Bohemian Waxwing photographed by Jeff Hapeman on 21 January 2006 in Woodruff, Oneida County.

Chipping Sparrow—One on the Sauk City CBC the only report.

Field Sparrow—Total 6 on 4 CBCs: Bridgeport, Montello, Shiocton, Trempealeau. No later reports.

Vesper Sparrow—One on the Sturgeon Bay CBC the only report.

Savannah Sparrow—11 December, one in Rock County (Yoerger), and single birds on each of 4 CBCs: Fremont, Hustisford, Milwaukee, Palmyra.

Fox Sparrow—A record number of birds (64) on a record number of CBCs (25). After the Counts, these reports: Brown County, one on 6 January; Kewaunee County, one on 21 January; TTP in Ozaukee County, maximum 2; TTP in Milwaukee County; Racine County, 2 on 12 January; TTP in Dane County, maximum 3; and Marathon County, TTP, 2? (m. obs.).

Song Sparrow—After the CBCs, reports for 8 eastern and south central counties. For Green County, where TTP, maximum on 19

February—a total of 9, which suggests migration (m. obs.).

Swamp Sparrow—TTP in Dane County, maximum 4, and in Winnebago County, 1; also one in Milwaukee County 27 January (m. obs.).

White-throated Sparrow—TTP in at least 8 counties, mainly south central and southeastern Wisconsin, but also Marathon and Outagamie Counties; after the CBCs, maximum 6 in Milwaukee County (m. obs.).

Harris's Sparrow—One at a feeder in Dane County 18 December (Henderson); one on the Gurney CBC; and apparently one TTP at a feeder in Marathon County (via Belter).

White-crowned Sparrow—Total 18 on 10 CBCs. Later reports: Waukesha County, one on 6 January (Gustafson), Rock County, one on 18 February (Yoerger), and Dane County, an adult 6 February-EOP (Tessen).

Dark-eyed Junco—After December, northward to Washburn County (one TTP), Forest

County (3 January), Florence County (5 January-EOP), and Oconto County (TTP).

Lapland Longspur—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 12 counties in eastern and south central Wisconsin, from Shawano, Outagamie, and Door Counties in the north to Green, Rock, Walworth, and Kenosha Counties in the south. Highest counts in Shawano County on 22 January (300—Tessen), Door County on 27 January (200—Lukes), and Winnebago County on 24 January (110—Ziebell). TTP in Outagamie, Winnebago, and Ozaukee Counties (m. obs.).

Snow Bunting—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 24 northern, central, south central, and eastern counties, from Douglas County and the Ashland area south to Rock County (24 January and 22 February), Walworth County (4 December), and Kenosha County (20 and 25 February). TTP in Ozaukee, Winnebago, Outagamie, and Barron Counties, and the Ashland area. Tessen reported the largest flock—approximately 5000 on 22 January in Shawano County. Flocks of 200–300 in Oconto County (15 January—Smiths), and Barron County (19 January—Carlsen).

Northern Cardinal—A record number on the CBCs. Northward to the Ashland area (TTP), Marathon County (TTP, maximum 19 on 11 February), Forest County (TTP), and Marinette County (TTP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—One at a feeder in Bayfield County 17 December (documented and photographed by Shelton), and one on the Appleton CBC.

Indigo Bunting—One at a feeder in Waukesha County 3 December (first noted in fall 2005 and reported in the fall field notes; documented for 3 December by Gustafson).

Red-winged Blackbird—TTP in Dane County (maximum 260 on 22 January) and Waukesha County. January reports for these counties: Rock, Columbia, Dodge (200 on 5 January, 4 on 18 January), and Outagamie. Migrants in February, mainly the 22nd through the 25th, for example a flock of 100 in Racine County on the 25th (m. obs.).

Eastern Meadowlark—Total 15 on 4 CBCs: Appleton, Beloit, Cassville, Willard. One in Oconto County 12 February (Smiths).

Rusty Blackbird—Total 12 on 6 CBCs, and (Kearns) one at a feeder in Forest County 6–8 January.

Brewer's Blackbird—Total 265 on 5 CBCs, including 200 on the Waterloo Count and 60 on the Horicon Marsh Count. One in Dodge County 5 January (Tessen).

Common Grackle—January reports (single birds) for Walworth and Ashland Counties. Thiessen in Dane County reported 3 migrants, with Red-winged Blackbird, 28 February.

Brown-headed Cowbird—January reports (1–5 birds) for Rock and Dodge Counties. Stutz reported a flock of approximately 50 at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County 12 February; Thiessen reported 2 in Dane County 14 February; Ellison reported a female in Dane County 15 February; and Yoerger reported this species in Jefferson County 15 February.

Pine Grosbeak—TTP in Douglas County (maximum 12 on 19 February), the Ashland area (maximum 18), and Florence County (maximum 15 on 14 January); also January and/or February reports for Vilas, Forest, Door, Kewaunee, and Langlade Counties. Noted in Marinette County 18–21 December, and (one bird) in Winnebago County 11–12 December (m. obs.).

Purple Finch—Widespread and generally numerous. Excluding the CBCs, reports for 24 counties from Douglas and Marinette Counties in the north to Iowa County (23 February), Dane County (TTP), Walworth County (19 February), and Racine County (TTP) in the south. Highest numbers (approx. 50) in the north, lowest numbers (after the CBCs) in the south (maximum 10).

House Finch—Record numbers on a record number of CBCs. Northward to the Ashland area (TTP) and Marinette County (TTP); intervening counties?

Red Crossbill—Found on 6 northern CBCs (total 46 birds), and the Plymouth CBC. Later reports for these counties: Douglas, Ashland, Florence, and Menominee (m. obs.); maximum 30 on 9 January in Menominee County (Tessen).

White-winged Crossbill—Total 59 on 4 CBCs: Cedar Grove, Clam Lake (54), Bridgeport, Phelps. Later reports for Douglas County, the Ashland area, Marinette County, and Langlade County, from 1–4 birds (m. obs.).

Common Redpoll—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 13 northern counties and Winnebago County. After the Counts, maximum 100 on 15–16 January in Sawyer County, and 120 on

25 January in Menominee County; high numbers otherwise usually less than 20 and often only a few (m. obs.).

Hoary Redpoll—One at a feeder in Brown County 9 December (Fredericks—not documented).

Pine Siskin—After the CBCs, reports for 20 counties in northern, eastern, and south central Wisconsin. Highest counts in northern counties, for example 180 on 31 December in the Ashland area (Brady), 100 on 13 January in Sawyer County (Kearns), and 145 on 9 January in Florence County (Kearns).

Eurasian Siskin—Second state record, one dead at a feeder in Mercer, Iron County, 10 January (Bacon); see the discussion of exotic species in the introduction to this seasonal summary.

American Goldfinch—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Forest, Florence, and Marinette. After the CBCs, Tessen reported the highest count—200 on 9 January in Menominee County.

Evening Grosbeak—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 10 northern counties (m. obs.), and Milwaukee County, 28 February (Bontly). Flocks of 25–50 in several counties (m. obs.), with a maximum of 130 on 26 January in Florence County (Kearns). See the discussion of this species in the introduction to this seasonal account.

House Sparrow—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Bayfield, Ashland, Marathon, Forest, Florence, and Marinette (m. obs.). Still abundant on the CBCs, but its numbers continue to fall. Bob Domagalski commented: “Judging by count numbers alone, the House Sparrow may have lost half its population density over the past 30 years.”

Eurasian Tree Sparrow—Wisconsin’s 5th record, a total of 4 on 17 February and 2 on 18 February at a feeder in Bristol, Kenosha County (documented by Wisowaty); see the discussion of exotic species in the introduction to this seasonal account.

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“By the Wayside”—Winter 2005–2006

Species documented as rare or uncommon for either location or season include Ross’s Goose, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Red-throated Loon, Merlin, Gyrfalcon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Great Gray Owl, Carolina Wren, Townsend’s Solitaire, Varied Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Ross’s Goose (*Chen rossii*)

22–24 February 2006, Wind Point at Shoop Park, Racine County—While birding with Rick Fare on the morning of 22 February, we saw six white geese at a distance from us, feeding on the golf course and we assumed (incorrectly) that they were Snow Geese. After I needed to leave, Rick was able to get closer looks with the scope and was able to see their blueish mandible, lack of grin patch, and bill structure. I did not check my email until noon on 23 February, but then went right out to find the six geese feeding again at Shoop Park, near the shoreline. There was a clump of conifers and rise in the ground that made it easy to get within 250+ feet without disturbing them. On 24 February, the six Ross’s Geese were present in the same area at 7 a.m. at Shoop Park in Racine County. They were busy feeding on the grass (Fig. 1) and there was always one “sentinel” goose that looked around as the oth-

ers fed. At 8:10 a.m., a large flock of Canada Geese flew over them and the Ross’s Geese took off towards the lake, where they might have landed.—*Eric Howe, Walworth County.*

25 February 2006, Four Mile Road, Racine County—There was a large flock of Canada Geese in a corn field near a swale with open water. Among this flock were six much smaller geese that were white with black wingtips. I observed these birds from my vehicle with a 20–60×, 80 mm spotting scope at a distance of about 200–250 yards.

They had rounded heads with small triangular stubby bills. There was no evidence of a “grin patch” as is seen on Snow Geese, but I did see a warty discoloration at the base of the pinkish bill. The eye was very dark and the legs pink. There were a few Mallards in the field, and although they were too far away for direct comparison, I judged the Ross’s Geese similar in size to these ducks.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*



Figure 1. Two of the six Ross's Geese seen by Eric Howe on 24 February 2006 at Shoop Park in Racine County.

HARLEQUIN DUCK
(*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

17 December 2005, South of Linwood Water Treatment Plant, Milwaukee County—Two female Harlequin Ducks were seen today; I used 10×42 binoculars and a 20–60×, 80 mm spotting scope at a distance of about 40 yards. They were overall brown, a little darker on the back, with three white spots on the brown face. One spot was behind the eye, and the other two were between the eye and the bill, irregular in shape, one above the other, and paler than the dot behind the eye. Their heads were rounded and the bills were short, stubby, and black.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

LONG-TAILED DUCK
(*Clangula hyemalis*)

26 February 2006, on the Wolf River just south of the bridge in Winneconne,

Winnebago County—I photographed an immature male Long-tailed Duck on the Wolf River in Winneconne (Fig. 2) and wondered how rare it is for this species to be found inland from Lake Michigan.—*Dennis E. Malueg, Fremont, WI.*

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE
(*Bucephala islandica*)

18 December 2005, 1 January 2006, and 2 February 2006, Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County—After I scanned the water three times, my fourth scan finally located the Barrow's Goldeneye among scattered Common Goldeneye on Lake Michigan. The more extensive black back, extending down the flanks farther usually is the "eye-catcher." This black encompasses white dots, and the black points more deeply at the shoulder—down toward the water. The head shape is different—more rapidly rising at the fore-



Figure 2. Long-tailed Duck observed in the Wolf River at Winneconne (Winnebago County) on 26 February 2006 by Dennis Malueg.

head. The white cheek spot of a Common becomes crescent shaped on the Barrow's.

