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The PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME XII *April, 1950* NUMBER 2



NEST AND EGGS OF GREEN HERON

EDWARD PRINS

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

Published Quarterly By

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.

NEWS . . .

The convention of 1951 will be held in Milwaukee next spring. Although nearly a year ahead, plans are already under way. The officers of the society will have their first meeting with our new president, Charlie Nelson, at his home in Waukesha, July 23.

Apparently more unusual birds were observed in the state this spring than ever before. It will be an interesting story when, finally, all of the reports are in.

The Society elected two new honorary members during the convention this year. They were Owen J. Gromme of Milwaukee, and Wallace B. Grange of Babcock.

The Field Note Editor is equipped with new, simplified forms both for the reporting of seasonal bird observation summaries, and for reporting nesting studies. These forms have been devised by the Research Committee for use by the Society, and can be had for the asking by addressing Rev. Sam D. Robbins, Mazomanie, Wisconsin.

The National Audubon Society has presented bird movie programs in different parts of the country for several years. This year, a new series will be brought to Madison by The Madison Audubon Society. Since Madison is centrally located for many members of our statewide Society, the schedule is given below: (Milwaukee, no doubt, will have a similar schedule)

October 4, 1950—Allan Cruickshank, "Below the Big Bend"

December 11, 1950—Bert Harwell, "Canada West"

February 9, 1951—William Ferguson, "This Curious World"

March 2, 1951—Telford Work, "Arctic to the Tropics"

April 2, 1951—Olin Pettingill, "Wilderness Mischief"

Although Canada Geese formerly nested in Wisconsin, few, if any, recent records were made of nesting until a year or two ago. Today, the Conservation Department is starting nesting colonies, especially on Horicon Marsh, and it is expected

that the young, which migrate southward from these areas, will return next year to the place of origin.

Dr. Gardiner Bump of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife, cooperating with the Wildlife Management Institute, and the state Conservation Department, recently stocked a number of capercaillie and black grouse on Outer Island in Lake Superior. Both species are from Europe.

Bird banders will find the new booklet "Trapping Methods for Bird Ringers," by P. A. D. Hollom, to be of considerable interest. It goes into all of the usual phases of the art and describes many kinds of traps, both automatic and non-automatic, and different kinds of nets. It is available from the British Trust for Ornithology, 91 Banbury Road, Oxford, England, at a price of 2s. 6d.

A list of books and pamphlets to be found in the Society's library was recently prepared by the Library Committee. Copies may be obtained free of charge from Miss Ellen Hoffmann (see list of officers for address).

Just a reminder! Do not forget to take notes on the red-bellied woodpecker this year. Questionnaires on this species will be sent out at the close of 1950.

Members who take pictures of birds can do the Society a service by sending in some from time to time to be published in The Passenger Pigeon. Select only those which will reproduce well.

Not all members have received their copy of the new Check List Booklet and Migration Charts. The Bibliography, prepared by A. W. Schorger, alone is worth much more than the price of 25c. Order from the Supply Department.

Stephen F. Briggs, of Milwaukee, recently sponsored an expedition under the supervision of the National Audubon Society, in which the largest flock of flamingos known to science was discovered in Yucatan, Mexico. The flock is estimated to number about 3,500.

Two ivory-billed woodpeckers, thought to be extinct, were spotted recently in Florida by an expedition led by Whitney H. Eastman of Minneapolis. The area on which they were found is patrolled, so it is hoped that the species can be saved at least for a while.

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A BADGER IN DIXIE

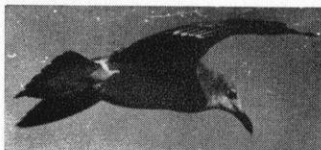
By HOWARD L. ORIAN

What would have seemed to me like the wild creation of an overstimulated imagination but a few years ago became a reality in 1949. Through the courtesy of the National Audubon Society and its Screen Tour program, the writer was able to make two brief trips to southern United States, to the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida in January, and to Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana in late October. Because of the exacting demands of a full lecture schedule, both trips were hurried, somewhat frenzied affairs, in typical American tempo, but both provided many experiences to become a part of one's unforgettable memories. The big moment of the Florida adventure was the one day trip which included a boat ride on Florida Bay, and a drive through part of the Everglades National Park. The high spot in the Texas excursion was a half day spent at the Aransas Wildlife Refuge, winter home of the thirty or more whooping cranes that are making a desperate last stand against extinction.

Now to get to more specific details. One is impressed, first of all, with the fact that it would be possible to travel great distances in the south, either by train or car, using the most frequently traveled routes, and see very few of the birds which one associates with the south. I had gone by train through Georgia, then from west to east through northern Florida, and had seen only one bird not found in Wisconsin, the black vulture. On one's first trip to Florida he might be able to spend a month at such a fashionable spot as fabulous Miami Beach, and add only the comical brown pelican and fish crow to his life list. We began to see new birds only when we were guided to them by persons familiar with the area. The first opportunity of that sort was the boat trip aboard the "Audubon" on the shallow waters of Florida Bay. This is one of the regular tours conducted twice weekly throughout the entire winter by the Audubon Society. The boat is docked at Tavernier, fifty-eight miles south of Miami. The regular guide for this tour was in a Miami hospital, so the "Audubon" was piloted by none other than Robert Allen, author of the exhaustive monograph on the roseate spoonbill. He pointed out to us the little mangrove key on which he had lived for six months while enjoying an intimate "keyhole" glimpse into the home life of the colorful flame birds.

This trip on Florida Bay provided our first sight of the reddish egret, which Mr. Allen considers to be on the endangered list of birds, and of the great white heron, another uncommon bird of great size, towering 54 inches on his bright yellow legs. The real goal of this boat trip is the colony of roseate spoonbills, whose beauty we admired at a safe distance from their nesting site. Only the rich pink of the bird's plumage saves it from being considered an ugly duckling. The queer-looking head and spatula-like bill of such enormous size are not the normal qualifications for beauty contest winners.

One is surprised to learn that, though it is January, many birds are nesting. This was true, not only of the spoonbills, but also of the brown pelicans and others. An osprey on her nest grudged us only a side-long glance as our boat chugged by at a distance of only fifty feet. Our guide



LAUGHING GULL
PHOTO BY GORDON ORIAN

stated that nesting birds may be found all year except for the hottest part of the summer. Ideal weather conditions and a constant food supply make this possible.

Returning to Tavernier, we stopped long enough for two of Florida's delectable dishes, green turtle steak and Florida lime pie. Then we were taken by Wayne Short,

who is in charge of the Audubon Screen Tours, to the edge of the great Everglades National Park, a vast expanse teeming with bird life. Standing near a little bridge we saw American and snowy egrets, wood and white ibis, anhinga, the limpkin, little blue and Louisiana herons. In a lush tropical setting it was almost "out of this world."

The following day the long bus ride from Miami to Key West provided additional thrills. The sleek man-o-war birds sailed high overhead, while countless cormorants perched on posts here and there along the causeway. At Key West one is shown the house where Audubon once stayed, but of greater present interest is the sight of prairie warblers and ruby-throated hummingbirds taking January in stride in this lone spot in the United States where frost has never been recorded.

Shifting from January to late October, and from Florida to Texas, we pick up the Dixie trail again. On the way to Texas I had my first glimpse of the gaudy vermilion flycatcher, which had strayed from its normal habitat to delight the many bird lovers at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Abilene, Texas produced my first Texas woodpecker. However, it was not until Saturday, October 29th, that there was a real opportunity to see some of the richness of Texas bird life. Frank Watson, of Houston, who has two of the keenest eyes that ever peered into a binocular, called for me at my hotel, at 5:00 a. m. and took me, at speeds ranging from seventy-five to eighty-five miles per hour, down along the gulf coast to the Aransas Refuge. While he watched the road, as I hoped he would, I was scanning the fences for my first sight of the handsome scissor-tailed flycatcher. It was a bit late in the season for them, but not long after daylight I saw two along the road. For exotic beauty, that bird belongs near the top of any man's rating of ornithological pulchritude. A campaign is on at the present time to have this bird named as the official state bird of Oklahoma. A better choice would be hard to imagine.

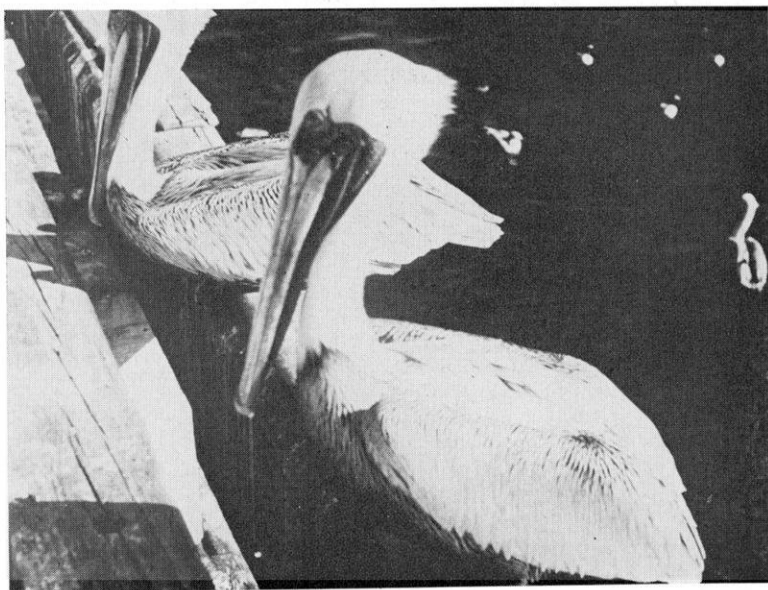
Rain had fallen steadily for three days on the Southern Texas gulf coast, and even Watson's new Buick didn't have the slightest chance of getting through the water that almost covered the refuge. Luckily, the assistant warden was able to take two hours to show us around, and luckier still, he had a jeep with which to do it. It was my first ride in a jeep, and I am perfectly content to have it be the last. One found his



BROWN PELICAN IN FLIGHT

GORDON ORIAN

feelings alternating between wonder that such a contraption could go through mud and water as it did, and amazement that the mind of man could contrive anything which could be so uncomfortable. But the sight of wild turkeys ambling slowly into the brush, sandhill cranes wheeling above us, and the lordly whooping cranes striding across the salt marshes, made one forget personal discomforts. The pairs which are successful in raising young are always the last to return, so the watchful wardens were still hopeful that the size of the flock might be augmented by the arrival of several young of the year. A year ago three young returned from the



BROWN PELICAN

H. L. ORIAN

still undiscovered nesting grounds in the far north. These rare cranes and turkeys were not all that made Aransas a memorable place. The black skimmer, Sennet's white-tailed hawk, the gull-billed tern, western sandpiper, and the long-billed curlew all stopped long enough to excite our admiration.

Leaving Aransas at noon we hurried on to Rockport, made famous by the bird exploits of Mrs. Connie Hager, who has made a vocation of bird watching. She and her husband operate a motor court, where a reservation for the month of April or early May must be made many months in advance. It is a mecca for bird watchers from all over the country. For me, after Aransas, Rockport was somewhat of an anticlimax, but even in this off season it did have its moments. Inca doves were nesting in the bushes outside one's window. Willets were as common as spotted sandpipers are in Wisconsin. I counted seventeen great blue herons at one time in statuesque fishing poses. A great flock of white pelicans were maneuvering above us, apparently for the sheer delight of doing it. Louisiana herons and spoonbills explored the shallow water together, while in the bay thousands of coots and ducks, including the

fulvous tree duck, were feeding. A few of the abundant mockingbirds were still in song, and the boat-tailed grackles, sound effects artists and contortionists extraordinary of the bird world, seemed bent on making an impression on someone. Two avocets, uncommon there, were showing off their winter plumage, and one lone oyster-catcher, the bird with the red plastic bill, was feeding along the shore.

What were the surprises of the two trips? For one thing, it was the unbelievably large number of meadowlarks. Everywhere one went, in Alabama, Texas, and Oklahoma, they seemed to be holding a national convention. Sparrow hawks and shrikes were also very common, in sharp contrast to Wisconsin. And on the 29th of October it seemed that all the barn swallows of North America had been funneled into the strip of land along the Texan coast. They were everywhere, thousands upon thousands of them. No doubt it was the very peak of the migration, and this was the center of their flyway. Also, one hardly expects such a well-staffed sanitation department as he finds in operation there, with great numbers of black and turkey vultures on the pay roll. One notes a corresponding decrease in the number of crows.

Seeing one's first cotton fields, the first citrus orchards, and adding twenty-nine new birds to one's life list is thrill enough for one year. The only thing to match it is the little chickadee eating sunflower seeds from a cocoanut feeder just outside my study window this crisp December morning. I don't have to travel to find him. He comes to me, accepting the hospitality which I offer. Hats off to a badger who has no "yen" for Dixie, even in the middle of the winter.

1611 Sixteenth Avenue,
Monroe, Wisconsin.

1949 In Review

By SAMUEL D. ROBBINS, Jr.

A record-breaking total of 291 birds were identified within the limits of the state of Wisconsin in 1949. The 286 species, four subspecies (Hoyt's and prairie horned larks, Cassiar junco, and Gambel's sparrow), and one hybrid (Brewster's warbler), were well in excess of the 280 forms found in 1948, previously the highest total since annual state lists began being compiled several years ago.

The reason for the record-breaking total, of course, is the fact that an unusual and impressive number of rarities were recorded in the course of the year. No newcomers to the state's avifauna were encountered, but the second state record for the dovekie was made, and third sight records for the yellow-crowned night heron and varied thrush were established. The first observation of the swallow-tailed kite in modern times was made. In all, three species were found for the first time in the last ten years; seven made their second appearance of the decade; and another four were recorded for the third time in this period. These are summarized below:

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Two were observed closely in Waukesha County on May 19 (Mr. & Mrs. Martin Paulsen). While there still

is no specimen for the state, it is the second good sight record in the past ten years.

Surf Scoter: One collected in Madison, Oct. 12 (Robert Nero). First state record since 1940.

American Scoter: Three were noted at Cedar Grove, Nov. 5 (Helmuth Mueller et al); only other recent record was in 1948.

Swallow-tailed Kite: The first Wisconsin record since 1901 was obtained by a careful observation of one at Menomonie on Sept. 27 (Helmer Mattison).

Swainson's Hawk: Although there have been several hypothetical sight records, the first positive sight record in the past decade was made in Mazomanie on May 15 (Gilbert Doane et al).