The bird was actively diving and feeding, so that locating it in a scanning of the water became a matter of patience and persistence.

The January bird was similarly difficult as the bird was feeding again. The February siting was amazingly simple since the lake was "as smooth as glass" and the Barrow's wasn't diving, just swimming about—so it was seen within a minute of my arrival.—*James C. Frank, Mequon, WI.*

12 February 2006, Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County—As Tom Prestby and I arrived at the viewing area at Doctor's Park I picked up my binoculars and began scanning for the reported Barrow's. I was a bit surprised when the first male goldeneye I spotted showed features that strongly suggested this species—the dark upperparts were the first feature I noticed. The upperparts were clearly darker than those of the adult male Common Goldeneyes we had been seeing all day. Setting up my scope, I then watched the bird at length. I first noted the upperpart coloration—small white rectangles completely enclosed in black plumage. The bird's head also was differently

shaped—a more steeply sloped forehead which appeared more flat than peaked at the top.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

13 and 14 February 2006, Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County—On the 13th I walked to Doctor's Park from the Schultz Audubon Center next door because the lake was so calm, virtually no waves. I just had my Leica 8×32 binoculars and found a "different" looking goldeneye. So on the 14th I went again with my scope. The lake was very calm and the sun was not shining brightly on the water. After looking carefully at the goldeneyes, I refound the Barrow's. It was diving but also spent a long time on the surface. The back had more black than the Common Goldeneye has, with the little black spur on the shoulder. This spur was visible from the front and side on this bird. The spot on the head looked like a white teardrop—it was not round. The head and neck had sort of a "loon" shape, not peaked as in the Common Goldeneye. The back of the neck looked puffy, almost like the back of a loose fitting cap.—*Marilyn Bontly, Bayside, WI.*

RED-THROATED LOON
(*Gavia stellata*)

3 February 2006, north of North Point in Sheboygan on Lake Michigan, Sheboygan County—I first noticed two loons when scanning through the rafts of scaup and Red-breasted Mergansers with my binoculars. With only my binoculars, I could see the profile was that of a loon with the long body which floated low in the water, a sleek round neck and head, and a sharply pointed bill. The two birds were even close enough that I could see that the white on the birds' necks extended to most of their faces, that there was a good amount of white feathering showing above the waterline on the sides of the birds, and that the bills looked very slender and slightly pointed upward—all features of a Red-throated Loon. Once I set up my spotting scope the views were fantastic. I could clearly see the dark brown back with small white dots on it, the bird's sides, neck, and face were bright white with some dark streaking on the sides, and the top of the head and back of the neck were dark brown. The bill was grayish, and long and slender; the upper mandible being straight on the top, but the lower mandible curving upward slightly to the point of the bill. These loons were much larger than the nearby scaup and slightly larger than the nearby Red-breasted Mergansers.—*Aaron Holschbach, Arena, WI.*

12 February 2006, Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County—While Aaron Stutz and I were scoping Lake Michigan from Doctor's Park he told me he had a loon on the water. Once I got it in my scope the small size of it and the overall paleness struck me. We immediately identified it as a "non-Common"

Loon because of this, the small bill, and lack of any sign of a band in the neck or any smudginess near the face. Its face and neck were a clean white and the white extended to above the eye. The thin bill was held upturned during the whole observation. These features resulted in us identifying the bird as a Red-throated Loon in winter plumage. It was very cooperative, preening and sitting on the surface of the water much more than diving.—*Tom Prestby, Wauwatosa, WI.*

MERLIN
(*Falco columbarius*)

28 January 2006, about one mile north of Ashippun along Highway 67, Dodge County—I drove by a falcon on a wire and assumed it was an American Kestrel. While driving past, I noted the longer tail and the medium brown back. I immediately thought Merlin, so I stopped and went back for a look. During that time, a kestrel joined the Merlin on the wire so I was able to compare the two side by side. In addition to the longer tail and brown back, the Merlin's breast was mostly white with faint streaking. While I tried to put the scope on the Merlin, they both flew off and disappeared over the hill.—*Kevin Kearns, Neenah, WI.*

GYRFALCON
(*Falco rusticolus*)

3–13 December 2005, shoreline near Ashland north into the waters of Chequamegon Bay near Washburn, Ashland and Bayfield Counties—On 3 December, I saw a large raptor perched atop the Ashland ore dock. The bird had a dark gray body with a broad



Figure 3. This Gyr falcon photographed by Ryan Brady wintered in the Ashland area (Ashland County) from early December 2005 to early March 2006.

chest, small head, long tail, and pointed wingtips. There was an indistinct dark moustachial stripe and various small white markings on the head (Fig. 3). The cere was yellow. The uppersides had distinct cross-barring and the tail was thinly banded. Most importantly, the wingtips of the perched bird fell a few inches short of the tail's tip. The undersides were mostly white from throat to undertail coverts with moderate dark spotting and barring on the sides and flanks becoming minimal on the central and upper breast. In flight, the bird looked like a sticky falcon with long pointed wings and a long tail. However, both the wings and tail were broad-based. From below, the remiges were nearly the same color as the underwing coverts. The bird's

powered flight had the cadence of a Merlin and grossly differed from the rolling wingbeat of a peregrine. Based on size, behavior, and plumage features, I believe this to be the same adult male gray morph Gyr falcon that wintered here last year.—*Ryan Brady, Ashland, WI.*

16 December 2005, Ashland ore dock, Ashland County—I found the Gyr falcon on the Ashland ore dock at 10:45 a.m. At 11:20 a.m., it took off in determined fashion over the ice-covered bay, where it proceeded to divebomb a Snowy Owl on three occasions. It soon peeled off and then made two very weak passes at an adult Bald Eagle that was flying nearby. I last saw it chasing Rock Pigeons around the Xcel power

plant and could not relocate it.—*Ryan Brady, Ashland, WI.*

15 and 17 January 2006, Ashland ore dock, Ashland County; then east to ice of Chequamegon Bay due north of Johnson Road, then northwest to West End Park in Washburn (Bayfield County)—On 15 January I saw a Gyrfalcon way out on the ice that looked browner than the resident adult gray Gyrfalcon that has been around since early December. I paid no attention, however, and attributed the different look to distance, lighting, and heat distortion. But then on 17 January, during my routine check of the Ashland ore dock, I found an immature gray morph Gyrfalcon perched where the adult Gyrfalcon often is. This bird appeared to be the same size and proportions as the adult bird—a robust bird with a broad chest, small head, long tail, and pointed wingtips. The cere and orbital ring were blue-gray, not yellow and there was an indistinct dark moustachial stripe. The uppersides and tail were mostly even brown, while the breast was pale but dingy and streaked brownish throughout. The wingtips fell several inches short of the long, broad-based tail. In flight, the bird flew with stiff rapid wingbeats.—*Ryan Brady, Ashland, WI.*

BAND-TAILED PIGEON
(*Patagioenas fasciata*)

Late November 2005–26 March 2006, Roberts, St. Croix County—The Band-tailed Pigeon has been coming to my feeders since late November/early December 2005. I finally decided to take a photo of the bird to a bird store in Hudson. The bird was identified as a Band-tailed Pigeon (Fig. 4). It visits my

feeders for short periods of time normally from 7:00–10:30 a.m. He seems to like the feeder that has black-oil sunflower seeds in it. He will fly down to a free branch, sit there, and then fly down to the feeder. He also flies from the feeder to a heated bird bath. The pigeon is a rather large bird, very fast, and does have the feathers of a cross between a dove and a pigeon. He is a brownish bird with yellow feet, and a beak that is yellow with a black pointed end to it. The back of the bird's neck has a white stripe on it. The yellowish brown eyes have dark black pupils. The Band-tailed Pigeon is quiet. I have not heard a sound from him. He sits and slowly looks around. On Sunday, 26 March, I slowly approached him going a step at a time while taking to him. I sat talking to him while taking pictures. I don't know why he picked my house, I guess I'm very lucky. I've been feeding the birds for over twenty years with the normal birds. The house is tucked into a hill with woods behind.—*John J. Agger, Roberts, WI.*

GREAT GRAY OWL
(*Strix nebulosa*)

12 February 2006, on state highway 13, one mile east of Herbster, Bayfield County—I spotted this owl on a power line just after the sun went down. I was in my vehicle and pulled over to the shoulder and used my 10×42 binoculars during this observation.

The owl flew down into the clearing below the power lines which were about fifty feet from the road, but was unsuccessful in catching any prey. I thought this was going to be a very short encounter with this species, but to my delight it flew to a tree along the



Figure 4. Jay Aggers photographed this Band-tailed Pigeon during its visit to his home in Roberts, St. Croix County, from late November 2005 until late March 2006.

road and was only about thirty feet from the car!

This was a very large owl with a gray facial disk and no “ear” tufts. There were fine, brown concentric lines circling inside the facial disk. Below the pale yellow bill was a patch of black which broke a thick white horizontal bar (bowtie) that crossed the bottom

of the face. The facial disk was outlined with dark brown, and the yellow eyes had black crescents on their inside circumference. The plumage on the head and back was a complex mottling of gray, black, brown, and white, but the wingtips were unbroken brown. The underparts were heavily barred and streaked with grays and



Figure 5. This Carolina Wren was photographed in Merrill, Lincoln County by Jeff Moore on 20 December 2005.

browns. The tip of the undertail was a pale unmarked brown.

During the observation the owl was very alert, looking up and down and in all directions, including directly at my car, but did not fly. After about 30 minutes, it was too dark to see anything more than its silhouette, so I drove away.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

CAROLINA WREN
(*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)

20 December 2005, Merrill, Lincoln County—Two Carolina Wrens were reported to me beginning 4 December by Gerald Gomben and Elbridge Curtis, both of Merrill. The birds have been coming to feeders, mostly feeding on

bits of seed-containing suet. They have made appearances on three to five days per week. I observed one of the birds for approximately 15 minutes in the early afternoon of 20 December (Fig. 5). It was sunny, calm, 18 degrees F. with several inches of snow cover. Field marks included a long, pale supercilium, medium rusty brown back and cap, typical wren-like checking of the wings and tail, and a distinctly buffy orange breast.—*Jeff Moore, Merrill, WI.*

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE
(*Myadestes townsendi*)

13 February 2006, Devil's Lake State Park, Sauk County—I was slowly walking along the East Bluff Trail near the top of the Devil's Doorway Trail when



Figure 6. Alan Stankevitz of La Crescent, Minnesota was visiting Devil's Lake State Park (Sauk County) on 2 February 2006 when he took this photograph of a Townsend's Solitaire along Grotto's Trail. It is one of the 9–12 solitaires seen in the park during the winter of 2005–2006.

I saw a bird yank a fruit from a red cedar and then another bird flew up to join it, but both flew to the oaks on the opposite side of the trail. I sat on a park bench and with my 10×42 binoculars enjoyed these two as they perched for a while, flew to several other nearby limbs, and eventually back across the trail to the red cedars.