Hudsonian Curlew: One in Milwaukee, Sept. 17 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Gordon Orians), is the second record since 1939.

Silt Sandpiper: Recorded only twice in the previous decade. There were five reports in 1949, all in the fall.

Western Sandpiper: For the third consecutive year, this species was credibly reported from Milwaukee—this year on Aug. 28 (Helmuth Mueller et al).

Red Phalarope: The first Wisconsin visitor since 1944 was photographed near Racine on Oct. 27 (George Prins).

Great Black-backed Gull: One appeared in Kenosha on Dec. 29 (Richard Gordon). Not seen previously since 1941.

Dovekie: The second state record (the first was established in 1908) was secured when a bird of this species was found dead in northern Monroe County on March 3 by Joe Rice, and forwarded to the University of Wisconsin collection by Dorothy Mead.

Varied Thrush: This straggler from the west was present in Osceola from December 1948 through April 21, 1949 (Mrs. O. T. Simmons). This is only the third or fourth Wisconsin record—all sight records, except a 1946 record substantiated with photographs.

Summer Tanager: The first Wisconsin visitor since 1945 was encountered in Milwaukee on May 6 (Dr. Anna Hehn et al).

Hoary Redpoll: The third record of the decade was established by the observation of three birds at Cedar Grove on February 13 (Gordon Orians et al).

Hypothetical List

In addition to the 291 forms positively recorded, two additional species and one subspecies are herewith appended as hypothetical. In all probability these observations are correct; but for various reasons there is lacking the certainty that is necessary for valid records.

Lesser Canada Goose: Unquestionably a smaller form of the Canada goose appears in Wisconsin regularly. Birds appearing to be about half the size of the Canadas were noted in Oconto County on Apr. 3 (Carl Richter); in Horicon on Apr. 2; and at Cedar Grove on Oct. 28 (Helmuth Mueller et al). Wisconsin ornithologists have been accustomed to calling these smaller birds Hutchins' Geese; but Peterson's Field Guide lists the Lesser Canada as the subspecies most likely to occur in Wisconsin. Until it is positively determined which form or forms do occur in the state, any sight records must be treated as hypothetical.

Magpie: There is no question about the correct identification of a bird of this species in Milwaukee, Oct. 2 (C. P. Frister). The presence of this bird on the hypothetical list is occasioned by the outside possibility that it is one of six birds that escaped from a zoological garden in Madison in 1944. It is far more probable that this is a *bona fide* straggler from the West.

Baird's Sparrow: A bird thought to be of this species was observed at close range in Ozaukee County on May 26 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom-Mrs. W. Simmons). Careful observation and reporting make the probability of correct identification probable, but were insufficient to establish what would have been the first Wisconsin record for this species.

More Observers Cooperate

Just as the record-breaking total of birds seen in 1949 reflects a greater number of rarities encountered during the year, so does the detection of these rarities reflect the constantly growing number of bird watchers over the state, and the steadily increasing participation in our field note program. Observations from over 300 people were sent in to the field note editor in the course of the year, and 50 of these persons sent in regular quarterly reports. These figures—compared with 1948 totals of 37 “regular” observers and 266 persons who have sent in records—indicate an encouraging growth in ornithological interest, and improving coverage of the state.

Increased participation is also indicated by those who sent in personal lists of birds seen in Wisconsin during 1949. Last year there were 25 lists; this year there were 45. Here are their totals:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Helmuth Mueller, Milwaukee | 252 |
| Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Milwaukee | 249 |
| Miss Mary Donald, Milwaukee | 248 |
| Sam Robbins, Mazomanie | 236 |
| Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Milwaukee | 234 |
| Mr. & Mrs. C. P. Frister, Milwaukee | 227 |
| S. Paul Jones, Waukesha | 225 |
| C. E. Nelson, Jr., Waukesha | 217 |
| Alan Keitt, Madison | 202 |
| Jack Kaspar, Oshkosh | 201 |
| George Hall, Madison | 197 |
| Paul Cors, Ripon | 196 |
| Eugene Roark, Madison | 195 |
| Dr. Anna Hehn, Milwaukee | 193 |
| Mrs. H. J. Nunnemacher, Milwaukee | 190 |
| John Wilde, Madison | 187 |
| William Roark, Madison | 182 |
| Chester Skelly, Milton | 177 |
| Allie Kruger, Milwaukee | 176 |
| Mrs. W. Simmons & Mrs. L. Logeman, Milwaukee | 175 |
| Mrs. Martin Paulson, Menomonee Falls | 172 |
| Mrs. W. E. Rogers, Appleton | 169 |
| George Henseler, Mt. Calvary | 169 |
| Miss Margaret Morse, Viroqua | 166 |
| Edwin Cleary, Green Bay | 164 |
| Jim Zimmerman, Madison | 164 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Mrs. P. E. Miles, Madison | 163 |
| Mrs. Winnifred Smith, Two Rivers | 155 |
| Myron Reichwaldt, Kiel | 150 |
| Mrs. Ethel Olson & Mrs. Lola Welch, South Wayne | 148 |
| Edwin Paulson, Green Bay | 141 |
| Mrs. Melva Maxson, Milton | 140 |
| Mrs. Glen Fisher, Oshkosh | 135 |
| Mrs. Frank Blick, Appleton | 133 |
| Harold Koopmann, Plymouth | 117 |
| Arlene Cors, Portage | 114 |
| Mrs. Arvin Bromm, Milwaukee | 111 |
| Mrs. Lester McMaster, Belvidere, Ill. | 111 |
| Miss Helene Stoll & Mrs. H. Kroetz, Milwaukee | 106 |
| Fred Babcock, Land O' Lakes | 104 |
| Mrs. Floyd Traxler, Milton Junction | 100 |
| Mr. & Mrs. L. Heinsohn, St. Croix Falls | 89 |
| Miss Ethel Nott, Reedsburg | 70 |
| Mrs. Clem Coleman, Milwaukee | 57 |
| Miss Sarah Ruhl, Lake Geneva | 46 |



IMMATURE GREAT HORNED OWL

PRINS BROTHERS

The improved coverage of the state is marked not only by the increasing number of observers, but also by the number of counties from which 100 or more species were reported during the year. In 1949 there were 21 such counties, and their totals are listed here:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Dane | 251 | Iowa | 157 |
| Milwaukee | 244 | Brown | 149 |
| Winnebago | 206 | Outagamie | 149 |
| Sheboygan | 204 | Waukesha | 143 |
| Rock | 174 | Sauk | 142 |
| Manitowoc | 171 | Lafayette | 140 |
| Green | 165 | Door | 135 |
| Vernon | 165 | Oconto | 134 |

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Vilas | 130 |
| Walworth | 116 |
| Iron | 112 |

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Dodge | 109 |
| Fond du Lac | 101 |

General Picture and Outstanding Dates

The year started out in fairly mild fashion, with the usual number of half-hardy wintering species present. The only severe winter weather came in late January and early February. No unusual flights of any of the northern winter species occurred, although scattered records of most species were reported. The migration began on schedule, with limited movement of early migrants in southern Wisconsin by March 5, and general migration over the state during the last ten days of March. The migration proceeded normally until mid-April, when a snow storm and a week of cold weather retarded birds. Southern Wisconsin had a week of abnormally hot weather and heavy migration, May 2-9, but observers farther north did not experience such a pronounced wave, and reported generally disappointing birding. By the end of May the migration was virtually complete.

Nearly every year brings a few early stragglers. Except for the hot spell in early May, climatic conditions did not favor unusually early dates, and the average arrival dates for most species was near normal. But a few stragglers, noted below, were detected earlier than any previously known Wisconsin record: Horned grebe on Mar. 23 (Madison, Paul Cors); American bittern on Mar. 25 (Milwaukee, Gordon Orians); broad-winged hawk on Mar. 20 (Madison, George Knudsen); olive-sided flycatcher on May 4 (Milwaukee, Gordon Orians); prairie marsh wren on Apr. 10 (Milwaukee, Mrs. A. P. Balsom); warbling vireo on Apr. 26 (Madison, Leon Edmunds); prothonotary warbler on Apr. 24 (Dane County, S. P. Jones et al); Cape May warbler on Apr. 30 (Milwaukee, Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Mary Donald); black-throated blue warbler on Apr. 30 (Two Rivers, Mrs. Smith); Connecticut warbler on May 4 (Milwaukee, Gordon Orians); Wilson's warbler on May 4 (Milwaukee, Gordon Orians); Henslow's sparrow on Apr. 3 (Madison, George Hall); and clay-colored sparrow on Mar. 29 (Madison, Mrs. R. A. Walker). One new late date was established: pine grosbeak on Apr. 13 (Merrill, J. W. Peroutky). One further outstanding feature of the spring migration was the remarkable—perhaps unprecedented—flight of Western grebes along Lake Michigan; during most of April and May as many as a dozen could be seen almost any day between Milwaukee and Cedar Grove.



YOUNG BROWN CREEPER
PHOTO BY GEORGE HALL

The summer season produced nesting records for the Forster's tern in Horicon (Harold Mathiak), and the Bell's vireo in Mazomanie (Sam Robbins). It was another good year for "white" herons: there was a summer population of 55 at Horicon, with other summer birds near Babcock and Prairie du Chien. Post-nuptial flights brought many more to areas of southern and central Wisconsin, and with them a surprising number of snowy egrets and little blue herons. It seems

remarkable that there were 12 snowy egrets in six areas, and 27 little blue herons in ten areas, when but a few years ago both species were almost unknown in the state.

The shorebird migration in fall was an interesting one, and an extraordinarily long one. The first fall migrants were back by mid-July, and several sandpipers were still to be seen late in November—a stretch of four and one-half months. Stilt and Baird's sandpipers were noted at five places apiece during this time. Small land birds migrated about on schedule, but some that would normally depart in October lingered later than usual because of unusually mild weather. The duck flight was good, the goose flight also good—and early. The following record-breaking late departure dates were reported during the fall: green heron on Oct. 30 (Milwaukee, Bernard Kaiman-Audrey Andrews); pigeon hawk on Oct. 29 (Cedar Grove, Helmuth Mueller); greater yellow-legs on Nov. 13 (Green County, Gordon Orians); lesser yellow-legs on Nov. 28 (Dodge County, Philip Mallow); white-rumped sandpiper on Nov. 10 (Winnebago County, Mrs. Rogers); least sandpiper on Nov. 5 (Horicon, F. H. King); red-backed sandpiper on Nov. 26 (Milwaukee, C. P. Frister; and Racine, George Prins); sanderling on Nov. 27 (Racine, George Prins); Northern phalarope on Nov. 5 (Milwaukee, Mrs. W. Simmons); yellow-billed cuckoo on Oct. 24 (Milwaukee, Mrs. Decker); crested flycatcher on Oct. 13 (Two Rivers, Mrs. Winnifred Smith); gnatcatcher on Nov. 6 (Milwaukee, Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Audrey Andrews); blue-headed vireo on Oct. 30 (Madison, John Wilde); orange-crowned warbler on Nov. 5 (Milwaukee, Gordon Orians-Helmuth Mueller); palm warbler on Oct. 30 (Cedar Grove, Helmuth Mueller); mourning warbler on Oct. 11 (Madison, Mrs. R. A. Walker); and Wilson's warbler on Oct. 15 (Milton, Mrs. Melva Maxson).

Mild weather prevailed pretty much from October through the remainder of the year, causing not only many of the above record-breaking dates, but also the lingering of more than the usual number of half-hardy species. From late October on, evening grosbeaks flooded the state in invasion proportions; and during November and December good flights of snowy owls and Northern shrikes also developed. A record-breaking total of 94 species were found on the Christmas bird counts taken at the close of the year.

What Will 1950 Bring?

Surely some of the rarities found in 1949 are not likely to be seen in 1950, or for many years to come. But just as surely there will be others to take their places. That is part of the thrill of bird watching. The success of bird watchers in 1949 indicates the distinct possibility that some time we shall be able to report that 300 or more species will have been seen in Wisconsin in a year's time. It could happen in 1950, particularly if there should come during a migration period some very unusual weather disturbance that would drive birds out of their normal range. But bird lists are beside the main point. It is reasonably certain that 1950 will see a continued increase in state coverage and in participation in the field note program, and therefore will result in increased knowledge of Wisconsin birds.

Mazomanie, Wisconsin

THE ORIGIN OF THE COMMON NAMES OF WISCONSIN BIRDS

By H. W. SCHAARS

(Continued from last issue)

232. (493) Starling

Our English word is from the Middle English *sterlyng* or the German *Star*.

233. (494) Bobolink

Nuttall, as a good New Englander, gives "Bob-o-link." Barton, in his "Fragments" has "Bob-Lincoln." This last title is also in a sketch of the English writer William Hazlitt (1785). Both "Bob-Lincoln" and "Bob-o-Lincoln" are echoic of the bird's call.

234. (495) Eastern Cowbird

This bird and the cow are companionate. As the cow feeds and partly turns up the sod, many a dainty morsel comes to view for the Cowbird. As the cow lies down to rest, the bird may hop upon the cow's back in friendly fashion. The name "Eastern" may mislead. This bird is found throughout temperate North America, except in portions of the Pacific Coast. The name "Eastern" does distinguish it from the Dwarf Cowbird, found in Mexico and adjacent states.

235. (495b) Nevada Cowbird*

The range of this Cowbird is from Minnesota and Manitoba west to Nevada and British Columbia.

236. (497) Yellow-headed Blackbird

The Blackbird with the bright yellow head and neck in sharp contrast to the glossy black.

237. (498) Red-winged Blackbird

The adult male has shoulders of a brilliant scarlet bordered by buffy-white.

238. (498d) Thick-billed Redwing*

This bird is similar to our common Redwing, but larger (being the largest of the genus) and having a shorter and proportionately thicker bill.

239. (501) Eastern Meadowlark

This bird is truly a denizen of the meadow. Its distribution is Eastern United States.

240. (501.1) Western Meadowlark

This Meadowlark is at home in Western United States, ranging east to the prairie districts of the Mississippi Valley, occasionally extending its habitat a little farther east.

241. (506) Orchard Oriole

The Latin word *aureolus* is at the root of "Oriole." It means "golden." The Orchard Oriole has possibly not earned the appellation "Orchard" any more than its relative the Baltimore Oriole; both love the orchards.

242. (507) Baltimore Oriole

In stating how this bird got its name George Gladden writes: "It seems that when Cecil Calvert, second Baron of Baltimore, came to live

with a company of English colonists in what is now Maryland, the settlement was named Baltimore in his honor. By way of giving the people at home some idea of the natural curiosities of the New World, certain of the colonists sent back to the old country skins of a very beautiful bird which they called an Oriole. As is usual with names invented under such conditions, this one was a misnomer, because the European Oriole is a totally different bird from the one which the colonists so named. It happened, however, that the plumage of this American bird showed the orange and black, which were the family colors of Lord Baltimore, and therefore when Linnaeus, the great Swedish naturalist, prepared in 1766 a scientific description of the American bird, he named it in honor of Lord Baltimore."

243. (509) **Rusty Blackbird**

In summer one fails to see any rusty color in these birds; the males are pure black, the females have a slaty color. But in fall and winter the black of the males is obscured by a rusty brown, the females are rusty brown, and so are the immatures.

244. (510) **Brewer's Blackbird**

Named by Audubon for Thomas M. Brewer, an American ornithologist.

245. (511) **Bronzed Grackle**

The word "Grackle" comes from the Linnaean genus **Gracula**, applied to the jackdaw of Europe. The male with its beautifully iridescent colors of deep-blue, deep-purple, or green on head, neck, and breast, is brassy or coppery on the rest of the body and wings—"Bronzed."

246. (514) **Eastern Evening Grosbeak**

The word "Grosbeak" reminds us of the large, conical beak used to crack shells; **gros** is the German word for large. "Evening," the name given by Cooper, conveys the idea of the West, the place of the sunset. Nests have been found in the less accessible foothills of Alberta and up in the Canadian Rockies—the Land of the Northwest, the Land of the Evening. Dr. Arthur A. Allen writes: "The pleasing name is based upon the mistaken notion of the original collector that the bird dwelt in dark woods and came out at evening to sing." Down from western Canada through the mountains all the way to Mexico is a variety called the Western Evening Grosbeak.



BALD EAGLE NESTLING
PHOTO BY B. J. BRADLE

247. (515) Canadian Pine Grosbeak

This bird shows a strong preference for coniferous forests. Its breeding area is Northwestern Canada, touching only Maine and New Hampshire of our states.

248. (517) Eastern Purple Finch

The word "Finch" is possibly echoic of its call. The crown of the bird is a deep-wine-purple, more crimson in summer; the rump is paler, a pinkish wine-purple; the back and shoulders are wine-purple. Some have suggested that the name "Rose Finch" might be more applicable. This variety ranges through Eastern North America, while Western North America has the California Purple Finch and Cassin's Purple Finch.

249. (521) Red Crossbill

This and the White-wing are the only American birds with the crossing of the bills. The adult is a dull red.

250. (522) White-winged Crossbill

This bird is distinguished from the Red Crossbill by the presence of two broad, white winged-bars.

251. (527a) Hoary Redpoll

Bright red feathers on the crest characterize this bird, thus being a bird with a red poll (head). Note also the dusky frontlet, the feathers tipped with hoary.

252. (528) Common Redpoll

Of all the species of Redpoll, the Common, as its name implies, is the regular abundant of the race.

253. (529) Eastern Goldfinch

Here we have a bright yellow (gold) bird with black wings, black tail, and black crown patch. This Goldfinch ranges east of the Rockies. The Pale Goldfinch is in the Rockies, the Willow Goldfinch is on the Pacific Coast.

254. (533) Northern Pine Siskin

The word "Siskin" is of Scandinavian origin and means "chirper", "piper". The Siskin is a common summer resident of evergreen forests, where you can also expect to find its nest. It also relishes the seeds of coniferous trees. Its summer residence is the northern coniferous forest districts of North America.

255. (534) Eastern Snow Bunting

The general color is pure white. It breeds in the Arctic tundra. Only in the depth of winter do they drift on down into northern United States to haunt the snow-swept hillsides. "Northern" may have been more appropriate than "Eastern". Its other North American relatives are the Pribilof Snow Bunting and McKay's Snow Bunting.

256. (536) Lapland Longspur

A broad subarctic belt around the world is the habitat of this bird during the breeding season, including also the Russian tundra, called Lapland. A slender and nearly straight hind claw about the length of the toe earn for the bird the name "Longspur".

257. (537) Smith's Longspur

Dr. Gideon B. Smith, for whom this bird was named, was a friend of Audubon, living in Baltimore, Maryland.

258. English Sparrow

The general range of this cunning bird is throughout Europe, the British Isles, east to Siberia; Italy is not included in this range. It was introduced into the United States by various importations. The first lot consisted of eight pairs imported into Brooklyn by Hon. Nicholas Pike and other directors of the Brooklyn Institute in the fall of 1850, almost 100 years ago. The word "English" reminds us that this is not a native bird. It is said that the word "Sparrow" is derived from the word **Spar**, which means "to quiver"; literally a Sparrow would be a "flutterer".

259. (540) Eastern Vesper Sparrow

The song of the "Vesper" may be heard at any hour of the day, but it seems especially delightful as it blends in perfectly with the spirit of the evening and the advancing shadows. It is thus truly vesperian and is appropriately named. John Burroughs gave it this name to supersede the name "Grass Finch". In the West we have the Western Vesper Sparrow and the Oregon Vesper Sparrow.

260. (542a) Eastern Savannah Sparrow

This species was first discovered at the city of Savannah by Alexander Wilson. The name is often spelled "savanna", which might be very appropriate since the bird is partial to treeless meadows. But Wilson intended it otherwise and the spelling should have the final "h". This is the bird of Eastern North America; in Western America is the Western Savannah Sparrow.

261. (546) Grasshopper Sparrow

More than six tenths of its food is animal matter, chiefly grasshoppers. But it gets its name from its insect-like, buzzing song, resembling the notes of the grasshopper.

262. (547) Western Henslow's Sparrow

The bird honors the name of Prof. John Stevens Henslow (1796-1861) an English botanist of Cambridge, England. "Western" contrasts it with the Eastern Henslow's Sparrow.

263. (548) Leconte's Sparrow

Named for Dr. John L. Le Conte of Philadelphia.

264. (549) Nelson's Sparrow

This Sparrow is named for Dr. E. W. Nelson, American ornithologist, and for many years chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

265. (552) Eastern Lark Sparrow

The name "Lark" was bestowed upon this bird by Thomas Say in view of its lark-like appearance and habits. Its summer home is in the Mississippi Valley, east of the Great Plains.

266. (533) Harris Sparrow

This Sparrow, which has been so secretive about its nesting site, is named for Mr. Edward Harris, a member of Audubon's party on the upper Missouri River Expedition in 1843.

267. (554) White-crowned Sparrow

The crown of this Sparrow has two broad lateral bands of deep black, inclosing a center of white.

268. (554a) Gambel's Sparrow

This western Sparrow is named for William Gambel, one of the pioneers in California ornithology.

269. (557) Golden-crowned Sparrow

The golden-yellow stripe through the center of the crown gave to this bird its name.

270. (558) White-throated Sparrow

The name is well given; a conspicuous white patch covers the chin, upper throat, and the greater part of the cheek region.

271. (559) Eastern Tree Sparrow

This Sparrow is inaccurately named. It is most frequently found on the ground. It does not even nest in trees ordinarily. This is the Tree Sparrow of Eastern North America. Its compatriot is the Western Tree Sparrow, longer-winged and longer-tailed.

272. (560) Eastern Chipping Sparrow

Alexander Wilson christened it from the earlier Bartram name of "little house sparrow or chipping bird". The song is a rapid and rather monotonous reiteration of the same note, a fast repeated "chip". Decidedly larger but paler in coloration is the Western Chipping Sparrow.

273. (561) Clay-colored Sparrow

While brown and black are the general colors, there is greyish (clay-colored) on the nape and sides of the neck.

274. (563) Eastern Field Sparrow

Here we have another case of the name being rather misleading. This Sparrow is partial to old pasture-lots overgrown with weeds and It is seldom seen in cultivated fields. Its western relative has much longer wings and tail, also a grayer color.

275. (567) Slate-colored Junco

The early settlers called this winter bird "snowbird". The name "Junco" was adopted later to avoid confusion with "snow bunting". Coues says that the word is derived from the Latin "juncus", a seed. It wasn't until 1830 that this latter name was brought into use. The head, neck, chest, upper breast, sides, flanks, and upperparts are plain slate color.

276. (567a) Montana Junco

This Junco belongs in the higher Rockies of Idaho, Montana, and north to Alberta.

277. (581) Song Sparrow

Here we have a bird that takes his singing very serious. From the top of a tree, a low bush, or fence post, he throws his head backward, points his bill to an angle of 45 degrees, and thus seems intent to send his song of thanksgiving in the most direct route to heaven.

278. (583) Lincoln's Sparrow

When John James Audubon made his Labrador trip to study the bird-life of the region, Thomas Lincoln accompanied him. Only one new bird species was collected on the trip. It was named in honor of Lincoln.

279. (584) Swamp Sparrow

Wilson bestowed this name upon this bird of the marshes. Bartram preferred "reed sparrow". It is truly a swamp bird. Any swamp is good enough. Look for the nest in the swamp.

(Continued in next issue)

REPORT ON THE CONVENTION AT TWO RIVERS*

The 11th Annual Convention of the Society held at Point Beach State Forest near Two Rivers was a distinct success in spite of record high winds throughout the state (and Two Rivers was no exception!). Winnifred Smith and her local committee members did a marvelous job in handling unexpected contingencies caused by power failures and unexpected guests who had made no advance reservations. Although the Inland Bird Banding Association was not too well represented in numbers, they helped swell the total registration to 184. This is the number of people who signed the registration book, but approximately 200 were served at the banquet and about 250 attended Murl Deusing's excellent lecture entitled "Canoe Country." Even the Friday evening reception, with Dr. Ralph Landis' unusual movies on snow and blue geese had about 100 in the audience in spite of the fact that the showing had to be moved to the Two Rivers Community House and did not begin until the late hour of 10 p. m.!

Even more unusual were the birds seen with a total list of 173 already reported and a possibility that this could go up to 180 when all records are in. The wind evi-



S. PAUL JONES, MRS. CHARLES E. NELSON, JR., AND SOCIETY PRESIDENT
CHARLES E. NELSON, JR.

dently brought western and southern birds to Two Rivers where a "pocket" was formed and such species as the mockingbird, orchard oriole, yellow-breasted chat, dickcissel, Arkansas kingbird and western grebe were found by some observers. "Mrs. Low Pressure of 1950,"—as Winnifred Smith was characterized by Toastmaster J. Harwood Evans—was given all of the responsibility for the high winds and unusual conditions as she admitted that she had prayed for a low barometer to bring the birds in. She is now planning an article on these unusual weather conditions and the birds observed. Along this same line, the record established by F. H. King in finding 85 dead or injured birds of 33 species under wires along five miles of road from Manitowoc to Two Rivers on May 7 is characteristic of the conditions in which migrating birds were carried out of control by the winds. Ten birds found by other individuals would increase this list to 95 with 39 species represented. One black-throated green warbler was so dazed by the wind that, although uninjured, it was easily picked up and banded.

*Mainly quotations from a letter of the retiring president, W. E. Scott.

In many other respects, the meeting was successful. Mrs. Smith reports a possible profit to the Society of over \$200, the supply department did a good business (some of it by candlelight), there was not a single substitution or omission on the program of papers and all committees reported successful activities for the year. Although the Board of Directors called a meeting at Mrs. Smith's "Winghaven" for Friday afternoon, no formal action was taken because half of the board were busy at other committee meetings, judging the 4-H poster contest or making preparations for the program. Important business transacted by the Society at the annual meeting included the following:

1. Election of new officers in the following positions—President, Charles E. Nelson, Jr., 124 Oxford Road, Waukesha; Vice-president, John L. Diedrich, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee; Treasurer, Carl Frister, 2956A North 38th St., Milwaukee 10; and Directors and Committee Chairmen, Mrs. A. P. Balsom, 2209 E. Stratford Ct., Milwaukee (Endowments); and F. H. King, 1502 N. Appleton, Appleton (Membership—formal election for another year). Al Throne, chairman of the nominating committee, explained that as the next meeting would be in Milwaukee, the large number of officers from that area could not be avoided. All other officers and board members including Editor N. R. Barger, Secretary Mary Donald, Associate Editor Rev. Samuel Robbins, Jr., Education Director Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Legal Counsel Alfred S. Bradford, and Librarian Gilbert H. Doane were re-elected.

2. Unanimously voted honorary membership in the Society for Owen Gromme of Milwaukee and Wallace Grange of Babcock. Both were present at the convention.

3. Unanimously voted to revise the articles of incorporation to agree with the present constitution as recommended by Legal Counsel Alfred Bradford and authorized the President and Secretary to sign the necessary papers (which has been done).

4. Upon recommendation of the Bird Conservation committee's chairman, Joseph J. Hickey, voted unanimously for two resolutions favoring the re-establishment of a game refuge in the Argonne area of Forest county managed to protect all species and especially spruce grouse (with the exception of special deer harvest) and opposing bills now in Congress for the establishment of Valley Authorities throughout the United States. The Secretary was instructed to prepare the necessary letters to transmit these resolutions to individuals and agencies indicated.

Reports of Committees and Officers

Reports of committees and officers revealed the following information: 1. F. H. King reported that 158 new members had been added to the Society since April 15, 1949 and that the total membership in all classes was 570 as of April 28, 1950. With members gained at the meeting, this would equal or exceed the Society's highest membership record.

2. The treasurer reported total funds on hand of \$1,514.85 with \$775.32 in the general fund, \$193.36 in the education fund and \$546.17 in the endowment fund. Although the bill for the latest issue of **The Passenger Pigeon** had not been paid as yet, it was indicated that the Society's financial condition was good. Harold Wilson also reported that, upon instructions of the Board, he had purchased another \$50 government bond for the endowment fund with cash on hand. Since the convention, word from Wilson indicates receipt of three additional checks of \$55, \$17 and \$50.85 for the endowment fund, resulting from their activity in the sale of bird stationery during the Christmas holidays.

3. The education committee not only awarded \$150 in prizes for the 4-H poster contest sponsored by them in connection with the convention but also presented a \$25 check to Wakelin McNeel (Ranger Mac) for the 4-H Upham Woods project near Wisconsin Dells which is being developed for a natural area for use by rural youth. Dixie Larkin gave an excellent report on the work of her committee in connection with the Wisconsin Outdoor Exposition, special Society field trips, teaching of bird classes and distribution of literature on the birds of prey. Her committee is now embarking on a project to encourage Junior Audubon Club leaders to contact local Society members for assistance in their educational activities both in field and classroom. They also look forward to additional special field trips for the Society during the year.