They were overall gray birds, slender, and with long gray tails with white outer feathers visible in flight. The upperparts were a darker gray than the underparts and the throat was nearly white. The eye was circled by a white eyering and the bill was short, straight, and black. The greater coverts and tertials were edged in white and the buffy patch was visible on the wings of both these birds. The wingtips were the darkest part of the plumage and were charcoal gray. My observation lasted for about fifteen minutes and during this time I heard no vocalizations. The two birds may have been a pair as they

remained close together and were not aggressive.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI. [Fig. 6]*

25 February 2006, Sum Road approximately 0.15 miles north of Toll Road, just east of Ashland, Ashland County—A sooty gray bird slightly smaller than a robin with a distinctive long and slim shape. Head was rounded or flat-crowned with a rear peak. Bold white eyering thickest behind the eye. Short dark bill. Light but distinct buffy markings on the bases of the dark gray flight feathers. Outer white rectrices visible from below on perched bird and from above when the bird flew. [It was] flycatching from tree branches.—*Ryan Brady, Ashland, WI.*

VARIED THRUSH
(*Ixoreus naevius*)

17 December 2005, West spring in the Wingra Woods area of the UW-Madison

Arboretum, Dane County—This bird was the size of a robin with: a dark bill; dark eye; orange eyebrow; black around and through the eye; gray cap, back, and tail; orangish wingbars and patches on gray wings; orangish chin, throat, and breast; whitish belly and undertail; and light legs. Additionally the bird had the beginning of a dark breast band—comma-shaped crescents of black extended from both sides into the orange of the upper breast, however, this black was not complete across the entire breast. The bird was initially observed perched in a tamarack tree eating a berry—it then dropped to a lower branch and when it opened its wings I could see an orangish wing stripe. The bird moved its tail up and down in the manner of a Hermit Thrush several times as it was perched. Eventually the bird dropped to the edge of the spring and moved out of sight.—*Philip Ashman, Madison, WI.*

18 February to 7 March 2006, Allenton, Washington County—I just saw the bird on Saturday, 18 February, after our big snow. It was about 17 degrees below zero. The bird was under one of my feeders eating sunflower seeds and then eating crab apples on the ground. It was about the size and shape of a robin, but really what caught my eye was the deep black V on its chest, so I knew it wasn't a robin. Also the orange was more oriole color than robin color. The back color was dark and the belly was white with black marks. The bill was dark. I didn't note what color the legs were.—*Patricia Klitzke, Allenton, WI.*

19 February 2006, Oshkosh, Winnebago County—The bird was about the size of an American Robin, orange breast, orange eyebrow, blue-black

stripe through the eye, blue-black back and collar. It fed from the ground on sunflower chips and white millet. It would feed for about 5 minutes at a time, then fly into a boxelder tree or shrubs, then fly off, to return to feed every 30 minutes.—*Joy Schwarz, Oshkosh, WI.*

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*)

22 January–25 February 2006, home of Mike McDowell, Waunakee, Dane County—There was a Yellow-rumped Warbler in my backyard late morning on 22 January. It was drinking water from small icicles and picking at maple buds. I have noticed box elder bugs on the sunny side of our house, so I wonder if the warbler might actually be finding insects. This photograph (Fig. 7) was taken on 25 February of the yellow-rump that continues to be present in my yard. The warbler gets feisty with other birds—chasing finches and juncos clear out of the yard. It doesn't do as well when trying to chase Red-breasted Nuthatches. Interestingly, it leaves the Brown Creeper alone. In addition to suet and tree sap, on rare occasions I've seen the warbler eat safflower.—*Mike McDowell, Waunakee, WI.*

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

17 December 2005, east of Garden Lake in Bayfield County—This bird had a light brown colored plumage on back, scapulars, secondaries, rump, uppertail coverts, and outer tail feathers. The white colored belly was



Figure 7. This Yellow-rumped Warbler visited the backyard of Mike McDowell in Waunakee (Dane County) from 22 January to at least 25 February 2006 when this photo was taken.

streaked with brown stripes. There were two white wing bars. It had light to dark brown auricular or cheek, white colored eyebrow line, white colored chin and throat, and a light col-

ored beak. The bird's size was compared to other birds at the feeder and it appeared to be larger than most finches.—*Adrian Wydeven and Sarah Boles, Cable, WI.*



Young Baltimore Oriole by David Kuecherer.

WSO Records Committee Report

Winter 2005–2006

The WSO Records Committee reviewed 22 records of 11 species for the winter 2005–2006 season. Eleven of the records were accepted. Of note was Wisconsin's 2nd record for Band-tailed Pigeon. In addition, 5 old records were re-evaluated.

ACCEPTED

Red-throated Loon—

#2006-003 Sheboygan Co., 3 February 2006, Holschbach, (3 birds).

#2006-002 Milwaukee Co., 12 February 2006, Prestby.

These loons were decidedly larger than adjacent scaup and only slightly bigger than nearby Red-breasted Mergansers. They were overall pale in color because a significant portion of the birds was white —the face, neck, and sides. The top of the head was dark, as were the hindneck and the back. Interspersed in the dark back were numerous white spots. The white of the face extended well above the eye, rather than barely approaching the eye. The light gray bill was sharply pointed and slightly upturned.

These are the third and fourth February records for Wisconsin.

Barrow's Goldeneye—

#2005-101 Milwaukee Co., 11 December 2005, T. Wood; 18 December 2005, 1 January

2006, 2 February 2006, Frank; 13, 14 February 2006, Bontly.

The drake Barrow's Goldeneye was observed to have a dark head with a crescent-shaped, white, facial spot, a steeper forehead than the Common Goldeneyes, black extending down the flanks encompassing white spots (instead of white extending up the edge of the back encompassing black spots). This black extended down even farther at the shoulder area than along the flanks.

After an apparent one-year absence at this wintering site, the Barrow's Goldeneye returned giving us a bird in 4 of the past 5 winters at Doctor's Park and 11 of the past 12 winters if the Virmond Park seven-year run of winter sightings is included.

Gyrfalcon—

#2005-103 Ashland Co., 3 December 2006, Brady; 10 January 2006, Prestby; 23 January 2006, T. Wood. [See photo in "By the Wayside."]

#2006-006 Ashland Co., 15, 17 January 2006, Brady.

This large hawk was grayish overall with darker gray barring evident. The whitish underparts were barred with gray, more heavily on the lower half, minimally on the uppermost portion. The breast/body seemed disproportionately broad, while the head seemed relatively small. An indistinct

moustachial stripe was discernible and the cere was yellow. When perched the primary extension was only half as long as the tail. As many as 8 bars were evident on the tail. In flight, the wings were long, slightly pointed, but broad at the base.

The second bird was browner in color with heavier brown streaks on the breast than the adult bird. In addition, the cere was brownish rather than yellow, suggesting an immature bird. The overall shape and proportions of the bird were otherwise similar to the previous description.

Band-tailed Pigeon—

#2005-105 St. Croix Co., Dec. 2005–
26 March 2006, Aggers
(photo).

The photos of this pigeon show an overall grayish bird with a rosy blush to the breast and white undertail coverts. The hindneck has scaly greenish feathers with a white crescent immediately above them. The diagnostic bill was yellow with a black tip. The dark-colored eye has a reddish periocular ring. [See photo in “By the Wayside” and on the cover of this issue.]

This is Wisconsin’s second record, following on the October 2002 initial report.

Pine Warbler—

#2005-106 La Crosse Co., 13, 18, 19
November 2005, Ruhser
(photo).

This warbler was seen and photographed at a suet feeder (Fig. 1). Noted were an olive-green back, yellow throat and upper breast, white belly, and white wingbars. Several dark streaks were evident on the sides of the upper breast. A yellow spot was seen at the lores as was a split eyering. The

outer tail feathers had “long” white spots rather than shorter, rounder spots.

This is the eighth November or winter record for this species in Wisconsin.

NOT ACCEPTED

Barrow’s Goldeneye—

#2005-101 Milwaukee Co., 12 February 2006.

The brief description reported “darker upperparts” with small white rectangles enclosed by the black of the back. The forehead was more steeply sloped and the top of the head flatter than a Common Goldeneye. Mention was not made of the deeper shoulder extension of black into the white flank nor the white facial patch being a different (crescent) shape. Since young male Common Goldeneyes can have more extensive dark back coloration, this limited description doesn’t entirely rule them out.

Ferruginous Hawk—

#2006-004 Crawford Co., 7 January 2006.

This perched raptor was “nearly eagle-sized” with an entirely white throat, breast, belly, undertail coverts, and tail. The head seemed small on this “bulky” raptor. A light brown head with a lighter supercilium was reported. Leg feathering was specifically mentioned as white. Shoulder area color was listed as “warm brown” and completing the report was a blue-gray beak with a yellow cere and yellow feet.

This bird was twice indicated to be closer to Bald Eagle-sized than Red-tailed-sized. A Ferruginous Hawk would be quite close to, but a little



Figure 1. This Pine Warbler visited the suet feeders of Jean and Gary Ruhser in mid-November 2005 in La Crosse County.

larger than a Red-tailed Hawk in size; so this apparently oversized bird is difficult to explain. The assertion that this was an immature Ferruginous Hawk in that the leggings weren't rufous, doesn't eliminate an immature of paler Red-tailed Hawk races. Definitely identifying an immature Ferruginous Hawk in this limited position observation would be difficult. One point that would help strengthen that case would be the head/beak shape. The beak on a Ferruginous Hawk

would be disproportionately larger than other buteos. In addition, the profile of the forehead-to-beak would be rather flattened, perhaps initiating a "more fierce look" analogy.

Osprey—

#2005-099 Ozaukee Co., 17 December 2005.

Flying with unspecified gulls, this bird was 'again the size/wingspread of the gulls.' "Classic" wing shape and soaring posture were reported without

specific description. The “undersides” were white as was a “head patch.” Finally, a dark pattern at the wrist was mentioned.

More specific location to the coloring would have helped eliminate the more likely migrant at this time, a Rough-legged Hawk. It too would have a light head, dark wrist marks, and white undersides. Of course an Osprey is white through the breast and underwing coverts, while a Rough-leg is white on the upper breast and flight feathers.

Gyr Falcon—

#2005-102 Racine Co., 20 November 2005.

#2005-098 Outagamie Co., 21 December 2005.

#2006-001 Manitowoc Co., 1 January 2006.

#2006-005 Manitowoc Co., 1 January 2006.

Gyr Falcon observations are notoriously difficult to translate into convincing documentations. They are based on relative size, body shape, wing shape, tail width and length, but the overall coloration is rather nondescript. In addition, many observations are of swiftly flying birds moving away from the observer in windy conditions altering the shape of the bird and giving the observer a difficult perspective.

When documenting these sightings, attention should be made of the relatively large size and unexpected body bulk of the bird. The wing tips appear somewhat, but not classically falcon-like pointed; yet they aren't buteo/accipiter rounded. The face should lack the marked moustache marking of a Peregrine and Prairie Falcon. At rest, the tail of a Gyr Falcon is markedly

longer than the folded wingtips, a distinction from other large falcons and large buteos, but not from accipiters. Of course, supplying the overall coloration, and marking patterns is important, but since they vary from individual to individual, focusing on relative size and structural differences is essential to building the case for identification.