4. The report of Librarian Gilbert H. Doane was given by Asst. Librarian Miss Ellen Hoffmann. She called attention to the list of books in the Society's library which was prepared by them. Additional copies of this list, which indicates that copies of books can be secured on loan, are available from Miss Ellen Hoffmann.

5. W. E. Scott reported that 116 copies of Silent Wings and 7 check lists had been sold by him during the past year for a total income of \$105.82. To date this project had netted the Society \$301.88 profit and a total of 1603 copies of Silent Wings remain in storage or on consignment. He made recommendations to the Society Board of Directors for an early turnover of these copies.

6. J. Harwood Evans, endowment committee chairman, reported an income well over \$100 during the year. Part of these funds are mentioned in the above treasurer's report.

7. The report of the associate editor and the research committee indicated that their combined action had resulted in the preparation of a new form for the recording of nesting data and also a new form for submitting reports of bird observers. Copies of both of these forms are available from Rev. Sam Robbins, Jr. John Emlen's research committee expects to continue its work primarily through the cooperation of members in conducting future range and population studies for publication in **The Passenger Pigeon**.

7. Clarence Jung, chairman of the Aldo Leopold Memorial committee, reported that they had not been able to get together for a meeting but he and Owen Gromme, two of the committee, favored the memorial proposal of Walter Scott for the issuance of certificates of merit to landowners who handle their land properly and with special attention to wildlife values. Jung indicated that the committee felt some "rough



MRS. ANDREW WEBER, OWEN J. GROMME, AND MRS. N. R. BARGER
(S. PAUL JONES IN BACKGROUND)

edges" should be removed from the operation plan on this project and that his committee would continue their work to accomplish this end.

8. Action on the report of the legal counsel regarding the Society's articles of incorporation is indicated above.

Program Highlights

Highlights of the program other than those already mentioned included a talk by Wakelin McNeel at the banquet in which he put his friend, the woodpecker, to work; a panel discussion by Mrs. Smith, Emlen, Hickey, Robbins and McCabe on the making and keeping of bird records which developed many constructive suggestions; Margaret Nice's slides showing sketches of her redwings during their early development; Fran Hamerstrom's explanation of the importance of booming to the sexual life of prairie chicken; the study report by Emlen and Nero's on the moving of redwinged blackbird nests to study territorial behaviour from a tower over the marsh—(John Emlen's unusual ability as a teacher was clearly indicated when the power failed as he was about to show a map of their marsh study area and he "constructed" the map on a bare screen with the use of a pointer and most everyone saw what he meant; for some people possibly slides are an unnecessary extravagance!)—Larry Jahn's report on Canada geese nesting in Wisconsin since 1946; Art Jorgensen's plea for more educational effort in the teaching of conservation; J. B. Kendall's interesting bird movies; Winni-



WALLACE B. GRANGE

fred Smith's slide sketches of kingbirds (which even looked good upside down); Karl Bartel's study of bluebirds on his trapping and banding project and Robert Nero's report on the development of the cranium bone structure in the house sparrow (with apologies for a few technical terms).

Field trips and informality were the keynote of the meeting, although the Saturday morning trips were somewhat dulled by the wind. Frank King made the best of his wildlife planting demonstration while people held onto each other to keep from being blown away. Prof. F. T. Thwaites of the University department of geology gave an excellent explanation of the Two Creeks forest bed exposure believed to be well over 10,000 years old while the members luckily were on the sand beach in the lee of the cliff. Birding along the beach was exceptional because many species found that this was a good place to get away from the wind—and they couldn't get over the top anyway without being blown out to sea. The caravan tour field trip of Sunday morning led by John Kraupa was most worthwhile with about 20 cars participating in the visits to many interesting localities including a virgin timber site where you walked ankle deep

in flowers and kneedeep in the carpet of leaves. Although the trip did not turn up any of the rarest birds there were many to be seen—including a Florida gallinule walking on a grassy bank and black-crowned night herons in their rookery.

As your retiring president, responsible for this meeting (in a small way), I feel that all of us owe a debt of gratitude to the many individuals whose planning helped to make this convention a distinct accomplishment for the Society. Winnifred Smith kept her composure in spite of everything and Fred Priest, supervisor of Point Beach State Forest, was the silent individual who did a great amount of work and simply indicated that it was the usual cooperation of the Wisconsin Conservation Department. The Two Rivers Chamber of Commerce presented the Society with a \$50 check which paid for the Friday evening reception refreshments and showed their willingness to help the cause. Mrs. Alice Weber of Green Bay produced beautiful hand carved "silent wings" badges and Lillian Marsh did a splendid job on decorations and in leading the singing. A. A. Kruschke of the Two Rivers Vocational School supplied the use of his auditorium for the Saturday afternoon session (when the power failed) and we already have mentioned John Kraupa's field trips. Credit for handling a difficult housing problem goes to Miss Theodore Haman and Miss Josephine Sieker while Miss Merle Pickett untangled the registration problems and served long hours at the desk. Norman B. Wood managed to get excellent publicity both before and after the meeting to the credit of the Society and County Agent R. J. Rensink handled much of the 4-H poster contest arrangement work. Although he got paid for it, a word of appreciation should go to Cortland Hewitt, concessionaire at Point Beach Lodge, for his efforts to feed the multitude. He felt that he had failed on the first luncheon but certainly made it up on the banquet. Our only suggestion for him would be that in future meetings the cream for the coffee be a little creamier.

Everyone at the banquet received a seedling white spruce, compliments of the Conservation Department. They were eagerly taken home for planting and so it's expected those present will long remember this occasion.



WALDEN WEST: II (Excerpts)

By AUGUST DERLETH

No nocturnal voice seems lonelier than the whippoorwill's. Perhaps it is that somewhere in the past it represented something unattainable to me, as it still does, something only a little way ahead, something in the dark, out of sight but never quite out of hearing, to be reached for but never to be found, something ineffably lonely, something utterly desirable, something apart and lost, belonging to me, but never to be grasped. Like childhood or youth, accounting for the nostalgia I hear in the song.

I know that the psychiatrists, those glib and entertaining gentlemen, would say that the urge to go home again, back to youth, to carefree childhood, to the womb, might account for this kind of magic, but this to me is a concept related not to the self nearly so much as to the desire of the self to be merged with the universe, not in death, as in the psychiatrists' death-wish, but in a spiritual oneness which is akin to the eternal quest for unity with God or with that omnipotence which is represented in the concept of God.

Long ago, when I was still a child, I used to go visiting every summer at the hilltop farm home of my Aunt Annie. For two or three weeks I remained with my mother, grandmother, and sister among my cousins there at the farm midway between Spring Green and Plain, a place which offered a lovely vista of hill slopes looking down a green and wooded valley toward Lone Rock. The boys who were my cousins were either too young or too old to be companionable, and the girls had nothing to offer after a day or two. By the end of the first week, the novelty of the farm had worn off, and I grew progressively more homesick for the Wisconsin and its islands, for the sloughs and the familiar hills, and some days I would climb into an apple tree at the corner of the orchard and spend hours just sitting there alone, looking into the distance that was Sac Prairie. And in those nights, early to bed, I used to be awakened by the crying of the whippoorwills in the darkness of the hills and valleys. Perhaps it was that somehow the whippoorwills came to represent the unattainable desire of that youthful heart, the longing for home, but home as more than a haven for the body among familiar places.

However it may be, the song of the whippoorwill surpasses all other nocturnal sounds in my mind and memory. This is the culminating sound of all the springs; once it has begun, to be heard all summer long, the spring is done, and once it has sounded, all other voices are second to it. I listen to it night after night, and it brings into my thoughts everything that ever was or could be, it brings all of joy and all of sadness where it sounds out of the dark hills, and it seems above all other things to answer the very heartbeat within.

How this came to be, I cannot say. How it came to give pleasure and sadness, joy and melancholy, I do not know. I can understand how the whistling of a locomotive at night may sound lonely, how it may stand for flight, escape, but I cannot say how the crying of the whippoorwill came to represent all the lost hopes, all the dreams, how it stirs the visions and longings of a boy and man, as if it were not a bird at all, but the disembodied voice of night itself, of the very earth brooding in the

darkness, the changed and the changeless, the living and the dead, time past and coming time, the boy who was and the man who is, forever one.

* * *

Walk along a country road and smell the grass of a summer night. It rises from the drying seedheads as well as from second growth below; it fills the air with an unimaginable fragrance which has a seasonal counterpart, however different, only in the smell of growing things in spring, of leaves in autumn, in the fresh wonder of falling snow in winter. Men commonly take it for granted, and it is doubtful if most of them are aware of it, or, being aware, know its source. The smell of the grass is the country air in summer nights; there is a kind of basic fragrance in it, as of the earth itself—of rock and soil and stone—not just the grass growing upon it, a kind of exhalation which is sweet because it is so fundamental to existence and to man's being, too, though he may not be cognizant of what he speaks when he says that the air "is good to breathe." It persists in dry weather or wet, a fragrance akin to that of drying hay, but more tenuous, not so concentrated and not so dry, lying in the still air or riding the winds—and the summer's winds are almost always from the west, tawny and aromatic—like something alive within itself, not belonging to man at all, but willing to be shared by him, knowing it has a greater vitality and immortality than man.

* * *

In evening, when the sun is low and the lavender dusk has already begun to drift in from the east, lying sentimentally in the groves and glades, the woodthrush begins to sing, a song of liquid notes, alternately ascending and descending the scale. His song is pensive, not melancholy as the pewee's sometimes seems, but thoughtful and very melodious, far more so, I think, than the reedier song of the hermit thrush. He is like the voice of the evening woods itself, brooding, contemplative, a sound that echoes a long time in mind and heart. The wood-thrush is more truly a habitant of dusk, singing after sundown and before sunrise, than any other bird. The only other voice which speaks so eloquently for the woods is that of the pewee, abidingly about, pensive too, almost sad, but not alone a nocturnal voice, for it sounds through every hour of the spring day, at noon as well as at midnight, keeping the company of caroling robins as readily as of the cold batrachian population of the wood. The wood-thrush keeps no company but his own, and he is sparing of his song.

* * *

In addition to all the well-known sounds of night, there are a host of sounds scarcely audible or so seldom repeated as to go all too often unheard—the low, cooing hoot of a long-eared swamp owl, the conversation of teal, the bell-like song of the saw-whet owl, for example—as to exist only on the very rim of awareness. Who, even among solitary night-walkers, commonly hears the quirring of whippoorwills, the mewling talk of muskrats, the voices of voles and meadow mice? Yet these sounds are everywhere of any spring or summer evening in Wisconsin, lost among the more numerous songsters, or so subdued and muted as to be audible only to the waiting ear.

There are, too, the occasional unidentifiable sounds, the strange voices of uncommon birds or animals—of a migrant bird not native to the Sac Prairie country, stopping briefly overnight, or an animal long alien to this place, passing through under cover of darkness, or the infinite small variations in the songs of little known warblers or frogs which lend a tantalizing strangeness to the evening and the night, rising out of the dusk and darkness of the wood, and announcing that briefly, briefly an unknown visitor has paused in this familiar place, and will be gone again ere the inquiring eye can find him. Such voices fill the evening with strangeness, haunt the night with something alien, and are yet not apart from the night-held wood itself, for was not a dark wood forever the heart of mystery, the source of the unknown from the beginning of man's consciousness, since it stood for the tangible foe of man, the earth itself arrayed against his small fire and the multitude of his fears.

The night speaks with a thousand voices, in the thousand tongues of earth, not all known to the listening ear; each shouts its triumph in life into the enclosing womb of dark, under the moons and stars and suns of this one infinitesimal galaxy in the cosmos; each throbs in harmony with the pulse in the veins of the night-walker passing by, the night-walker of whom the habitants of the dark and darkening wood are often less aware than he of them. He does not know whence these voices come; he might be astonished to realize that the fluted piping making a choir of an April night in the meadow rises from a creature so small as to take three or four of them to cover the face of his watch, that the least breath of sound may come from the sleek, magnificent otter, a creature of size and power.

The night is filled with voices, the sounds of gnawing, the songs of mating, the scuttering of passage, the screams of death constantly and forever, just as the night-walking solitary with each passing step marks off another moment of his allotted time before he returns to dust which he will share in common with all the strange habitants of the wood around him, all in due, inexorable time, and the hyla choir no less than the whippoorwill's song, the rabbit's death scream no less than the beaver's insatiable gnawing, the rustling of passing mice no less than the weasel's remorseless pursuit, the love song of the woodcock no less than the proud scream of the hunting hawk are all integral in the pattern of life and death, which is indistinguishable by night as well as day.

Sauk City, Wisconsin.



THE BIRDS OF WISCONSIN

By L. KUMLIEN and N. HOLLISTER

With Revisions by A. W. Schorger

(Continued from last issue)

[Dr. Ludlow Griscom reviewed the redpolls at the A. O. U. meeting at Toronto on September 9, 1947. No authentic American specimen of *holboelli* (Brehm) is known. The *holboelli* of William Brewster (Nutt. Bull. 8, 1883:95-99) is closely allied with *Acanthis linaria linaria* (*Acanthis flammea flammea*) from which it differs mainly in larger size and longer bill. Clark (l. c.) took three specimens at Meridean. Dr. Griscom has informed me (in litt.) that one of the Meridean specimens, taken March 23, 1896, corresponds with Brewster's description of *holboelli*. He has not yet decided to give it recognition.]

***Acanthis linaria rostrata* (Coues). Greater Redpoll.**

Winter visitant. Mr. Clark collected over thirty of these birds in Dunn County during the winter of 1895-6. Regarding this variety he writes: "The greater redpolls kept, as a rule, in small flocks by themselves, accompanied by a few of the common ones only, and were nearly always found in the low timber lands along the river bottoms. Their food appeared to be the seeds of the water pepper almost exclusively." A series sent us by Mr. Clark at the time, in the flesh, all proved to be of this variety, and specimens of this and the other races were identified for him later by Prof. Robert Ridgway. Specimens have also been received from Stevens Point and Iron County, and others have been taken quite regularly at Lake Koshkonong, especially during winters of heavy snowfall. Here they have never been found except as associated with *linaria*.

[J. N. Clark (l. c.) reported eight specimens taken on January 9, 1896. The American Museum of Natural History has three specimens from Meridean taken between January 9 and March 22, 1896.]

***Astragalinus tristis* (Linn.). American Goldfinch.**

The goldfinch is an abundant summer resident, and is found in fair numbers at any time during the winter. It is more numerous during the spring migration, in May, however, than at any other time. It nests commonly in mid-summer, and even as late as September.

***Spinus pinus* (Wils.). Pine Siskin.**

Of very erratic occurrence in southern Wisconsin, it is most common during early autumn. Usually quite common about Lake Koshkonong at this season and has been noted here and at Delavan a number of times in spring. Much more common in the northern part of the state, abundant at times in some sections. Dr. Hoy supposed it to nest in the pine regions, which may be true. Grundtvig says: "Was certainly seen in flocks April 7, 1883, and the following days. None shot (Outagamie County). It is said to breed in Wisconsin as far south as Jefferson County (Cooke). Many were shot at De Pere in March, 1883 (Willard)." Mr. J. N. Clark has taken it only in October and November in Dunn County, and considers it a very unusual bird there. King says: "Ordinarily it is only a winter resident. A few may breed in the state." Personally we have never taken it in the state in summer.

Passer domesticus (Linn.). House Sparrow.

Abundant resident. Introduced, and has spread over nearly the entire state.

Passerina nivalis (Linn.). Snowflake.

A regular winter visitant, sometimes appearing in great numbers, at any time from October on until spring. Its favorite resorts are open fields, prairies, and lake shores, alighting on the beaches and bars, and running about like flocks of sandpipers. The first arrivals are always the young birds, the adults not taken until later. Full plumaged winter adults are not often taken in southern Wisconsin. For some reason not apparent it is much less numerous than formerly. Less severe winters and a lighter snow fall may be the sole reasons.

Calcarius lapponicus (Linn.). Lapland Longspur.

A regular and abundant winter bird, especially on the prairies. It arrives earlier in the fall and remains much later in the spring than the snowflake, with which it is often associated in winter. The longspur is in breeding plumage and full song before it leaves southern Wisconsin in May. Often taken as late as May 10, and even May 16. We have one adult male shot on Rock Prairie, Rock County, on June 2. It is fully as common as thirty years ago.

Calcarius pictus (Swains.). Smith's Longspur.

This longspur cannot be classed otherwise than as rare and of extremely erratic occurrence in Wisconsin. Dr. Hoy met with considerable numbers prior to 1852. Although we have looked for it very carefully on the prairies among the common longspurs we have found it but a few times, and never in flocks of any size. Presumably the migration is from the northwest and they merely cross the southern counties of Wisconsin in fall, as they are not at all rare on the prairies of Illinois in winter.

[Three were collected on the Sauk Prairie, April 27-28, 1921, by H. L. Stoddard (**Wilson Bull.** 34,1922:77).]

Pooecetes gramineus (Gmel.). Vesper Sparrow.

The vesper sparrow is one of the most abundant of roadside birds the entire summer, nesting wherever there is sufficient grass to cover its eggs. It arrives the first of April, and for a short time is found, as often in the south, in the woods, but on the approach of the nesting season it forsakes the trees for the open fields and pastures.

Passerculus sandwichensis savanna (Wils.). Savannah Sparrow.

An abundant summer resident. Arrives early in April, and is common by the latter half of the month. Nests on the dry marshes and prairies, but in the fall is a common bird about the ponds and lakes, in flocks, spending much time among the rushes, over shallow water.

[The status of the savannah sparrows is decidedly confused. According to the 4th edition of the A. O. U. Check-List, the breeding bird is **P. sandwichensis savanna**. James L. Peters and Ludlow Griscom, in a recent revision (**Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.** Vol. 80, No. 13, 1938:445-478), consider **savanna** a migrant and **nevadensis** the breeding race in the southern part of the state. Then comes John W. Aldrich (**Ohio J. Sci.** Vol. 40, No. 1, Jan., 1940:1-8) with the statement that **savanna** should be applied to the Nova Scotian birds. He creates a new subspecies, **mediogriseus**, that includes the birds breeding in Wisconsin.]

[*Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius* (Howe). Labrador Savannah Sparrow.

Two specimens of savannah sparrows, one of which is in the collection of the University of Wisconsin, taken on Outer Island, September 8-10, 1919, were identified as *labradorius* by John W. Aldrich. (H. H. T. Jackson, *Pass. Pigeon* 5, 1943:32). No Wisconsin specimens of this race are mentioned by Peters and Griscom.]

[*Passerculus sandwichensis oblitus* (Peters and Griscom). Hudson Bay Savannah Sparrow.

Peters and Griscom (l. c. pp. 457-8) list eight spring and fall migrants for Wisconsin, and Jackson (l. c. p. 32) four fall specimens from Outer Island. Three of the latter are in the collection of the University of Wisconsin.]

***Coturniculus savannarum passerinus* (Wils.). Grasshopper Sparrow.**

Common summer resident over most of the state. Like some others of the genus the grasshopper sparrow appears to nest in scattered colonies. In the breeding season one may go for miles without seeing an individual of the species, and then suddenly find it abundant, a male on nearly every fence post.

***Ammodramus henslowii* (Aud.). Henslow's Sparrow.**

Until recently our only knowledge of the occurrence of this seclusive species in the state was based on the capture of six specimens near Milton. The first of these, a male, was taken in the fall, about 1870; two in September, 1892; and three during September, 1894. On May 29, 1897, we were together collecting on a large, dry marsh near Delavan, and found it abundant and evidently nesting. Many specimens were taken in all stages of plumage during the summer and fall, and each succeeding year we have found it equally abundant; but although we have taken many young still unable to fly more than a few feet and yet in nestling feather, as well as specimens in the post-juvenal moult, we have been able to find but one nest. This was taken May 29, 1898, and contained five eggs. It was placed on the ground in a tuft of grass beside some small willows, within twenty-five feet of a clump of tamarack trees, in one of the dampest places on the marsh. The parent bird was shot as she flew from the nest. The birds seems to remain on this marsh entirely, at least we have never found them anywhere else at any season, except as noted above. They arrive in May, and remain until well into October. During the latter part of August and September the adults especially are in a condition of such extreme moult as to be almost unable to fly, there being many days when not an individual can boast of even a single tail feather. At the height of the nesting season, in June and early July, the males are perched upon the tops of the higher weeds over the whole marsh, but at other times of the year they must almost invariably be flushed from the grass to be seen. Evidently two broods at least are reared as we have, by the aid of a careful retriever, taken nestlings in September. Mr. W. E. Snyder has recently discovered the species about Beaver Dam, and states that it is "an abundant summer resident in the dryer marshes" (1). It will doubtless be found in many localities in southern Wisconsin, where there are suitable breeding grounds.

1. Bull. Wis. Nat. His. Soc., April, 1892, p. 111.

[A. J. Schoenebeck (l. c. p. 36) found a nest with four fresh eggs in Oconto County on May 23, 1895. C. H. Richter (*Pass. Pigeon* 1,1939:129; 2,1940:93) has found several nests in the same county.]

***Ammodramus leconteii* (Aud.). Leconte's Sparrow.**

This species was taken at Lake Koshkonong but three or four times, but always in autumn, from 1842 to 1890 (T. and L. K.). One specimen was taken near Milwaukee in the fall of 1879 (L. K.) In September, 1894, numbers were procured at Lake Koshkonong, and at the same date in 1895 five hundred could have been taken. In 1896 but few were seen, and in 1897 none were procured. Since 1897 but a few each fall could be found. One was taken at Delavan in September, 1900, and others noted. We are at a loss to account for its great numbers in 1895, when a series of sixty skins was secured in two days, and as many more could have been easily taken. It is also rather remarkable that the closest search has failed to produce a single specimen in spring, none having been noted before August. Precisely similar localities to those frequented at Lake Koshkonong have been carefully searched, with a good dog, but without success. One of the most difficult birds imaginable to collect, as it is never seen until flushed, must be shot on the wing, and last, but not least, **found**, after it is killed.

[According to Karl Mann (*Jahresber. Naturhist. Vereins von Wis.*, 1879-80:21-2) the first spring record for the state was a bird collected at Milwaukee on April 27, 1879. C. H. Richter found this species nesting in Oconto County in 1927. (*Pass. Pigeon* 1,1939:129; 2,1940-83). He has unpublished data on several nests with eggs found between May 23 and June 6.]

***Ammodramus nelsoni* (Allen). Nelson's Sparrow.**

For the past twelve years we have found this species exceedingly abundant about Lake Koshkonong, in September and early October. Here it is always found among the bullrushes growing in the water. Several were noted near Delavan Lake, September 26, 1899, and one taken, by F. E. Burrows. King records one specimen from Cold Spring Pond, Jefferson County, September 7, 1877, and Dr. Hoy took at least one at Racine. Although so very common in fall about Lake Koshkonong we have been unable, as in the case of *leconteii*, to find a specimen in spring or summer. Curiously enough this bird was not detected by Thure Kumlien and others in Wisconsin in early days, and what strikes the writers as still more peculiar is that the same localities where it is now so abundant were **carefully** observed twenty to thirty years ago without finding a single individual of the species. It seems almost impossible that it could have been overlooked, if as abundant at that time as at the present day.

[This sparrow has not been collected in spring or summer.]

***Chondestes grammacus* (Say). Lark Sparrow.**

This superb songster is somewhat irregularly distributed in Wisconsin. In most of the less wooded sections of the central and southern part it is a fairly common summer resident, but seems to be entirely absent from some localities. Mr. Clark finds it a common nesting species in Dunn County. Dr. H. V. Ogden and Mr. H. Russel have found it in fair numbers near Milwaukee. Dr. Hoy called it common at Racine, fifty years ago. Formerly quite common about Lake Koshkonong, but of late years has greatly decreased in numbers. The lark sparrow loves the un-

cultivated sod. Wherever there is an unbroken prairie, if only of limited extent, it is sure to be found. Much more common in the western, than in the eastern part of the state. In settled districts a frequenter of the roadside, and especially liable to be found in old, grass-grown orchards.

Zonotrichia querula (Nutt.). Harris's Sparrow.

Apparently, this bird is becoming more common in Wisconsin than formerly. Mr. J. N. Clark, of Meridian, Dunn County, gives us the most information regarding its occurrence in the state. Some years ago he wrote us as follows: "The first that came to my notice in Wisconsin were taken May 12, 1886, a pair, and I saw no more until October 5, 1890, when three specimens were taken from a bunch of four, and again, October 19, 1892, saw a flock of six or eight, and have seen a few individuals each fall since, but never have found it in the spring, except the time mentioned above. It is a rare bird in this locality, but is becoming more plenty each year." Recently, Mr. Clark wrote again, in answer to our inquiries, that he has found it nearly every fall and spring for the past few years, and has seen it as late as June 1. "It is becoming more common every year," he again states. Still later, the past year, Mr. Clark noted a pair of these birds at Meridian on the morning of July 4 (1902), "near the bank of a wooded stream." "From their actions," he writes, "and the lateness of the season, I think there is not much doubt but that they were nesting nearby, but I had not the time then to look for the nest." Dr. Ogden and party found this species in Iron County, taking a specimen from a flock of about twenty-four birds. There is also an old record of Dr. Hoy's of one specimen taken at Racine, and W. W. Cooke (1) mentions a specimen captured at Trempealeau in the fall of 1883. Three specimens have been taken at Lake Koshkonong, one in spring, and two in fall.

Zonotrichia leucophrys (Forst.). White-crowned Sparrow.

The white-crown is a common migrant, usually in the scattered flocks of white-throats, fox, and other hedge and brush-loving sparrows. It also **nests** very sparingly in the state. Dr. Hoy reported that a few nested near Racine. It was also taken nesting at Cedarburg in June 1882, when two of the five young, barely able to fly, were taken. In 1873 it nested on the north shore of Lake Monona, at Madison, and it has been known to remain through the summer, a number of times, at Lake Koshkonong.

Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii (Nutt.). Intermediate Sparrow.

Rare straggler. A specimen of this variety was taken at Racine, April 20, 1871, by Dr. P. R. Hoy. Specimens have been taken a number of times about Lake Koshkonong which are almost, if not quite, typical **gambelii** . Regarding the Hoy specimen Mr. Nelson (2) says: "The specimen has been kindly loaned me for examination, and is without doubt a perfectly authentic example of the variety. The lores are almost white, considerably lighter than in the average specimen of **intermedia** " (= **gambelii**).

[This is a comparatively rare migrant. Recent records include two specimens that I took on May 7, 1932 and September 30, 1939. Two were

1. Auk, I, 4, p. 333.

2. Birds of Northwestern Illinois, Bull. Essex Inst., VIII, 107.

banded by V. C. Rossman (**Pass. Pigeon** 2,1940:126) at Waukesha on October 17, 1940. An immature bird was banded by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Scott (**Pass. Pigeon** 4,1943:100) in Dane County on October 10, 1942.]

Zonotrichia coronata (Pall.). Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Rare straggler. Several specimens of this western bird were taken by Dr. Hoy near Racine, from 1853 to 1858, both spring and fall. Mr. E. W. Nelson states (**Birds of Northeastern Illinois**) that he examined one of these, a fine male taken during April, 1858, which had been previously identified by Mr. Cassin.

[P. R. Hoy (**Proc. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc.** March, 1885:7) mentions only three specimens taken, the fall of 1853 and 1854, and the spring of 1856; however, E. W. Nelson (**Bull. Essex Inst.** 8, 1876:108) states that he had the loan of a "beautiful male specimen" taken by Hoy in his garden at Racine the middle of April, 1858. The occurrence of this species at Racine over a period of several years is most mysterious since it has never been taken elsewhere in the Upper Mississippi Valley.]

Zonotrichia albicollis (Gmel.). White-throated Sparrow.

An abundant migrant, and in parts of the state a common summer resident. Nests sparingly even in the most southern counties, but more commonly in the central and northern portions of the state. It seems restricted during the breeding season to favorite localities, where several pairs will be found nesting within a very limited area.

Spizella monticola (Gmel.). Tree Sparrow.

Abundant migrant and common winter resident. Commonly flocks with the juncos along the brushy roadsides, and often invades the cities and towns, in cold weather, in search of food. March and April, and, later, October and November are the months when it reaches its greatest abundance.

Spizella socialis (Wils.). Chipping Sparrow.

Common summer resident. Before the days of the English sparrow the chippy was an abundant village bird, nesting in almost every yard. Now all is changed, and in most towns it is a rare occurrence for a pair to settle for the summer where it was formerly common. It is still plenty, however, in the country, where it prefers the immediate vicinity of a farm house to the more retired wood.