California Gull—

#2005-104 Milwaukee Co., 3 December 2005.

This gull was indicated to be larger than a Ring-billed, but smaller than a Herring Gull with a “darker” mantle. The eye was dark, separating it from Lesser Black-backed Gulls. The legs were not seen during this swimming observation. The wingtips were “black with a little white,” but specific mention of upper or lower wingtip coloration was not made. To separate this individual from a Thayer's Gull, a more specific pattern of black and white on the upper and lower surfaces of the wingtips would have helped compensate for not seeing the leg color. In addition, a more specific notation than “darker” mantle would have helped narrow a list that could include anything from Thayer's to California to Lesser Black-backed to Greater Black-backed under the guise of a mantle darker than a Herring Gull.

Pyrrhuloxia—

#2005-097 Milwaukee Co., 22 October 2005. (photo)

Slightly blurred photographs and a somewhat distant video made identification a challenge, but this bird was ultimately accepted as a Pyrrhuloxia based on the yellowish bill, but more

significantly the uneven line between the upper and lower mandibles. The color is not characteristic of a Northern Cardinal, but aberrant color occurrences are always a possibility, thus the importance of the shape in this instance.

The difficulty with this report at this time is the unprecedented nature of the record. At this point, there are previous records in Oklahoma and one in southwestern Kansas, but none in the Midwest or eastern U.S. There is a 2004 report from Ontario that is pending decision. There is speculation in the American birding world that some of these unusual records could be human assisted in that many species of wild birds are legally kept in cages in Mexico. What is not known is the degree to which any of these birds are being smuggled across the border with immigrants or seasonal workers. For at least the time being, this report and a few others are being held in a special "origin uncertain" category to see if any pattern of vagrancy develops that could allow placement of the species on the official state list.

Indigo Bunting—

#2006-007 Brown Co., 1 January 2006.

Described as a uniformly brownish looking junco with a darker bill, the only other pattern noted was some darker plumage on the chest and lower back. This darker color appeared dark blue with binocular-aided viewing. Probabilities suggest an Indigo Bunting, but this bird should have been significantly smaller than a junco. Without noting bill shape and more specific color to it, a size comparison that found the bird to be smaller or shorter-tailed than the juncos, and specific comment about the

lack of any wing bars, a case could be made for a cowbird, Blue Grosbeak, and more western species of buntings.

Eurasian Siskin—

#2006-009 Iron Co., 10 January 2006.
(photo)

This siskin-sized bird had a yellow breast, rump, and wingbars, along with a black forehead and chin. A yellow line was also apparent through the base of the primaries, secondaries, and outer tail feathers. Completing the description are a green back and white belly.

The identity of this bird is considered correct. The doubt surrounding this bird is whether it too is one of the numerous apparently released European caged birds noted in Wisconsin in recent years.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow—

#2006-008 Kenosha Co., 17, 18 February 2006.

These birds were superficially similar to a House Sparrow. They differed in the crown being entirely brown instead of gray. In addition, the cheek and back of the head were white while the beak and an area on the cheek were black.

Again this is considered to be a correct identification, but because it was seen very close to the area of origin of numerous escaped European caged birds of late, it is considered a released bird.

OLD RECORDS—RECONSIDERED

With the submission of additional information regarding several past records of rare species, the WSO Records Committee is continuing to

reexamine some of these previous reports.

Least Tern—

#99-027 Milwaukee Co. 24 May 1999.

A report by several other observers that there was a first-year Common Tern present on the day in question at the Coast Guard Impoundment was the reason for a request to reconsider this record. This not often noted plumage gives the Common Tern a pale base to the bill as well as a white forehead, both points emphasized in the original Least Tern documentation. Reexamining the report, the wording regarding the size of the bird was likely misinterpreted by the Committee. The report appears to indicate the bird in question was similar in size to a Forster's Tern, which were both considered small by the observer, rather than the bird in question being small. Obviously, the Least Tern is decidedly smaller than a Forster's or Common Tern. The sharp line described in the original report appears to describe the interface between the white forehead and black crown rather than the black line extending from the eye to the yellow beak. This line isolates the white forecrown on a Least Tern. This fact isn't actually pointed out in the documentation.

Given the potential misinterpretation of the original wording and the additional reports of a potentially confusing species not originally considered by the Committee, the present Committee has voted to remove this record from the state record.

Ani (species?)—

#2001-042 Door Co., 1 July 2001.

This report was originally accepted as an ani of unidentified species be-

cause the bill was poorly described. Most of the look was of the back half of the bird, with a brief look at the head and bill. The brief look did not allow noticing the bare area around the dark eye and the bill was simply described as "heavy" without comparison to any other bird's bill. In retrospect, the identification was more of a description of what the bird was not, than what it was. The vocalization was different than anything the observer had previously encountered, lending support, but not conclusive support to the identification. There is some question whether a fledgling grackle could fit this wording in the documentation, but the bill sounded too different. Enough doubt lingered in the minds on the Committee, so the vote was for removal from the state record.

Brown-headed Nuthatch—

#2000-055 Milwaukee Co., Feb, April 2000.

Again, additional information provided to the Committee suggested that Red-breasted Nuthatch should have been given more consideration in identifying this individual. Observers who tried to view this bird were unsuccessful, and in those visits did not see a Red-breasted Nuthatch visit the feeder. Although the written description indicated a brown cap and line through his eye, there was not specific indication of a white line separating the dark crown from the dark eyeline as there would be for a Red-breasted Nuthatch. The documentation should have addressed this second species more specifically to rule out the more expected Red-breasted Nuthatch. Many of them can have very pale breasts as this bird did. Given the rarity of this species, the original report

was probably given to much overinterpretation by the Committee. In this second review, the report was voted to be removed from the state record.

Lazuli Bunting—

#2002-041 Milwaukee Co., 26 April 2002.

Additional observers in Lake Park that day indicated Eastern Bluebirds were present in the area this bird was reported. They did not encounter a Lazuli Bunting. The original report was taken at face value in that it indicated a small numerical size to the bird without comparative words, but a blue head and throat, orange breast, white belly, and white wingbars. The report also indicated the bird “looked like a bluebird with wingbars.” The report didn’t specifically acknowledge the noticeable size difference between the species.

It has been suggested that this report could have been written more from the book’s picture rather than specifically describing the bird seen in the field. Given the multiple reports by experienced observers of bluebirds

at this location without sighting of a Lazuli Bunting that day, the report of a relatively inexperienced observer that does not report the bluebirds, but does report a Lazuli Bunting from the location, and the inexperience in documenting a rare bird, the Committee is left with a difficult decision. The numbers and experience of the other observers who came forth raised doubt about this report and it was voted for removal from the state list.

Streak-backed Oriole—

#98-105 Iron Co., January 1998.

This old record is supported by a specimen of a bird succumbing at a feeder in winter. Examined by experts at Louisiana State University, it was not showing any evidence of feather wear. This species has limited vagrancy history with one Oregon record on the books and some expansion into southern California in recent times. It, like the previously discussed *Pyrrhuloxia*, will be held in an “origin unknown” category pending further evidence of vagrancy. Human-assisted movement of this species is in question.



Osprey with lunch by Dennis Malueg.

WSO Award—2006

The Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology presented only one Award at the annual banquet this year in Rhinelander on 27 May 2006.

SILVER PASSENGER PIGEON AWARD

The Silver Passenger Pigeon Award is given to individuals who have served the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in an outstanding manner—both in quality and length of service to the Society.

It was with great pleasure that the 2006 Silver Passenger Pigeon was awarded to Robert (Bob) W. Howe for his long and energetic service to WSO as the Research Chair, a position he held from 1988 through 2004 (Fig. 1). While serving as Research Chair, Bob administered the Nicolet Forest Breeding Bird Survey, which he initiated in 1986 and continues to the present. It was Bob who called the first organizing meeting together for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas effort. In addition to serving on the Steering

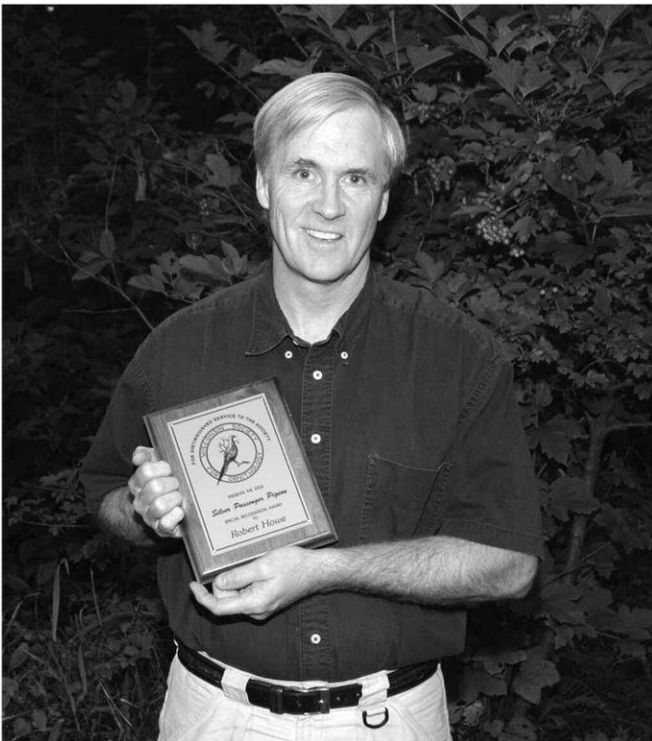


Figure 1. Robert W. Howe received the 2006 Silver Passenger Pigeon Award for his service to WSO.

Committee of the Atlas project, he was the Regional Coordinator for Region 4 (Forest and Florence Counties), oversaw the creation of the Data Management Office and its operations, was an author for ten species accounts and the Results and Habitat sections of the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*, and served as one of the three editors for the book.

Dr. Robert W. Howe obtained his B.S. degree in biology from the University of Notre Dame and his Master's and Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where his formal training in ornithology began. He is currently the Barbara Hauxhurst Cofrin Professor of Natural Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where he is the founding Director of the Cofrin

Center for Biodiversity. His research publications include studies of ecological theory, butterflies, amphibians, plants and, of course, birds. He is a frequent contributor to *The Passenger Pigeon*. More than 30 graduate student's have completed Master's degrees under Bob's supervision in the last 20 years. More information about Bob's work and accomplishments can be found at: <http://www.uwgb.edu/nas/howe.htm>.

In addition to serving on the WSO Board of Directors for 17 years, Bob has been a member of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Science Committee of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. He is the proud father of three sons and lives in Green Bay with his wife, Amy Wolf.



Pectoral Sandpiper by Dennis Malueg.

Report of the Annual Meeting

27 May 2006

MINUTES OF THE 2006 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

In the Learning Resources Center of Nicolet Area Technical College, Rhinelander, President Jeff Baughman called to order the annual business meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology at its 67th Annual Convention, "Exploring the Nicolet National Forest," at 12:00 pm on Saturday, 27 May 2006.