Spizella pallida (Swains.). Clay-colored Sparrow.

An irregularly distributed summer resident, from the southern part of the state northward. From the meager records at hand it seems to be more common in the western part of the state than farther east. Appears to frequent barren, dry and wild places, in marked contrast to **socialis** and **pusilla**. Has been taken nesting at Lake Koshkonong, where it occurs as a regular summer resident. More common about Stevens Point than any other locality we know of. Specimens from the sandy pine barrens of Portage County are so different from true **pallida** that Mr. Wm. Brewster thinks they may prove a new race. The lack of a sufficient number of specimens at the present time makes it impossible to settle this point. These specimens are almost as dark as a swamp sparrow.

[A locally common summer resident from Adams County northward. Warner Taylor (*Auk* 37,1920:299) found it nesting in what is now the Arboretum, Madison, in 1918. R. Bernath and E. Prins (*Pass. Pigeon* 2,1940:93) discovered a nest at Racine in June, 1940.]

***Spizella pusilla* (Wils.). Field Sparrow.**

In all suitable places—and these are anywhere that there is a sufficient mixture of brush and open—the field sparrow is an abundant summer bird. Arriving early, remaining late, and rearing two, if not three broods each season, it is one of the most characteristic birds of the woodland border, the open clearings, and the edges of fields.

***Junco hyemalis* (Linn.). Slate-colored Junco.**

A very abundant migrant and common winter resident. Nests sparingly in northern Wisconsin. Three sets were taken at Oconto, in May, 1882 (Coll. of L. K.). The nests were placed on the ground, among sphagnum moss. Dr. Hoy mentions its breeding on the shores of Lake Superior. In rare instances the junco breeds in southern Wisconsin. Young, barely able to fly, have been taken near Jefferson, which is the most southern point for which we have any record, and this must be taken only as an exceptional case.

***Junco montanus* (Ridgw.). Montana Junco.**

A single female of this species was taken at Delavan, October 23, 1898, and is now in the Hollister collection. Mr. Wm. Brewster, who has kindly examined the skin, writes: "This bird matches perfectly a specimen in my collection from Illinois, identified by Mr. Ridgway as typical *montanus*." Doubtless occurs as a straggling migrant any where in southern Wisconsin. The various old records of *Junco oregonus*, *J. o. shufeldti*, *J. h. connectens*, etc., probably belong here.

[The Milwaukee Public Museum has two specimens: a female collected at Delavan by N. Hollister on October 23, 1898; and a male, identified by Dr. H. Friedmann, taken near Hayward by Karl W. Kahmann (*Pass. Pigeon* 3,1941:110) on October 18, 1941.]

***Melospiza cinerea melodia* (Wils.). Song Sparrow.**

Summer resident. The song sparrow arrives in March, and until late in the fall is an abundant bird. Nests almost anywhere and everywhere, though preferring the immediate vicinity of some creek or spring, where the ground is damp or wet. Specimens have been taken in southern Wisconsin in mid-winter.

[The Mississippi Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia euphonia* Wetmore) is the race found in Wisconsin. J. Van Tyne (l. c. p. 43) lists the Dakota Song Sparrow (*Melospiza m. juddi* Bishop) as a summer resident of the western part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This form has not been satisfactorily established as either a summer resident or migrant for Wisconsin.]

***Melospiza lincolni* (Aud.). Lincoln's Sparrow.**

A somewhat irregularly distributed species, even during the migrations. Nowhere very abundant, but occurs more plentifully than generally supposed. Mr. Clark calls it an irregular migrant, in small numbers, in Dunn County. Dr. Hoy did not consider it rare about Racine, and stated that a few nested. Dr. Ogden reports it rather plenty at Milwaukee. A regular migrant at Lake Koshkonong, especially in spring,

and sometimes a summer resident, though no nests have been found. Appears to be rather rare at Delavan and not noted, as yet, except in spring.

[A rather common migrant but its status as a breeding bird is uncertain. A. J. Schoenebeck (l. c. p. 38) gives it as an uncommon summer resident and nesting. C. H. Richter has not discovered a nest but found a singing male in June, 1938. P. R. Hoy (*Pass. Pigeon* 4, 1943:104) submitted to the Smithsonian Institution three eggs taken at Racine on June 5, presumably in the 1850's. A. L. Kumlien (*Pass. Pigeon* 6, 1944:16) recorded it as "building" at Busseyville on May 19, 1869, but as stated above no nest was found. I collected two adults, male and female, on Madeline Island, on July 31, 1932.]

Melospiza georgiana (Lath.). Swamp's Sparrow.

Like its near relative, the song sparrow, this finch arrives early and remains very late in the fall. It is an abundant breeder in all marshy places, and is often found in perfectly dry meadows and lowlands. It is one of the species that are frequently imposed upon by the cowbird.

[The prevailing form is the southern swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana georgiana*).]

[Melospiza georgiana ericrypta (Oberholser). Northern Swamp Sparrow.

The breeding range of this recently described race is not well defined. H. H. T. Jackson (*Pass. Pigeon* 5, 1943:33) states that it nests as far south as St. Croix Falls.]

Passerella iliaca (Merr.). Fox Sparrow.

A common migrant early in spring, and as late in autumn. Before leaving even the southern tier of counties for the north it is sometimes in full song. Does not seem as plenty as formerly. This shy inhabitant of the brush and cover is one of our most beautiful birds, and it is a great pity it is not of a more sociable nature.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus (Linn.). Towhee.

Summer resident; abundant. This lovely bunting breeds in great numbers in the clearings and open patches of timber. Here on the hottest of summer days its incessant "che-wink" may be heard from all sides, as the birds scratch in the grass and leaves, or dart in and out of the hazel clumps and brushpiles. In some sections much less common than formerly; in others becoming more common.

Pipilo maculatus arcticus (Sw.). Arctic Towhee.

A rare straggler. One specimen, an adult male, has been shot (by L. K.) in Jefferson County. This specimen was sent to Prof. Sundevall, and the record cannot be found at present. There was also a specimen—formerly preserved in the old Wisconsin Natural History Museum collection—which was taken near Milwaukee about 1867 or 1868. One was noted by Dr. Hoy in a collection of birds at Dubuque, Iowa, which had been taken on the Wisconsin side of the river.

[A Wisconsin specimen has not been located.]

Cardinalis cardinalis (Linn.). Cardinal Grosbeak.

Rare. Two specimens were procured at an early day at Lake Koshkonong. Dr. P. R. Hoy is authority for the statement that a few stragglers formerly nested near Racine. Regarding the cardinal Mr. Wm. J. Bennets, of Milwaukee, writes us: "On February 26, 1900, Mr. F. Kirchner brought me a male he had shot that morning, feeding with the English

sparrows near some barns just west of the city. It was too badly damaged to make a skin, but I still retain the head. The same week two birds of this species were mounted by Mr. Bauer, a taxidermist on Chestnut street. I am informed these were taken near the ice houses on the Milwaukee River." One or two other records are supposed to have been of escaped cage birds, but it seems probable that all the above were wandering wild birds, which extended their range a trifle farther north than usual.

[The spread of the Cardinal during the last forty years is an interesting phenomenon. It has been found in most of the counties of the state, including Oconto on the northeast and Douglas on the northwest. The territorial expansion is described in the following papers: Althea R. Sherman, **Wilson Bull.** 25,1913:150-1; H. Young, B. Stollberg, and M. Deusing, **Pass. Pigeon** 3,1941:1-4; H. Young, **Pass. Pigeon** 8,1946:104-9.]

Zamelodia ludoviciana (Linn.). Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

This beautiful grosbeak is a common summer resident, and having adapted itself so well to civilization has become a common bird in towns and cities. It seems to have increased in numbers greatly in some parts of the state the past few years, and its well known propensity for destroying the potato beetle, as well as its beautiful plumage and song, should be a guarantee for its protection wherever a pair appears.

Guiraca caerulea (Linn.). Blue Grosbeak.

A rare straggler in Wisconsin. Thure Kumlien captured a pair near Lake Koshkonong in June, 1860. It was also taken at least once by Dr. Hoy; and there was also a Milwaukee specimen, which seems to have entirely disappeared.

[I am unable to locate a Wisconsin specimen.]

(Continued in next issue)

Information on "Birds of Wisconsin" Book

It was announced at the convention, with the approval of Owen J. Gromme, that the printing of the color plates for the forthcoming book "Birds of Wisconsin" would be done in Milwaukee by a company which had proven their ability to do the highest quality work. A brochure containing three of the first sample color plates was displayed (and they were a beautiful job!) and it was stated that the presses would begin to roll on this job within a week. Gromme has already finished better than 80% of the paintings. He is having full supervision over the color job at the printing company and it is expected several sets of new plates will be made during the anticipated 10,000-copy run in order to keep the color of finest quality. Every effort is being made to reduce costs on the publication, which will come out in two volumes, so that it may be possible to issue the set at a cost of about \$3 a volume to encourage all schools and individuals to secure a copy. Orders on the regular edition are not as yet being taken but special sale agreements on a limited edition of 200 de luxe copies to be signed by Owen Gromme are now being accepted. This special edition will cost \$100 per set and will be the only copies autographed or with special binding. The sale of these copies is expected to reduce the price of the regular edition and anyone desiring to subscribe for one of these sets should contact Mr. Gromme directly at the Milwaukee Public Museum. It will be at least another three years before the text of the book has been completed and the publication is ready for sale. Anyone wishing to contribute their bird records to the museum's file in preparation for this study should secure report blanks from them immediately.

The Student's Page

Conducted by MARY DECKER

"What difference would it make if there were no birds? They represent all that man longs for in his earthbound life,—freedom, beauty, flights into the unknown. They also support and have a definite relationship to the place where they live." I wish I knew the name of the author of this quotation. It expresses a bare framework of the idea which draws men to the natural world and leads them to the study of its mesh of interdependent life. Studies of this kind are basic. We hope to publish many of them on this page.

For example, Fox Point School, Milwaukee, has started to develop a sanctuary just south of the school buildings. It consists of four acres, part of it woodsy, with a border of small shrubs extending into grassy fields. Running through the rear part is a ditch with an adjacent marshy area. Many kinds of birds have been seen here including sandpipers, snipe, woodcock, red-winged blackbirds, both the eastern and western meadowlarks, warblers, sparrows, and many others. A chronological study of this development will make a nice article some day.

Miss Ruth Josephson, a teacher who studied at the Audubon Nature Camp in Maine, leads the science class. The children have been studying the area and have already started planting. Small acreages such as this may be as helpful to birds and wildlife as large tracts. In fast-growing communities, they are havens for wildlife.

The plant material was secured from the Wisconsin Conservation Department, which also supplies instruction bulletins on the subject. Incidentally, the book, **Birds in the Garden**, by Margaret McKenny, is a good source book on how to build sanctuaries. This may be secured from the Society's Supply Department.

BOOK REVIEWS

SOUTH CAROLINA BIRD LIFE. By Sprunt and Chamberlain. Columbia, S. S., 1949. 35 colored plates; 48 photographs; 620 pp. \$10.00.

This beautifully illustrated book treats the birds of South Carolina in the usual way of giving the habits, characteristics, food and economic status, range and description of each species. It does even more. It has a chapter "On Studying Birds" which is very valuable as it points out the relationships between the various kinds of birds and their respective environments. In our opinion this is a very interesting and important approach. The historical sketch is of considerable interest. Ornithological activity began in South Carolina over 200 years ago, and it is claimed that more species of birds have been made known to science from South Carolina than from any other state. Alexander Wilson, John James Audubon, John Bachman, Elliott Coues, C. Hart Merriam, William Brewster, L. M. Loomis, Arthur T. Wayne, in addition to the authors, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., and E. Burnham Chamberlain, did ornithological work in South Carolina.

Many thought-provoking facts are presented incidentally throughout the book, making it a valuable source of information also to ornithologists of other states.—N. R. Barger.

THE CLEARING, by Jens Jensen. \$3.25.

His love for our native landscape, and his understanding of how great an influence Nature can have in our lives, is told by Jens Jensen in his new book, "The Clearing." The book was published on the 89th birthday of the Ellison Bay, Door County, landscape artist.

Sub-titled "A Way of Life," and dedicated to the soil, "the Mother of us all," as he has so often expressed it, the book tells of our inherent right to a sense of well-being and oneness with the world, a quality often lost by wrong education.

Children know that our universe is one of goodness, Jensen says. A boy, dreaming along a river bank, or watching throngs of people in a busy city, is filled only with the wonders of life. By retaining his awareness of the world around him, and by a daily choosing of good in his actions, he can keep this inheritance alive.

"The ages have proven that a feeling of the soil is fundamental to all clear thinking," he says, "but we have never taken time to ask ourselves why this is true, why people and nations go to sleep, follow false trails, and decay, when they lose sight of the soil. The answer is as simple and as old as man himself."

The answer, according to Jensen, is that with the loss of our awareness of our native soil, our love for it, and our willingness to grow from its roots, we have lost our faith in life, and our love for both the natural and the human universe.

There are descriptions in the book too of the countryside, and these will delight those who enjoyed Jensen's earlier book, "Siftings," now out of print, which has often been described as a midwestern "Walden."

Jensen was born in Jutland, Denmark, Europe, and came to this country as a young man. He studied landscaping both in this country and in Europe, and was at one time superintendent of the Greater Chicago West Park System. Whenever it was possible to do so, he favored the use of only native trees, shrubs and flowers.

He was the founder of the Friends of Our Native Landscape, and, as a private landscape artist, his patrons included many great personalities. For nearly 25 years he has been living in Door county at Ellison Bay, where he conducted his school, "The Clearing."—Clara Hussong.

REPORT OF THE BIRD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

This committee feels **very strongly** that the interest of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in bird conservation should not be restricted to bird protection alone, but that it should represent a broad view of conservation problems in general.

PREDATOR CONTROL IN ALASKA. We view with alarm the inauguration of organized predator control in Alaska by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is our understanding that a careful study of this work by the Conservation Foundation was inaugurated this year, and we recommend that the Society take formal action on the matter as soon as the results of the study are made available.

INTRODUCTION OF EXOTIC SPECIES. The committee regards the introduction of exotic birds and mammals as a potential disease and parasitic hazard to our native fauna. It is recommended that the Board of Directors compliment the Wisconsin Conservation Department on the care with which it is studying the introduction of capercaillie and black grouse and that the board urge Mr. W. F. Grimmer of the Department to consider the introduction of sharptailed grouse onto Outer Island in order that the competitive association of this native game bird and the exotics can be closely studied under island conditions for a period of several years before the release of these exotics is considered elsewhere in the state.