The minutes of the 2005 meeting previously approved by a reading committee (Bill Brooks and Eric Howe; the other reader, Carol Goegeline, had not been identified by the secretary until too late). "So moved" was heard from the floor for accepting the approved minutes, and the motion carried. Chuck Heikkinen and Carol Goegeline (again!) agreed to review the minutes of the 2006 WSO business meeting.

WSO Treasurer Christine Reel summarized the Financial Report (see *The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., Annual Report, May 2005–May 2006*, pp. 1–5). First, she reminded Society members that WSO dues must "cover" membership expenses (e.g., costs of publishing *The Badger Birder* and *The Passenger Pigeon* as well as maintaining other benefits). Costs have been covered in good form during 2005, she said, leaving no chance for a dues increase in the near future. Second, Reel

reported that WSO members' donations to the Society during 2005 had been "amazing, wonderful, outstanding—you can pat yourselves on the back." Third, Reel said that WSO members also demonstrated outstanding support for the Society's Honey Creek Nature Preserve during 2005 by not only meeting current expenses but also adding to the fund for future needs. Fourth, while admitting that this point could be confusing, Reel said that WSO could use some \$63,000 (of its total assets of over \$450,000, which include project money that WSO can't spend for operating costs) and yet not be broke.

While answering what expenses were met, Reel refined the difference between nonrestricted versus restricted revenue. Under the first, expenses were paid out of funds that came in without restriction on how they were to be used. Under the second, revenue received was restricted on how it was to be distributed, that is, had been designated for expenditure under certain accounts.

(See pp. 5–6 of *Annual Report, May 2005–May 2006 for the complete report of the Officers.*)

President Jeff Baughman had nothing to add to his written report except to repeat his "big thank you" to all of the Board and to all of the WSO members. Co-editor Bettie Harriman asked that WSO members please continue to send information to *The Passenger Pi-*

geon editors for the "From Field and Feeder" column.

(See pp. 6–12 of *Annual Report, May 2005–May 2006 for the complete reports of Committee Chairs*.)

Awards Committee chair Daryl Tessen asked WSO members to plan for next year. Please remember, he said, that there are 6 WSO awards: the Gold Passenger Pigeon Award, which honors bird work on a national level; the Silver Passenger Pigeon, which honors WSO service; the Certificate of Appreciation, which recognizes continued WSO service; the Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award, which celebrates still continued WSO service; the Bronze Passenger Pigeon Award, which acknowledges notable bird work not specifically for WSO; and the Green Passenger Pigeon, which commends conservation efforts. Expressing his concern that "we'll miss someone," Tessen said that if you know anyone to nominate, especially for the Bronze and the Green Passenger Pigeon, please tell him not only the name of the person but also WHY s/he should be nominated. And don't wait until December! Tonight, Tessen said, you'll find out who gets the awards this year.

The Badger Birder editor, Mary Uttech, has done a fine job with the newsletter, President Baughman said. Bird Reports Coordinator Randy Hoffman, WSO Bookstore manager Don Reel, Conservation Committee chair Bill Mueller, and Education Committee chair Mariette Nowak had nothing to add to their written reports. Baughman, though, commented that Conservation Committee chair Mueller had done a "fabulous job on getting bird conservation reports on Wisconsin." Then, as Field Trip co-chair, he

reminded WSO members that the date for the Kettle Moraine field trip had been changed to 10 June 2006.

History Committee chair Noel Cutright asked WSO members to let him know of available information, such as photographs, field notes, and Wisconsin ornithological history data—especially if someone who has passed away had collections that could be kept in the WSO history archives.

On a different note, Cutright said, "There is no Atlas report, but remember that you need 3 copies: one for yourself, one as a Christmas present, and one to donate to a library." [Cf. the book itself: *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*. 2006. Cutright, Harriman, and Howe. Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Waukesha, WI.]

Membership Committee chair Jesse Peterson said that WSO members could "see by the numbers here" that there has been a slight growth in Society membership. He wanted to remind members that with extra effort *Badger Birder* editor Uttech does 2 versions of the newsletter, both *e-Badger Birder* and a printed *Birder*. The *e-Birder*, he said, is a good way to get all that news and saves about \$7 per issue every year. When asked about the actual volume of *e-Birder*, Peterson replied, "About 202, I think, and you get the same information and get it quicker."

Publicity Committee chair Ursula Petersen told WSO members that information about the Society is presented in display at different meetings around the state, and that she would appreciate any help you can give with distribution of the display. Although Records Committee chair Jim Frank had no written report, President Baughman said that information is reported in each quarterly issue of *The*

Passenger Pigeon. Scholarship and Grants Committee chair Janine Polk did have a written report, he said, and Website chair Jennifer Davis does a good job and is "always looking for improvements."

Youth Education Committee chair Barb Duerksen sent additional comments via Treasurer Reel: "Chris West reported that his team, The ABA Tropicbirds, came in second in the division for Cape May County, with 169 species. He will be writing a report." And, regarding the bird kits, there is an additional kit in process, and Duerksen is working on still another one.

President Baughman gave a general thanks for coming to this WSO convention. The first thanks goes to Nicolet College, he said. But a big part of the thanks is to the new convention committee, which did a lot of legwork along with someone local for helping with facilities. This core group coordinates WSO Convention planning every year, Baughman said, so we don't have to reinvent the wheel. He called special attention to the Suggestion Box, for the committee is "trying to improve every year."

Nominating Committee chair Marilyn Bontly announced the nominees whom she and committee members Tom Schultz and Chuck Heikkinen proposed as WSO officers for 2006–07: President, Dave Sample; Vice President, Jesse Peterson; Treasurer, Christine Reel; Secretary, Jane Dennis; and *The Passenger Pigeon* Editors, Bettie Harriman and Neil Harriman. With no additional nominations, it was moved that the nominations be closed and that the nominees presented be unanimously approved. Being seconded, the motion carried.

Bam. Bam. Bam. Just elected WSO

President Dave Sample pounded the gavel. "Let's re-do the applause for Jeff Baughman," he said. Applause ensued.

"I'm honored to be part of WSO in a more formal way," Sample continued. "It's been a very good convention so far, and the field trips have been excellent. We stand open to comments from the floor."

Convention Committee member Joan Sommer rose to remind participants of the silent auction, the proceeds from which go to two good causes: Amber Roth's Golden-winged Warbler Project, and Marge Gibson's Raptor Rehabilitation Project. Bids close at 3:30 pm, she said, and at 4:30 we'll announce the winners.

Carl Schwartz reported on the 2006 Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon. The birding itself was very successful, he said. Despite bad weather, we tallied 98 species. The banding was postponed, however, because of possible rain, which would make the nets too stressful on the birds. So the Honey Creek Bandathon will be on 10 June 2006, and information will be in *The Badger Birder*. But this means that the Birdathon/Bandathon pledge letters also go out later—and pledge cards are still available.

People have been generous, and WSO has been able to meet the full expenses of Honey Creek thanks to your support. What's been done with the extra money? The Honey Creek Committee is in place, but the preserve needs some major kinds of upkeep. In past years, Honey Creek did not make enough money to cover expenses, and WSO would like to have money available for fences, roofing, specimen replacement, and the like. Thanks to the efforts of Schwartz and the contribu-

tions of Society members, it'll be nice to have a fund sitting there so there's something to draw on.

It was moved and seconded that the 2007 WSO Annual Convention be held in Richland Center. The motion carried. See the next *Badger Birder*, and the WSO calendar thereafter, for the specific dates. Conventions are "scheduled" until 2008. If you're interested for future years, let us know.

There was spontaneous comment from WSO members in the audience on the quality and reality of the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*: "We want publicly to congratulate the editors for producing an outstanding atlas." Co-editors Noel J. Cutright, Bettie R. Harriman, and Robert W. Howe responded, through Harriman, "Thank you. And thanks to the collection of people here for data gathering and report writing." Applause. Applause.

It was moved and seconded that the business meeting for the 67th annual WSO Convention be adjourned. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 pm.

[A complete copy of these minutes may be obtained from Jane Dennis, Secretary, 138 S. Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-5248; 608. 231. 1741; jadennis@facstaff.wisc.edu.]

FINANCIAL REPORT MAY 2005–MAY 2006

WSO's Policies (adopted April 2005) state that annual dues payments shall cover the cost of membership services—that is, all costs in providing *The Badger Birder*, *The Passenger Pigeon*, and other direct membership benefits, and the costs associated with maintain-

ing membership and soliciting renewals and new members. The breakdown of those costs during 2005 is as follows:

Pigeon—

Expenses for 2005 (the usual 4 issues)* \$21,490

Birder—

Expenses for 2005 (12 issues) totaled \$9090; pro-rated expenses (if usual 11 issues had been paid for) \$8,333
Total usual publication costs \$29,823
Membership expenses \$1,946

Total cost of membership services \$31,769

Membership dues received \$34,365
Library subscriptions/
back issues \$1,882

Total membership-related income \$36,247

The costs of our membership services during 2005 were covered by our membership income, leaving an amount left to cover our programs. Thanks to membership chair Jesse Peterson and editors Bettie and Neil Harriman and Mary Uttech for working to provide outstanding publications at reasonable costs. We will continue to monitor these basic expenditures.

* *Pigeon* expenses do not include printing color pages inside the journal nor a color front cover. The Board authorized the added expense of printing a color cover on each issue as well as occasional inside color pages. Donations have been solicited to cover this expense, but if it is not fully covered, the cost of color printing will come from WSO's general operating funds. During 2005, all color printing was

paid for from funds donated for that purpose.

Members' donations to WSO during 2005 amounted to an amazing total of \$26,553. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our programs. It is owing to that generosity that WSO currently is in a solid financial position.

The 2005 Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon, spearheaded by Carl Schwartz, brought in \$5,550 from 94 donors. Added to direct Honey Creek contributions of \$4,741, total support came to an astonishing \$10,291! Compare that amount to Honey Creek expenses of \$4,456—your generous donations supported our Baraboo Hills nature preserve in 2005 as well as adding thousands to the fund for future needs.

Of the total assets as of 31 December 2005 (\$458,775—see *III. WSO Balance Sheet as of 31 December*), the amount available to cover general operating expenses is \$63,604; the remainder is restricted. All of the amounts listed as received in Restricted Revenue in Part I, as well as in

"II. Grants Administered by WSO and Other Non-budget Projects" must be saved for their intended uses.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President Jeff Baughman—My term as president has passed quickly and I would like to thank all the enthusiastic WSO members who contribute to this organization. My short tenure as president has been very rewarding, one that was definitely worth the experience. Our organization is in good hands; with its fine board of directors, committee chairs and members who have been patient, supportive and so helpful. WSO remains on the cutting edge of birding related topics, a model for other states to follow.

Two years ago at our annual convention in Chippewa Falls, I introduced the idea of creating an "Annual Convention Committee." Well, this past year the committee was finalized and has spearheaded the convention in Rhinelander. The committee consists of Scott Baughman (chairman),

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I. WSO Statement of Revenue and Expenses, 2001–2005

Unrestricted Revenue	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Birder Adv/Back Iss	750.00	741.00	837.00	799.00	437.50
Convention	2,450.11	5,259.00	0	2,522.88	1,470.92
Donations-Unrestricted	5,381.53	8,611.00	8,311.00	0	0
Donations-Other	0	0	1,665.46	2,012.00	926.00
Interest/Dividends	3,049.41	634.34	438.64	1,357.69	293.06
Membership Dues	34,365.00	34,320.00	37,058.00	31,088.25	25,366.00
Pigeon Subscr/Back Iss	1,882.25	930.00	813.00	879.92	456.00
Pigeon Color Fund	1,742.24	0	0	0	0
WSO Pubs/Bookstore	2,781.99	3,559.93	6,486.74	8,950.50	2,968.67
Miscellaneous	0	5,563.92	0	0	11.40
Total Unrestricted Revenue	52,402.53	59,619.19	55,609.84	47,610.24	31,929.55

(continued)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (*continued*)

Expenses (Unrestr. Rev.)	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Administration	145.83	172.91	297.92	477.50	63.75
Awards	147.00	160.00	289.00	114.60	218.49
Bird Reports Coord	292.87	433.99	156.77	51.16	118.52
Birder Mailing	2,615.89	2,374.96	1,994.30	1,425.51	2,477.51
Birder Printing	6,474.24	4,787.60	4,467.01	8,550.74	5,894.82
Convention	530.00	655.00	0	1,280.00	400.00
Field Trips	59.99	0	0	0	0
Hotline	0	0	75.60	88.45	90.50
Membership	1,946.39	1,034.08	1,437.95	1,274.69	2,398.59
Pigeon Mailing	2,595.25	3,685.50	1,305.85	1,757.42	1,742.97
Pigeon Page Comp, Printing	18,894.65	24,010.22	8,625.99	13,849.04	17,569.44
Pigeon Color Printing	732.65	0	0	0	0
Publicity	25.00	444.00	185.00	647.75	401.06
Records	125.95	151.60	166.89	220.53	176.04
Schol/Grants	1,600.00	3,000.00	2,950.00	2,000.00	1,350.00
Treasurer	563.36	358.44	529.27	208.81	0
WSO Pubs/Bookstore	1,131.54	1,211.10	1,048.96	1,155.75	2,604.37
Printing	0	0	7,179.30	157.80	0
Youth	45.99	28.97	140.36	0	100.84
Miscellaneous**	1,100.00	200.00	900.00	663.80	0
Total Expenses (Unrestr Rev)	39,026.60	42,708.37	31,750.17	33,923.55	35,606.90

** Miscellaneous support during 2005:
American Bird Conservancy, \$100
Operation Migration, \$1,000

Restricted Revenue	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Endowment Donations	55.00	1.00	161.00	292.00	183.00
Interest/Dividends	1,518.11	54.85	43.62	0	0
Life/Patron Memberships	2,975.00	3,800.00	4,000.00	1,450.00	2,200.00
Honey Creek Donations	4,741.00	1,751.00	696.00	1,340.45	936.00
Bandathon	5,549.50	3,140.47	2,713.73	2,503.70	2,440.00
Memorials***	0	0	275.00	2,235.00	757.67
Schol/Grants Donations	976.00	1,931.00	2,831.54	2,832.00	834.22
Haunts Sales	3,110.00	3,568.00	3,228.00	5,838.00	12,079.00
Interest	1,011.35	0	0	0	0
Youth Schol/Grants Dons	1,266.00	61.00	246.00	135.00	318.00
Other Donations	25.65	25.65	211.55	250.00	500.00
Total Restricted Revenue	21,227.61	14,332.97	14,406.44	16,876.15	20,247.89

*** Memorial funds received during 2005, totaling over \$2,000, have been allocated to specific funds.

Expenses (Restr Rev)	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Honey Creek	4,455.62	4,912.52	4,013.11	3,527.94	3,685.73
Youth Schol/Grants	390.00	527.00	100.00	388.28	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	43.00	0	0
Total Expenses (Restr Rev)	4,845.62	5,439.52	4,156.11	3,916.22	3,685.73

(*continued*)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (*continued*)

II. Grants Administered by WSO and Other Non-budget Projects, 2001–2005

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Atlas Income	1,382.57	62,111.68	7,486.34	34,313.73	54,547.84
Atlas Expenses	-10,079.95	-6,626.57	-25,960.09	-34,440.55	-7,884.73
Bird Mentor Kits Inc	4,281.00	231.00			
Bird Mentor Kits Exp	-4,769.57				
Costa Rica Trip 2002 Inc				6,038.20	19,200.00
Costa Rica Trip 2002 Exp				-19,888.20	-5,555.63
Costa Rica Trip 2006 Inc	27,000.00				
Costa Rica Trip 2006 Exp	-9,430.00				
Grant-Bald Eagle Inc	4,229.32	2,465.25	3,623.30		
Grant-Bald Eagle Exp	-4,229.32	-2,465.25	-3,623.30		
Grant-Nicaragua Inc				10,000.00	
Grant-Nicaragua Exp			-3,285.65	-6,714.35	
Grant-1 Bird 2 Habitats Inc				120.00	
Grant-1 Bird 2 Habitats Exp					-181.60
Grant-Osprey Inc		14,150.40	11,050.00	13,000.00	
Grant-Osprey Exp	-3,722.98	-12,234.19	-6,359.46	-8,142.48	
Grant-WNV Tracking Inc	4,184.76	13,092.05			
Grant-WNV Tracking Exp	-4,184.76	-13,092.05			
IBA Quad 30 Campaign Inc	18,603.92	30,868.60	150.00		
IBA Quad 30 Camp Exp	-4,170.40				
MBS/CTB Summit Inc			83,416.07	5,029.20	93,967.77
MBS/CTB Summit Exp			-90,935.33	-23.78	-93,463.64
Nicaragua Field Gd Inc	570.00	1,220.00	490.00		
Nicaragua Field Gd Exp	-1,480.00	-220.00	-490.00		
SRSEF Inc	2,799.59	1,690.71	1,353.35	1,062.52	3,643.33
SRSEF Exp					
WBCI Gull Symp Inc		1,245.00			
WBCI Gull Symp Exp					
WBCI IBA Coord Inc	33,828.19	44,171.81	20,000.00		
WBCI IBA Coord Exp	-38,805.28	-40,343.36	-16,635.69		
WBCI PR/Nat Tr Coord Inc		48,578.63	15,525.00		
WBCI PR/Nat Tr Coord Exp	-625.00	-50,297.43	-12,149.33		
Workshop-GWWA 2005 Inc	10,646.10				
Workshop-GWWA 2005 Exp	-7,791.04				
WSO/WBCI Symp 2005 Inc	6,401.47	2,927.00			
WSO/WBCI Symp 2005 Exp	-9,174.40	-154.07			

(*continued*)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (*continued*)

III. WSO Balance Sheet as of 31 December

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Cash (Checking)	735.48	2,170.45	2,924.12	2,582.70	2,822.52
Bookstore	2,127.10	4,176.07	6,805.88	6,043.44	0
Bookstore Accts Rec	585.64	0	0	0	0
Slides	1,362.68	1,539.24	7,156.64	7,007.79	0
General Savings	57,158.58	140,606.88	78,391.40	34,873.01	28,987.33
Money Mkt	102,724.57	17,229.09	17,146.24	17,037.90	0
Endowment Savings	14,001.41	14,158.45	10,302.60	16,120.98	3,982.44
Money Mkt/Mut Funds	54,893.43	47,220.54	43,494.39	36,646.21	50,025.56
MBS Savings	0	0	0	7,520.05	2,504.13
Atlas Savings	41,794.29	110,876.96	55,391.85	70,363.31	70,490.13
Money Mkt	60,385.29	0	0	0	0
Schol/Grants Money Mkt	46,011.35	0	0	0	0
SRSEF Savings	6,101.41	5,508.11	3,817.40	2,867.70	3,991.50
CD	20,164.33	18,269.25	17,793.71	17,587.38	15,000.00
WSO Pubs/Bkst Inventory	17,169.68	21,697.85	27,081.61	26,455.11	44,888.65
Slides Inventory	1,664.97	1,590.02	1,590.02	1,609.85	8,164.20
Fixed Assets (Equip/Land)	31,895.13	31,895.13	30,410.00	38,464.74	40,814.23
Total	458,775.34	416,938.04	302,305.86	285,180.17	271,670.69

Christine Reel, Joan Sommer, Marilyn Bontly, Charlie Geiger, Margaret Brasser and me. What a diverse, organized and hard-working group of individuals. Fortunately, most of these individuals have been involved in planning past conventions, so planning has gone very smoothly. We're looking forward to the future and encourage all WSO members to present us with ideas/suggestions for future conventions.

I would also like to welcome two new board members, Randy Hoffman and Sheldon Cooper. Randy replaced Wayne Rohde as WSO's Bird Reports Coordinator. Sheldon Cooper replaced Bob Howe as Research Chairman. I would like to thank both for their commitment to WSO. We look forward to your contributions to your respective positions in WSO.

These past two years have been truly

a rewarding experience. Again, I would like to thank all of you who have made my stay a pleasant one and I can only hope I have made a positive contribution to WSO during my time as president. Good birding to all of you.

Vice President—Dave Sample—No written report.

Treasurer—Christine Reel—See Financial Report.

Secretary—Jane Dennis—No written report.

Editors, The Passenger Pigeon—Bettie and Neil Harriman—Since the WSO convention in 2005, four issues of the *Pigeon* have been produced. As this report is being written issue 68(1) is at Allen Press and should have arrived in your mail before the 2006 convention occurs.

This past year, the WSO Board approved using color within the *Pigeon* whenever documentation photo-

graphs or articles called for it, and they approved having the front cover in color on all issues. Issues 67(1), (3), and (4) had color inside and issue 67(4) was the first with a color photograph on the cover. We will continue to do this as appropriate and as funds allow.

A special account for funds to pay for color in the *Pigeon* was begun in 2005. The editors certainly wish to thank each of you who contributed to this account this year, and hope you will remember to do so in the future.

The editors would also like to thank Wayne Rohde for his efforts as the Bird Reports Coordinator for several years. This is a considerable amount of work and we appreciate the time and attention Wayne paid to this task. He will continue to write the Big Day report each year. We also welcome Randy Hoffman as the new Bird Reports Coordinator and draw your attention to a new column by Randy that will appear in each issue starting with 68(2) called "Lessons from the Seasons."

As always, the editors thank the four seasonal Field Note Compilers for their efforts at making sense of all the reports of bird sightings that you send in each season and for creating the Seasonal Reports and "By the Wayside." We also thank David Kuecherer for his work to find the beautiful art and photographs that you see in the issues.

And finally, a thanks to all the authors and artists for supplying the contents that go into each issue of our journal. Please continue to do so—*The Passenger Pigeon* will not happen without your doing so.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards—Daryl Tessen—Awards to be announced at convention banquet.