STATUS OF RARE WISCONSIN MAMMALS. From a report rendered verbally to the committee by D. Q. Thompson, it is our understanding that locked fire lanes are one of the keys to the preservation of timber wolves in Wisconsin. We therefore suggest that the Wisconsin Society commend the director of the Wisconsin Conservation Department for the present policy of keeping fire lanes locked during the non-hunting portions of the year. We feel that this small gesture is necessary to help the director face the constant pressure to open these fire lanes to the general public, and to trappers interested in the wolf bounty. According to Mr. Thompson the present bounty system is a definite encouragement to trappers to leave "seed stock" in the Wisconsin wolf range, and thus perpetuate their sources of income.

STATUS OF RARE WISCONSIN BIRDS. The conservation of rare breeding species in Wisconsin undoubtedly is a matter of considerable interest to all our members. The Board of Directors of the Society has the grave responsibility of taking steps to insure the future preservation of several rare birds as part of our native fauna. Three steps in the program are necessary.

- (1) **Organization of a state-wide inventory of rare Wisconsin birds.** This should be carried out at once by a special inventory committee or subcommittee with the objective of mapping rare species and ascertaining their total number in Wisconsin. Possible subjects for study include the sandhill crane, piping plover, Forster's and common tern . . . and the duck hawk. While this list could readily be enlarged, care should be taken to restrict it to species that lend themselves to management measures.
- (2) **Appraisal of present environment hazards now threatening our rarer breeders.** This work will need to be delegated to experts familiar with the ecology of the birds concerned and in a position to recommend suitable management techniques that the Society can carry out. Some appraisals might be made during the coming breeding season; others will have to await completion of the inventory. The work involved will necessitate the appointment of separate subcommittees interested in separate species or separate groups of species (viz. terns, raven and spruce grouse).
- (3) **Organization of Special Wildlife Management Committees** along similar lines. The Board should be aware of how simple some management work may be and how complex it may also become. A few examples from the experience of other states will emphasize this diversity.

Sandhill Crane. The status of this species in Wisconsin (25-50 in 1944) as compared to that of Michigan (see Walkinshaw's monograph, 1949) is a disgrace. The orthodox management approach (refuges) has been incidental to the land-acquisition activity of public agencies like the state game departments, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Rural Resettlement Administration. (One state Audubon Society has its own crane sanctuary.) On these as well as on private lands, prescribed burning is at times useful in controlling the plant succession needed by the cranes. In most crane regions in the Lake States education has been found to be useful in preventing unnecessary loss from gunning. In Michigan the education approach has turned farmers into self-appointed crane wardens and farmland into informal crane refuges. A careful census of breeding pairs of sandhill cranes ought to be carried out in Wisconsin at least once every five years.

Duck Hawk or Peregrine Falcon. The most effective management refers to picnickers who innocently camp atop eyries when falcons are attempting to incubate. A successful technique used in state parks in New Jersey has been the liberal application of used crank-case oil to these picnic spots on top of cliffs; posting against gunning and trespass help; talks to nearby farmers are occasionally important. Poultry predation (rare in this species) can be reduced where it occurs by removing the young to another eyrie.

Common Terns. When beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) becomes too dense, common terns will desert an old nesting site; in such cases some burning will help. The Society should ascertain if herring gull predation on this species warrants the kind of gull control practiced in Maine and the Maritimes.

Other colonial "seabirds." Leasehold or outright ownership are familiar techniques to eliminate trespass on insular nesting colonies during the breeding season. The same thing can at times be accomplished by interviews with the island owner to get permission for the Society to erect its own signs near such colonies.

OTHER WISCONSIN BIRDS NEEDING STUDY AND PROTECTION. We would suggest that the Society undertake steps to study the status of fish-eating birds in Wisconsin, particularly those that are regarded with hostility by fishermen (like the double-crested cormorant), and those that are systematically destroyed whenever they appear at state and federal hatcheries.

RE-ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONSERVATION. We recommend that the Society adopt the following resolution and that copies of it be sent by the secretary to each of Wisconsin's congressmen in the House of Representatives and in the U. S. Senate:

Whereas the re-organization of federal conservation activities into valley authorities will critically weaken the administration and management of the fish and wildlife resources of the United States; and

Whereas we strongly oppose the delegation of these conservation activities to autonomous agencies responsible only to the President,

Be it Resolved that the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology record the whole-hearted opposition of its membership to bills H. R. 894 and S. 1645 in the 1st session of the 81st Congress; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to our delegates in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

We strongly urge individual members of the Society to write separate letters to their senators and representatives to oppose these proposed bills in the present Congress, and that copies of these letters be sent to the chairman of the Committee on Public Works in each house.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BIRD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

W. S. Feeney

Clarence Jung

Wallace Grange

Earl Loyster

Frank King

J. J. Hickey, Chairman

May 6, 1950

By The Wayside . . .

Early Record of Red Phalarope In Dane County. An early record of a red phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in Dane County seems to have been overlooked, apparently due to a mis-identification. Specimen Number 6005 in the museum of the Department of Zoology, collected at Madison, Wisconsin on October 18, 1899 by N. C. Gilbert, is incorrectly labeled "Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*)". The skin is in good condition, showing the typical fall plumage and measurements of the red phalarope (culmen 22 mm.; nostrils 2.5 mm. from lores). This precedes the 1935 record for Dane County (*Auk* 53(2), 1936:212). Robert W. Nero, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin.

The Late Autumn and Early Winter Season

The months of November, December, and January were characterized by relatively mild weather, with few exceptions. The first few days of November continued the mild weather of October sufficiently to induce orange-crowned warblers and several species of shorebirds to linger decidedly later than usual. More than the usual number of half-hardy wintering species remained through the period, and they had a rather easy time of it, because there was little severe cold anywhere in the state, and remarkably little snow in the southern portion. Observers in northern Wisconsin called this period relatively mild; those in southern Wisconsin remarked about the almost total lack of snow. The open winter made it appear that some birds, such as rough-legged hawk and tree sparrow, were unusually scarce; perhaps they were, but it seems more probable that the birds were merely distributed over a wider area. Particularly notable was the number of wintering red-headed woodpeckers; in some areas it was the most common woodpecker during the season, and in other areas it was present where it had rarely been seen before at this season.

It was definitely a flight year for snowy owls, Northern shrikes, and evening grosbeaks. It was not a flight year for redpolls, crossbills, pine grosbeaks, goshawks, or Bohemian waxwings.

The main migration of ducks went about on schedule. The closing of the lakes in the northern parts of the state in late October and early November, and in the southern parts of the state around Christmas-time, were normal, and regulated the movement of ducks for the most part. But Wisconsin had a good wintering population, as revealed by the mid-winter waterfowl census.

Horned Grebe: Six still in Madison, Nov. 29 (Leon Edmunds); one at Lake Geneva, Dec. 26 (C. O. Palmquist).

Pied-billed Grebe: Last noted in Milwaukee, Dec. 18 (Helmuth Mueller).

White Pelican: One turned up in Kenosha on Nov. 6, and was captured and sent to the city zoo one week later (fide Mrs. Higgins).

Great Blue Heron: Noted near Madison in January (Yohann).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Last in Green Bay, Nov. 13 (Bird Club).

American Bittern: One remained in the Town of Remington, Wood County, through Jan. 9 (Ben Hubbard).

Whistling Swan: At Horicon, a peak of 28 on Nov. 3 dwindled until the last disappeared on Nov. 23 (Lloyd Gunther); noted in Milwaukee from Nov. 24 (Robert Nero) until Dec. 4 (B. Kaiman-A. Andrews); six wintered in Green Bay (Warden Wilger).

Canada Goose: After a fall peak of 18,000 at Horicon, the last large flock left on Dec. 24, leaving two birds present (Lloyd Gunther). This coincides with the last sizable flock leaving Madison the same day (Jim Zimmerman). A surprising number spent the winter, however: an estimated 6000 on the Rock-Walworth prairie (Rex Tice); 1000 on the Greenwood Refuge in Waushara County (N. E. Damaske); 116 in Jefferson County (Laesch); 100 in Green Bay (Wilger); 25 in Racine County (A. J. Peterson); and four in Dane County (Richard Hunt). One was still in Milwaukee, Jan. 2 (Mrs. Alvin Bromm).

Snow Goose: Noted at South Wayne, Nov. 24 (Mrs. Olson-Mrs. Welch); four wintered in Green Bay (Wilger).

Blue Goose: South Wayne, Nov. 24 (Mrs. Olson-Mrs. Welch); wintered in Oconto County (Carl Richter).

Black Duck: Unusually large winter population in Dane County (Richard Hunt et al); noted in Green Bay, Dec. 26 (Paul Romig-R. P. Hussongs); and in Door County, Jan. 14 (F. H. King-Harry Stroebe).

Gadwall: Decided increase in fall flight noted in Madison during November (Lawrence Jahn); 30 at Horicon, Nov. 4 (F. H. King); 21 found wintering in Dane County, Jan. 20 (Richard Hunt); also wintering in Milwaukee (many observers).

Baldpate: One in Waukesha County, Dec. 26 (S. P. Jones et al); two in Dane County in mid-January (Al Koppenhaver-F. R. Zimmerman); wintered in Milwaukee.

Pintail: Wintered in Madison and Milwaukee.

Green-winged Teal: Still in Mercer, Nov. 5 (Mrs. Herbert Sell), and in Madison, Nov. 30 (Lawrence Jahn). Noted in Rock County during January (Earl Loyster).

Blue-winged Teal: Flock of ten lingering in Green Bay, Dec. 26 (R. P. Hussongs-Paul Romig).

Shoveller: One in Green Bay, Dec. 26 (R. P. Hussongs-Paul Romig); also wintered in Milwaukee.

Wood Duck: One wintering in Sheboygan County (Glen Popple); three wintering in Milwaukee (Helmuth Mueller et al).

Redhead: Twelve at Lake Geneva, Dec. 26 (C. O. Palmquist); seven in Dane County, mid-January (F. R. Zimmerman-Al Koppenhaver); 14 wintering at Green Lake (Warden Robinson); also wintering in Milwaukee.

Ring-necked Duck: Increase during fall flight noted in Madison (Lawrence Jahn); 27 at Lake Geneva, Dec. 26 (C. O. Palmquist); wintering in Milwaukee.

Canvas-back: Unusually large wintering population: 200 in Walworth County (Rex Tice); 175 in Milwaukee (many observers); 26 in Green Lake County (Warden Robinson).

Lesser Scaup Duck: Unusual winter records are furnished by one in Dunn County, Jan. 24 (Helmer Mattison); three in Green Lake County, Dec. 29 (Jack Kaspar et al); and twelve in Green Bay, Dec. 26 (Paul Romig-R. P. Hussongs). Wintering population in Milwaukee area estimated at 3000.

American Golden-eye: 40 seen at Hayward, Jan. 23 (Karl Kahmann), and at various other places around the state where open water was available.

Old-squaw: Two in Dane County, Nov. 25 (W. E. Scott); unusual inland record. Found as far north as Kewaunee and Door Counties during aerial census on Jan. 14 (F. H. King-Harry Stroebe).

White-winged Scoter: Cedar Grove, Nov. 5 (Helmuth Mueller et al); Milwaukee, Nov. 27 (Dr. Anna Hehn); Madison, Dec. 14 (Lawrence Jahn).

American Scoter: Three at Cedar Grove, Nov. 5 (Helmuth Mueller et al).

Ruddy Duck: Two still in Madison, Dec. 11 (W. E. Scott); eight at Lake Geneva, Dec. 26 (C. O. Palmquist); 25 wintering in Milwaukee.

Hooded Merganser: Present on Dec. 26 in Green Bay (R. P. Hussongs-Paul Romig), and at Lake Geneva (C. O. Palmquist); noted at Necedah during January (Frank Martin), and in Milwaukee throughout the period.

Goshawk: One in Oneida County, Nov. 20 (F. H. King); Green Bay, Dec. 26 (Ed. Cleary); Ripon, Dec. 29 (Paul Cors).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A surprising number of winter records. In the past three winters there had been but two reports; this winter there have been seven: Milwaukee, Dec. 26 (Helmuth Mueller et al); Kenosha, Dec. 26 and 30 (Mrs. Howard Higgins et al); Waushara County, Dec. 29 (Jack Kaspar et al); Plymouth, Dec. 29 (Harold Koopman); Watertown, Dec. 30 (Philip Mallow); Monroe, Jan. 7 and 29 (Gordon Orians); and Madison, throughout (J. J. Hickeys).

Cooper's Hawk: Manitowoc County, Jan. 19 (F. H. King); Madison, Jan. 20 (John Emlen); Waukesha County, Jan. 22 (S. P. Jones-C. E. Nelson); Menomonie, Jan. 25 and 28 (Helmer Mattison); Milwaukee, Jan. 28 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Single individuals noted in Crawford County, Dec. 25 (Clarence Paulson), and on Jan. 7 at Arena (Sam Robbins), and Monroe (Gordon Orians). Two birds wintering in Milton (Chester Skelly), and one in Milwaukee (Helmuth Mueller et al).

Rough-legged Hawk: Eight wintering in the Milton area (Chester Skelly), and five or more near Monroe (Gordon Orians); elsewhere they appeared to be scarce.

Golden Eagle: One carefully seen and described, noted in the Town of Primrose, Dane County, Nov. 25 (W. E. Randall-Curtis).

Bald Eagle: Much in evidence. The wintering population near Mazomanie included at least nine adults and one immature (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins); other winter records received from Burnett, Door, Dunn, Fond du Lac, Green, Iowa, Manitowoc, Monroe, Oneida and Sawyer Counties.

Marsh Hawk: Winter records from Walworth County, Dec. 11 (Leta McMaster); Dunn County, Nov. 20 (H. E. Clark); Mazomanie, Dec. 31, and Sauk City, Jan. 2 (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins); Mount Horeb, Jan. 12 (Mrs. P. E. Miles); Waukesha County, Jan. 26 (S. P. Jones-C. E. Nelson); and present throughout at South Wayne (Mrs. Welch-Mrs. Olson).

Sparrow Hawk: Fifteen wintering in Milwaukee (Helmuth Mueller et al); other wintering birds seen in Dane, Dodge, Green, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Sauk and Waukesha Counties.

Spruce Grouse: Noted in Oneida County, Nov. 7 (Lyle Sowls-Bob Ellarson-Dan Thompson).