The Badger Birder Editor—Mary Uttech—Completed 11 issues of the newsletter.

Bird Reports Coordinator—Randy Hoffman—This report is short, because I assumed the duties mid-year. Since then, I have compiled two reports for *North American Birds*. In addition, I organized the seasonal reports for the Seasonal Editors in a spreadsheet for easier compilation of materials. The primary duties have been to clean up the electronic forms. The single county and multi-county reports forms have been put into AOU order. Furthermore, they were created in both hard copy and pdf formats. I submitted the new forms to the webmaster and she put them on the WSO web page for either eform filing or printing and mailing hard copies. I have also kicked off a summary of the bird events titled "Lessons from the Seasons" that will appear in each issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*. The next year should see more changes with the use of eBird and other bird reporting systems enhancing the number of reports to WSO.

Bookstore—Don Reel—It is my pleasure to be your bookstore manager again. Joan Sommer served as manager until October, when I assumed the position. You may remember that Christine and I managed the bookstore from 1996 until 2002 when Joan took the position.

The main purpose of the WSO Bookstore is to provide an outlet for WSO-published materials to WSO members and resale outlets (nature

centers, bird stores, ABA, etc.), and during our previous tenure we reorganized the bookstore to restore its focus on its main purpose. The bookstore also offers a limited selection of other items of interest to Wisconsin birders as a service to members.

The bookstore is divided into two parts: the traditional bookstore, which is handled out of my home. I fill these orders, which can be placed directly with me by phone (262-547-6128), mail (2022 Sherryl Lane, Waukesha, WI 53188) or email (wsobookstore@hotmail.com); and the online bookstore (Nature Mall). Please do not bookmark the Nature Mall, because WSO gets credit for your order **only** when you go through the bookstore page of the WSO website (<http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wso/bookstore.htm>).

Sales for calendar year 2005 totaled almost \$7,600. In addition to handling sales requests, I accomplished the following:

- Kept members informed of bookstore activities via articles in *The Badger Birder*; also posted information of general interest to WisBird-Net.
- Sent flyers indicating the change of manager/bookstore address, along with information on WSO-published items they can purchase, to retail outlets.
- Attended quarterly Board meetings.
- Submitted updated information for the bookstore page of the WSO website.
- Offered members new items of importance to Wisconsin birders.

Please contact me with any concerns or requests you have about the WSO Bookstore.

A message from Joan Sommer—I would like to thank the membership of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. You are a great group of people. I enjoyed working with you as your WSO Bookstore manager over the last three years. It was a great opportunity to get to know many of you.

Thanks also to the WSO Board for the opportunity and for all the support I received during the time I handled the bookstore. In particular, a huge thank you to Christine Reel for her support and encouragement.

I look forward to seeing you out in the field!

Conservation—Bill Mueller—During the past year, I have attended three of four WSO Board Meetings, and worked on the following projects and publications as a representative of WSO:

- I represented WSO on the Bird Conservation Alliance and American Bird Conservancy, signing on to a number of group letters and actions.
- I have submitted "Conservation Notes" columns to Mary Uttech, for inclusion in *The Badger Birder*.
- Other recent activities include work on a lead poisoning education card. Amber Roth of Project LoonWatch at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College has focused the efforts of several organizations to print and begin distribution of these cards around the state. (Example provided to WSO Board.) WSO contributed \$100 to assist in this printing; 20,000 cards are now ready for distribution. If any WSO members would like to assist with distribution, please contact Lynn Ratkowski, 262-757-0168, Please in-

dicating how many cards you would like to receive and the mailing address where the cards should be sent. The WBCI Issues Committee assisted with editing and providing input on the educational card, and Noel Cutright and Scott Diehl co-authored the new "Issues Paper" on lead poisoning and birds, now also published on the WBCI website.

- Scott Diehl and I co-authored a recent article on birds and window collisions for *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine (see the April 2006 issue). Utilizing this popular publication provides an excellent means of getting this conservation message to a wide audience.
- The WBCI Issues Committee and WBCI Chair Karen Etter Hale have circulated a letter to all 150 WBCI partner organizations, seeking support for a new mitigation and research project being proposed by the Friends of Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. Any board members wishing to assist with this project and provide support should contact Harold Steinback of the Friends group. Basically this project involves the installation of poles along a section of Highway 49, which are intended to cause birds to gain a bit of altitude when flying over the highway, thus taking them out of the path of oncoming vehicles. This project is only the second concrete proposal we have seen that can likely accomplish the multiple goals of mitigation, research, and public education to help limit highway mortality of birds and other animals at this location.
- I co-authored and published WBCI Issues Papers on "Ethical Standards in Birding" and "The Effects of Free-

ranging Cats on Birds in Wisconsin" on the WBCI website (see these and other Issues Papers at <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/IssuesPapers.htm>). The Issues Papers will be published in *The Passenger Pigeon* later this year, to provide a printed version to WSO members and other readers of our state journal. The Issues Committee is continuing work on additional "Issues Papers" on other topics, including pesticides and their effect on birds, and climate change and its potential and current effects on bird populations.

- I provided messages on an array of avian conservation topics to the Wis-BirdNet statewide birding listserv.

Education—Mariette Nowak—As Education Chair, I organized a series of five spring hikes for the public in the South Kettle Moraine area. I also wrote a fact sheet, "Neotropical Migrant Birds—The Basics" which appears on the WSO website, as well as a series of articles on native plant species attractive to birds that were published in *The Badger Birder* from October 2005 to February 2006. In addition, I gave a talk on birdscaping with native plants to the Lakeland Audubon Society in September 2005 and have three more birdscaping talks scheduled for upcoming months.

Field Trips—Jeff Baughman and Tom Schultz—WSO field trips continue to be popular and well-attended. They provide a great way to connect socially with fellow birders from other parts of the state (or even from beyond our borders from time to time, as was the case on at least three occasions this year!). Our field trips are also a good means of sharing bird identification

knowledge—they can provide a great learning experience!

Last September, prompted by suggestions from veteran participants, we arranged for a “comfort station” (porta-potty) to be rented for the Superior/Wisconsin Point field trip. A voluntary collection was taken up from participants, and the entire cost of this for the weekend was able to be covered, so that no WSO funds were used. We may well continue doing this in future years, as it provides a convenient solution for birders spending long days on Wisconsin Point—not to mention that this is a good, environmentally responsible practice for us to be following. (It turned out that some young people had a beach party the night before our field trip, making a mess and tipping over the porta-potty—but a number of WSO attendees pitched in to clean up, and no harm was done.)

A big event took place in March 2006, when Tom Schultz led a group of 14 to Costa Rica for a WSO birding tour. We had a great guide and managed to find 457 species during the 13-day tour! Everyone had a wonderful time and saw some great birds, and this tour will probably be repeated in about two years—which may provide consolation for those who wanted to go but couldn’t this time due to space limitations.

Historian—Noel Cutright—I have:

- Worked for two days organizing boxes and files in WSO’s room at UW-Green Bay.
- Accepted boxes of materials for archiving from Shirley (Sam) Robbins, Carl Hayssen, and Cathryn Steuer and transported them to UW-GB.
- Attended four Board meetings.

*Membership—Jesse Peterson—*In 2005, membership continued a very slight

Total Membership at Calendar Year End

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Single	737	730	718	700	726	738	685	572	494	520	521
Family	372	361	353	380	344	358	351	304	282	275	268
Sustaining	96	86	63	51	56	50	49	40	34	25	32
Life (1 of 4)	8	3	8	9	9	10	3	2	0	2	3
Life (2 of 4)								2	2	0	1
Life (3 of 4)								1	2	1	0
Life-Couple (1 of 4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Life-Couple (2 of 4)								0	0	2	1
Life-Couple (3 of 4)								0	0	0	2
Life	99	107	107	110	119	120	126	130	129	133	133
Life-Couple	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3
Patron	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	7	7	8	8
Senior	46	50	49	41	41	60	79	126	131	120	129
Youth							6	6	7	11	15
Library	46	47	49	44	43	41	41	41	35	34	37
Exchange	47	48	48	48	46	46	46	47	36	36	36
Honorary Life	6	6	5	4	3	3	4	2	2	2	2
Board	5	8	8	18	12	5	4	3	3	3	3
Total	1468	1452	1414	1411	1404	1437	1400	1283	1167	1176	1194

growth pattern as membership non-renewals were offset by a large increase in new members and lapsed member renewals. In an attempt to continue to build membership, we are continuing to work to increase awareness of WSO through various activities initiated or performed by various members of the WSO Board.

Activities and accomplishments throughout the past year include:

- Continued oversight of printing and mailing of *The Badger Birder*;
- Increased distribution of the *e-Badger Birder*, the electronic version of the WSO newsletter, to over 200 subscribers;
- Monitored and managed the publication exchange program;
- Managed the annual membership renewal activity.

Publicity—Ursula Petersen—Many pos-

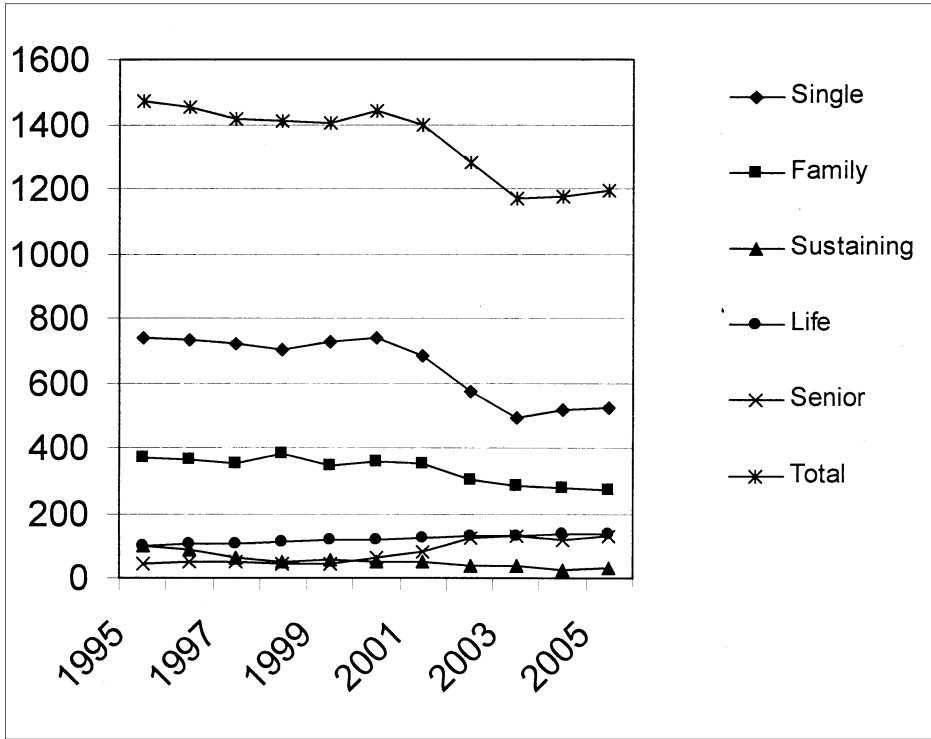
sibilities for publicity and education came our way this year and we could not get to all of them. Judith Huf developed a second display and we have a small third one so the potential for attending more events is there. We need to draw on a larger pool of people to participate in the many bird events occurring in the state for WSO.

The displays and brochures went to the Raptor Research annual meeting in Green Bay and the Citizen-based Monitoring conference in Manitowish Waters in October 2005, the Natural Landscaping conference in February 2006, and a forestry/private landowner workshop in April, and they are expected at the Horicon Marsh Bird Festival and the Urban Ecology Center in May 2006. Again, we were not able to get to International Migratory Bird day at the Milwaukee Zoo. They are expecting us in 2007.

Membership Renewal Status (as of 4/30/2006)

	Paid thru 2005	Renewed for 2006	% Renewed	New Members
Single	521	465	89%	10
Family	268	247	92%	8
Sustaining	32	31	97%	0
Life (1 of 4)	3	3	100%	0
Life (2 of 4)	1	1	100%	0
Life (3 of 4)	0	0	0%	0
Life-Couple (1 of 4)	0	0	0%	0
Life-Couple (2 of 4)	1	1	100%	0
Life-Couple (3 of 4)	2	2	100%	0
Senior	129	116	90%	3
Youth	15	11	73%	2
Library	37	36	97%	0
Subtotal	1009	913	90%	23
Life	133			
Life-Couple	3			
Patron	8			
Honorary Life	2			
Board	3			
Exchange	36			
Subtotal	185			
Grand Total	1194			

Membership Trends 1995–2005



I distributed and posted pre-publication Atlas flyers to people at Department of Agriculture, also several libraries and individuals. Related to bird protection, we held a “preventing bird collisions” contest at the state Dept. of Agriculture, allowing me to provide such information to 500 persons. We are practicing some of the simple methods such as lights out, shades drawn, and stickers on the windows.

Thank you to the following for vital assistance with display, brochures, and related matters: Jesse Peterson, Bill Mueller, Jane Dennis, Barb Duerksen, Andy Paulios, Maggie Jones, Bill Volkert, Christine Reel, Mariette Nowak. Apologies for any omissions here.

Records—Jim Frank—No written report.

Research—Sheldon Cooper—No written report.

Scholarships and Grants—Janine Polk—WSO Grants, which provide additional support for work that is being carried out and funded through another program, were given to:

- Urban Ecology Center, “Monitoring Avian Migration—Use of Stopover Sites in Milwaukee County;”
- Anders Olson, “Avian Community Responses to Long-Term Forest Change in Southern Wisconsin;”
- William Stout, “Urban Cooper’s Hawk Ecology in the Metropolitan Milwaukee Area.”

Steenbock Awards, for beginners, amateurs and independent researchers, to fund almost any type of meaningful bird-related project, were awarded to:

- Ryan Brady, Great Gray Owl research conducted in 2005;
- Andrea Szymczak, Hooded Warbler vocalization study;

Nelson Award, for ornithological research involving wetlands, was given to:

- Kathleen Coates, "Breeding Bird Communities and Swamp Sparrow Population Dynamics at Restored and Natural Wetlands in South-central Wisconsin."

Website—Jennifer Davis—Continued to maintain WSO website including:

- posting the Annual Convention information;
- posting items in the Important Dates section;
- posting articles from *The Badger Birder* to the Birding News section;
- archiving Hotline Reports (Jane Dennis prepares the reports for the web);
- posting Birding Help Wanted items on the Birding News page;
- posting fact sheets on the Birding News page;
- posting PDF versions of *The Badger Birder*;
- posting the Table of Contents from each issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*;
- updating Bird/Nature Organization entries;
- updating WSO Administrators and Committee Chairs;
- updating the WSO State Checklist;

- updating the Christmas Count page; and,
- updating the Bookstore page;

Youth Education—Barbara Duerksen—Youth Education Coordinator activities of the past year included the following:

Youth Grants Program—Grants are awarded in spring and fall for bird research or education.

- We awarded two grants in the fall of 2005:

Martin Steren, sophomore at Whitefish Bay High School, to build Wood Duck houses and then monitor them for nesting success; he will report on this scout-troop project in Fall 2006

Quinten Eberhardy, a second grader, for a project, Park Paradise, to enhance his school's birdbath and feeding area. The project involves all 100 students at St. Peter Lutheran School, in Schofield, grades 1 through 8, with older students building a park bench and planter boxes in May for bird-friendly plants; the younger students are creating bird art stepping stones. All students studied native Wisconsin birds in preparation. The school art instructor is the coordinator of the project.

- We awarded one grant in the spring of 2006:

In April 2006, Chris West, a high school age home-schooled student from Richland County, for travel expenses to the New Jersey Audubon Society's World Series of Birding, as a member of the American Birding Association/Leica youth team, the Tropicbirds. Chris was selected by the ABA for the Tropicbirds team by entering a

written essay contest and submitting two letters of recommendation.

Meetings—Attended WSO Board Meetings and those of the education subcommittee of WBCI, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative.

Presentations—

- Bird hike and WSO booth at the Kickapoo Country Fair;
- Two-day outdoor bird conservation workshop with the Richland County Conservation Field Days for sixth graders;
- Bird talk for Ned Hollister Bird Club;
- Earth Day bird programs and guided bird walk for Richland Center high school biology classes; and,
- International Migratory Bird Day hike at the Kickapoo Reserve.

Bird Conservation Mentor Program—Continued development of this joint project of WSO and WBCI to introduce students and others to the common birds of Wisconsin and their habitats, with the use of a kit contain-

ing a scope, tripod, binoculars, field guides, a CD, and educational materials. The WBCI education subcommittee established a policy for use of the kits and is working on educational activities for teachers and nature center educators. One orientation program was given to the Oshkosh Bird Club, who donated a bird kit to the Heckrodt Environmental Center. Three members of the committee presented a workshop, "Introducing Kids to Birds," at the fall conference of the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education. We received donations for five additional kits. Kits are now available through volunteers in Brown, Ozaukee, Richland, and Wood Counties.

Five kits are placed with nature centers or other bird groups: the Winnebago Audubon Society, Winnebago County; Heckrodt Wetland Reserve in Menasha for use in Winnebago, Calumet, and Outagamie Counties; Red Cedar Trail/ Hoffman Hills, Dunn County; Welty Environmental Center, Rock County; and Kickapoo Valley Reserve, Vernon County.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Jay Agger is the lucky non-birder whose feeders attracted the Band-tailed Pigeon seen on the cover of this issue. The bird was seen at Agger's home in Robert, Wisconsin from late November 2005 until late March 2006. WSO appreciates that Mr. Agger welcomed birders to his home to see this unusual visitor.

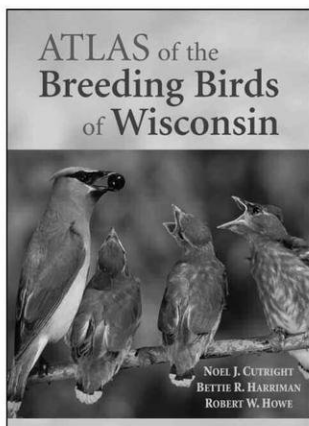
David Brandon is a self-taught artist who has taught basic drawing and illustration at the college level. This award winning artist's interests are in nature and landscape painting. He does freelance illustration work from his home in Minnesota.

Janet Flynn interprets nature in watercolor as a full time endeavor. She finds the beautiful Baraboo Hills to be both a classroom and a source of inspiration for her vibrant, unique watercolors. Her work is marketed at the International Crane Foundation gift shop and

numerous Wisconsin galleries and has been juried into numerous national and international exhibitions including "Birds in Art" in Wausau, Wisconsin.

David Kuecherer, Art Editor for *The Passenger Pigeon*, taught art in high school for 30 years and at UW-Oshkosh for several years. He combines his artistic talents with his love of birdwatching to paint birds. His work has been exhibited in "Birds in Art" and several other shows in Wisconsin.

Dennis Malueg is a serious amateur bird and wildlife photographer. He currently works from his backyard studio, prairie, and 80-acre forest to capture images of birds native to Waushara County. He travels the state to photograph birds he doesn't find at home.



Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin

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

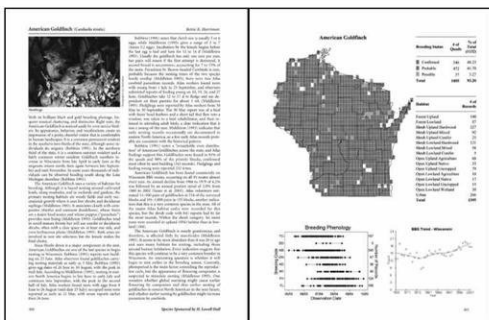
The largest natural history survey ever conducted in Wisconsin has resulted in this comprehensive guide to birds that breed in the state.

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

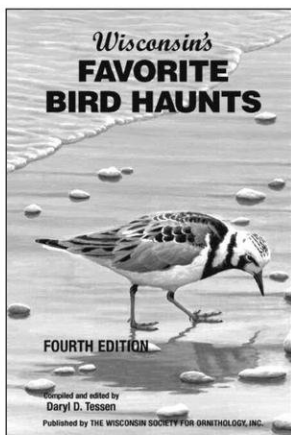
Published by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., with proceeds used for projects supported by the organization.

The two-page species accounts – 214 of them in all – provide a host of information on the state's breeding species, including their range, habitat preference, breeding biology, conservation concerns, and population trends.

An additional 23 less-common species also are covered. Also included are chapters on Atlas methodology, results, history, habitats, and conservation.



Contact WSO Bookstore for price and ordering information:
262-547-6128 or wsobookstore@hotmail.com



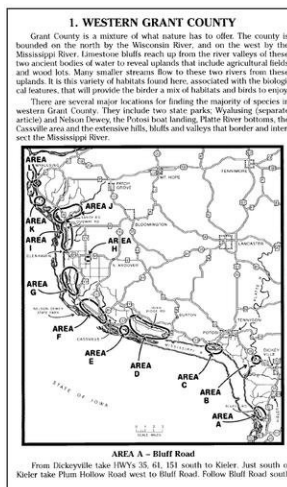
Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts,

Fourth Edition (2000)

Compiled and edited by Daryl Tessen with contributions from birders throughout the state. Features artwork by Thomas Schultz, David Kuecherer, Rockne Knuth, Judith Huf, and Jeannie Perry.

- Covers all 72 counties
- Contains 135 favorite haunts, detailing more than 1,000 areas
- Includes detailed directions as well as a map for each location
- Features some 45 bird illustrations, 15 of them in color
- Includes a list of 400 valid Wisconsin state species and 15 hypothetical species (current as of January 2000)

This book, designed for durability and functionality, is printed on heavy coated paper and has a spiral binding so it lies flat when open. 6" by 9". 544 pages



Contact WSO Bookstore for price and ordering information.
262.547.6128 or wsobookstore@hotmail.com

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