Ruffed Grouse: One in Kenosha County, Dec. 26 (Donna Nelson-Mrs. Higgins), is outside the usual range. Birds were heard drumming in Marathon County on Jan. 9 (Ben Hubbard), and in Burnett County on Jan. 2 (N. R. Stone).

Prairie Chicken: Three at Tripoli, Lincoln County, Nov. 6 (F. C. Seymour).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Three hundred being fed through the winter in Wood County (Ben Hubbard), and 75 in Burnett County (N. R. Stone).

Hungarian Partridge: This species is increasing and broadening its range. Reports during the season have come from Brown, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Waukesha, Waupaca and Winnebago Counties.

Virginia Rail: Late bird at Cedar Grove, Nov. 6 (Gordon Orians-Helmuth Mueller).

Coot: Wintering birds in Dane, Milwaukee, Walworth and Waukesha Counties.

Killdeer: A remarkably late straggler in Crawford County, Dec. 26 (Clarence Paulson).

Black-bellied Plover: Remained at Racine until Nov. 26 (George Prins). Latest date on record. Other late dates: Milwaukee, Nov. 20 (Helmuth Mueller-Dan Berger); five in Winnebago County, Nov. 9-11 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); three in Dane County, Nov. 6 (George Hall).

Wilson's Snipe: Noted in LaFarge, Jan. 12 (Harry Stroebe); Waukesha County, Jan. 1 and 29 (S. P. Jones-C. E. Nelson); and at Milton throughout (Chester Skelly).

Greater Yellow-legs: Still in Green County, Nov. 13 (Gordon Orians); latest date on record. Other November records in Madison, Milwaukee, Cedar Grove and Vernon County.

Lesser Yellow-legs: Remarkably late straggler in Dodge County, Nov. 28 (Philip Mallow); latest date on record. Still present on Nov. 6 in Waukesha, Milwaukee and Cedar Grove.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Fifty still present in Vernon County, Nov. 6 (Margarette Morse). Others lingered in Green County, Nov. 13 (Gordon Orians); Winnebago County, Nov. 11 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); Jefferson County, Nov. 10 (Philip Mallow); and Waukesha County, Nov. 6 (S. P. Jones-C. E. Nelson).

White-rumped Sandpiper: One in Winnebago County, Nov. 10 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers). Very late!

Least Sandpiper: One at Horicon, Nov. 5 (F. H. King); latest date on record.

Red-backed Sandpiper: This species can be expected to linger later in the fall than most other shorebirds, but one in Milwaukee on Nov. 26 (C. P. Frister) and in Racine the same day (George Prins) are the latest on record. Still in Green County, Nov. 13 (Gordon Orians); Winnebago County, Nov. 12 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); Waukesha County, Nov. 6 (S. P. Jones-C. E. Nelson); and Horicon, Nov. 5 (F. H. King).

Sanderling: Still at Racine, Nov. 27 (George Prins); latest date on record. Others in Milwaukee, Nov. 13 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); and at Cedar Grove, Nov. 6 (Gordon Orians et al).

Northern Phalarope: Still in Milwaukee, Nov. 5 (Mrs. W. Simmons); latest date on record.

Jaeger: One bird noted at Cedar Grove, Nov. 6 (Mary Donald); presumably parasitic, but positive identification impossible.

Glaucous Gull: One was discovered in Kenosha on Dec. 30 (Richard Gordon), and remained through January 12 (Mrs. Higgins).

Great Black-backed Gull: Appeared in Kenosha on Dec. 29 (Richard Gordon); last seen there on Jan. 9 (Mrs. Higgins).

Franklin's Gull: A heavy flight was watched in Milwaukee at the remarkably late date on Nov. 27 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); last seen there on Dec. 4 (Dr. Anna Hehn).

Bonaparte's Gull: Present in Milwaukee throughout the period (many observers).

Mourning Dove: Wintering flocks of 40 or more reported from Dunn County (Helmer Mattison), Loganville (Harold Kruse), Mazomanie (George Curran-J. R. Smith), Waterloo (A. W. Schultz), and Green County (Howard Orians-John Caradine); smaller groups or single individuals found in Dane, Fond du Lac, Marquette, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Polk, Richland, St. Croix and Walworth Counties. This represents an unusually large wintering population.

Snowy Owl: Striking flight year. At least 43 birds were reported during the period; compared with a total of nine records received for the past three winters combined! This winter's birds were seen in 29 counties, covering all sections of the state.

Long-eared Owl: A flock of 15 was noted in Kenosha County, Dec. 26 (Donna Nelson-Mrs. Higgins); a flock of seven wintered in Madison (George Knudsen et al); also found in Green County, Dec. 11 (Gordon Orians); Menomonie, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 (Helmer Mattison); Cedar Grove, Dec. 29 (Helmuth Mueller et al); and in Milwaukee throughout (many observers).

Short-eared Owl: Few reports: Dane County, Dec. 4 (William Roark); Milwaukee throughout (Helmuth Mueller et al).

Saw-whet Owl: One found dead near Camp Douglas, Nov. 6 (George Knudsen); one caught in Lake Mills on Dec. 10 died three days later (W. Vilbrandt).

Belted Kingfisher: More than the usual number of wintering birds: noted several times in Madison (W. E. Scott), Green County (Howard & Gordon Orians), and Kenosha County (Mrs. Howard Higgins et al). Also seen on Dec. 26 in Waukesha County (S. P. Jones et al), and at Lake Geneva (C. O. Palmquist); Crawford County, Jan. 22 (Edna Goldsmith); and Menomonee, Jan. 24 (Helmer Mattison-Don Thompson).

Flicker: Very late migrants or possible wintering birds found in Green Bay, Nov. 28 (Mrs. Weber), and in Oshkosh, Dec. 14 (Mrs. Kaspar). Winter records from Dane, Fond du Lac, Green, Iowa, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan and Vernon Counties. This represents a noticeable increase in winter population.

Red-bellied Woodpucker: Not often seen in the eastern part of the state, this species was recorded in Appleton from Dec. 28 through Jan. 15 (Mrs. H. L. Playman et al); Marquette County, Dec. 29 (Jack Kaspar et al); Kenosha, Dec. 30 (Richard Gordon).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Found wintering farther north than usual: in Burnett County, Jan. 22 (N. R. Stone); in St. Croix County throughout (W. D. Barnard); and in Dunn County throughout (H. E. Clark). An incomplete count in the oak woods of Marquette County revealed 31 on Dec. 29 (Jack Kaspar et al). Much more numerous than usual throughout southern Wisconsin.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: One wintering in Rock Creek, Dunn County (H. E. Clark) is remarkably far north. Another is wintering in South Wayne (Mrs. Ethel Olson); and one was seen at Devil's Lake, Sauk County, Jan. 2 (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins).

Canada Jay: Noted during the season at Land O' Lakes (Fred Babcock).

Raven: Two wintering at Mercer (Mrs. Sell); wintering also at Land O' Lakes (Fred Babcock). Noted in Oconto County on Nov. 7 (Carl Richter), and in Oneida County on Nov. 18 (C. O. Palmquist).

Hudsonian Chickadee: Balsam Lake, Polk County, Jan. 3 (Helen Tuttle).

Tufted Titmouse: A wintering bird at Rock Creek, Dunn County, Dec. 25 (H. E. Clark), is far north.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The heavy flight earlier in the fall had dwindled off somewhat by November, but there were more than the usual number of wintering birds: noted in Dane, Dodge, Iron, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Polk, St. Croix, Vernon and Vilas Counties.

Brown Creeper: One wintering at Land O' Lakes (Fred Babcock) is very far north; a few spent the winter in central Wisconsin at St. Croix Falls (L. Heinsohn), Hudson (Mrs. H. H. Owen), Appleton (Mrs. Rogers), Oshkosh (Jack Kaspar), and at Ripon (Paul Cors). Few reported from southern Wisconsin.

Winter Wren: Last seen at Cedar Grove, Nov. 6 (Helmuth Mueller-Gordon Orians).

Carolina Wren: One present in Milwaukee throughout the period (Rufin Jankowski et al); one turned up in Madison on Dec. 24, and remained throughout the period (W. S. Middleton).

Brown Trasher: Racine, Jan. 30 (Ed Prins).

Robin: In addition to numerous winter records from southern Wisconsin, there was a bird far north at Mellen, Dec. 25 (*fide* J. W. Peroutky), and a flock of 18 at Sturgeon Bay, Jan. 8 (Norman Stavik). Others in central Wisconsin include: Green Bay, Dec. 18 (Mrs. Weber); two in Marshfield Township, Fond du Lac County, throughout (George Henseler); Appleton, Dec. 28 (Mrs. Frank Blick et al); and one in the Town of Saratoga, Jan. 29 (Ben Hubbard). The usual wintering population at La Crosse was absent, due to a failure in the hackberry crop.

Hermit Thrush: Late migrants in Rock County on Nov. 24 (Gordon Orians), and on Nov. 25 in Madison (George Hall), and Milwaukee (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Helmuth Mueller).

Bluebird: Straggler in Crawford County, Dec. 25 (Clarence Paulson). Last migrant noted in Madison, Nov. 11 (Fred Greeley).

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher: Very late bird in Milwaukee, Nov. 6 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Audrey Andrews); latest date on record.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Few in southern Wisconsin; also three at Oshkosh, Dec. 29 (J. H. Evans et al); one at Ripon, Dec. 30 (Paul Cors); two in southern Adams County, Jan. 2 (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Late migrants in Oshkosh on Nov. 8 (Mrs. Glen Fisher), and in Madison on Nov. 9 (John Wilde). Remarkable winter record in Madison, Jan. 14 (Philip Mallow).

Bohemian Waxwing: The usual few scattered reports: two in Madison, Nov. 23 and 24 (George Hall); two found dead at Green Bay, Dec. 18 (Mrs. Weber); Milwaukee, Dec. 24 (C. P. Frister) and Jan. 2 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); one in Marshfield Township, Fond du Lac County, Jan. 12 (George Henseler).

Northern Shrike: A flight year! At least 32 birds have been reported during the period from 18 areas scattered all over the state. Eight to ten birds per winter has been the average for the past few years. One bird was banded in Madison on Nov. 3 (J. J. Hickeys).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Late migrants in Cedar Grove on Nov. 4 and in Milwaukee on Nov. 5 (Gordon Orians-Helmuth Mueller); latest date on record.

Myrtle Warbler: Late departure in Madison, Nov. 20 (George Hall).

Eastern Meadowlark: One straggler far north at Rice Lake, Jan. 2 (Robert Bailey). Numerous scattered reports from southern Wisconsin.

Western Meadowlark: Late migrant in Dunn County, Nov. 19 (H. E. Clark). Known to be wintering in Green County (Gordon Orians).

Red-wing: Winter residents noted at Madison, Watertown, Milton, Lake Geneva, Waukesha and in Winnebago County.

Rusty Blackbird: Waukesha, Dec. 18 and 26 (S. P. Jones et al); Lake Geneva, Dec. 26 (C. O. Palmquist); Town of Remington, Wood County, Jan. 30 (Ben Hubbard).

Bronzed Grackle: One present in Milton through December (Chester Skelly), perhaps the same bird that was later banded on Jan. 28 (Melva Maxson). Others noted in Madison, Dec. 1 (Bob Ellarson); Ripon, Dec. 30 (Paul Cors); and Milwaukee in January (Rufin Jankowski).

Cowbird: One female in Milwaukee, Dec. 9 to Jan. 17 (Mary Donald); male in Milwaukee, Jan. 19 (Mrs. Gimmmler); one in Waukesha, Dec. 31 (*fide* S. P. Jones); one in Madison, Jan. 22 (George Hall). Last migrant noted in Winnebago County on Nov. 9 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

Cardinal: Present during the winter at Mellen and Merrill (J. W. Peroutky), and at Manson Lake, Oneida County (Ray Schmutzlers).

Evening Grosbeak: Very good flight, perhaps the best in many years, since it blanketed southern Wisconsin along with the rest of the state. Flocks were present in Milwaukee by the start of the period (Mrs. Stoll), reached Mazomanie by Nov. 23 (Sam Robbins), Kenosha County by Nov. 26 (Mrs. Chris Due), Lake Geneva by Dec. 26 (C. O. Palmquist), Hartland by Dec. 31 (Mrs. Anderson); and Milton by Jan. 7 (Chester Skelly). Not in recent years has southern Wisconsin had such a visitation.

Purple Finch: Flock of ten wintering in Fond du Lac County (George Henseler). One in Green Bay, Dec. 26 (Ed Paulson-Bernard Chartier).

Pine Grosbeak: Numerous records, but hardly enough for a real flight. Noted from mid-November on, in Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Dunn, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Sawyer, Sheboygan, Vilas and Washburn Counties.

Redpoll: Few reports. Flocks noted in Oneida County, Nov. 18 (F. H. King) and Nov. 20 (C. O. Palmquist); Dunn County on Nov. 23, Dec. 3 and Jan. 31 (Helmer Mattison); Green Bay, Dec. 26 and Jan. 3 (Ed Cleary et al); and sparingly throughout at Milwaukee and Cedar Grove (Helmuth Mueller et al).

Pine Siskin: Few scattered reports from Dane, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Sauk and Winnebago Counties.

Red Crossbill: Three at Cedar Grove, Nov. 6 (Gordon Orians et al); five at Madison, Nov. 24 and 29 (J. J. Hickeys).

Towhee: One wintering in Madison (Mrs. George Sterrel).

Savannah Sparrow: Late migrant in Sauk County, Nov. 13 (Ethel A. Nott).

Cassiar Junco: A bird of this race banded in Madison in January 1949 was retrapped in the fall; two others were banded during the winter, and several others seen (J. J. Hickeys).

Field Sparrow: Late straggler banded in Milton, Dec. 1 (Melva Maxson).

White-crowned Sparrow: One in Milwaukee, Dec. 26 (Helmuth Mueller et al); one at Horicon, Dec. 27 (Gunther-Luehring).

White-throated Sparrow: Ripon, Dec. 30 (Paul Cors); Madison, Jan. 10 (Jack Kaspar).

Song Sparrow: Scattered winter reports from southern Wisconsin, the most northerly being one at Marshfield Township, Fond du Lac County (George Henseler).

Lapland Longspur: Flock of 1000 estimated in Green County, Nov. 16 (A. W. Schorger). Few other scattered reports.

Snow Bunting: Scattered reports indicate good numbers and wide distribution.

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

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