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The Passenger Pigeon

The Monthly Bulletin of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology

Vol. I.

November, 1939

No. 11

A BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WISCONSIN ORNITHOLOGY

By A. W. Schorger

A bibliography of Wisconsin ornithology has been compiled from which the titles given below have been selected. The selection has been limited largely to state, county, or local lists of either historical or intrinsic value:

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Carr, C. F. "A List of the Birds Known to Nest within the Boundaries of Wisconsin with a few Notes thereon." Wis. Naturalist 1 (1890) 28-30; 45-47; 62-63; 77-79; 94.

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THE PASSENGER PIGEON

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Send membership applications and dues to the treasurer.

Manuscript and field notes should be sent to the editor.

Treasurer: Karl W. Kahmann, Hayward, Wisconsin

Editor: W. E. Scott, Wisconsin Conservation Dept. Annex,
20 N. Carroll St., Madison, Wisconsin

Jackson, H. H. T. "Notes on the Summer Birds of the Door Peninsula, Wisconsin, and Adjacent Islands." Trans. Wis. Acad. Sci. Arts and Let. 23 (1927) 639-665.

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SECOND ANNUAL MEETING AT MILWAUKEE FOR 1940

The Executive Board of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology met at Madison, Dec. 4. The board, reviewing activities of the past year, was enthusiastic over the Society's successful beginning and predicted an even better future.

The invitation from Milwaukee ornithologists was accepted by the board to meet there in 1940 for the second annual meeting. The date will fall about the last week-end of March or the first week of April. The Vice-president of the Society, Mr. Throne, will be in charge of the program, details of which will soon be announced.

In the opinion of the board THE PASSENGER PIGEON will continue as a monthly mimeographed bulletin. As soon as all the ornithologists of the state are reached the club will consider printing. Possibly this can be accomplished at the next Annual Meeting. Interested members can do a great deal to promote the expansion in membership needed to bring this about.

BIRD BANDER'S DEPARTMENT

With this issue THE PASSENGER PIGEON inaugurates a Bird Bander's Department, under the editorship of Harold C. Wilson of Ephraim, Door County. Wilson is an old-timer among the bird banders of Wisconsin, having begun this work in 1923. In 1925, Wilson and Wallace Grange started banding at the University of Wisconsin under the supervision of Leon J. Cole who is now President of the Kumlien Bird Club. The following two years, Wilson was a research assistant in zoology, banding birds under George Wagner. In 1927, he finished his University work, majoring in zoology, with a thesis entitled "Studies in the Life History of the Herring Gull." Wilson has been banding birds ever since, making his biggest haul each year on the breeding grounds of the gulls on islands off the Door County peninsula.

To date, Wilson has banded about 24,000 birds, of which 17,500 were Herring Gulls. He has had about 800 returns from north to the Hudson Bay region, Labrador and Newfoundland, and south to the Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico, and Panama. He states that many returns come from Mexico, but only one came from Panama, at New Cristobal, which was the farthest south any have been found.

Wilson is married and is a dealer in real estate and insurance.

Now that you have met Harold Wilson, it is the editor's hope that you bird banders will share your news with the club, using our paper as a medium for records of state-wide interest. Send material directly to Wilson at Ephraim, Wisconsin.

MESSAGE OF BIRD BANDING DEPARTMENT EDITOR

"It is indeed an honor to serve as editor of this department, and I hope that whatever space may be allotted will be filled with notes of interest to every member. This will be possible only with your cooperation. We can print no more than is submitted by each of you bird banders. The following will serve as an example, although results of banding done on a much smaller scale will be equally as interesting:"

OWEN GROMME has just finished his banding of hawks on the lake shore, north of Milwaukee, Lee Stevens and Lester Diedrich doing the work. A total of 103 hawks were banded during the sixty days the station was operated. They were of the following kinds: 8 Duck Hawks, 3 Pigeon Hawks, 20 Marsh

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Hawks, 40 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 16 Cooper's Hawks, 1 Sparrow Hawk, and 15 Red-tailed Hawks. The largest capture of hawks on a single day was on Oct. 6, with a capture of 31 hawks.

"Let us band together" and make this department interesting. Thanks.

--Harold C. Wilson

OBSERVATIONS BY THE WAYSIDE

Dennis Rupnow of Ixonia, Jefferson County, had a short article in the November-December, 1939, issue of FIELD ORNITHOLOGY. He reports that the American Egrets arrived on the Rock river near there on Aug. 1, and departed on Sept. 24. On this latter date he saw a flock of 15 Wood Ducks on the same river, and a flock of 50 a week later. He observed unusually large numbers of Marsh and Red-tailed Hawks during September.

With reference to the Starling article in the last PASSENGER PIGEON, Carl Richter adds that these birds have been fairly common and nesting on Green and Chambers Islands in Green Bay during the past three years.

Earl Mitchell noted the Carolina Wren at the Wisconsin river and the Dowitcher in Dane County, Sept. 17; and the American Egret on the 10th, 12th and 17th at Madison, the Mississippi river and Fish lake (Dane county).

G. T. Black again estimated approximately 1,000 Crows going to roost two miles south of Sun Prairie (Dane county) on November 12. This information is given at this time so that observers nearby may benefit and also to encourage other bird students to report similar concentrations.

NOTICE TO BIRD BANDERS

The Wisconsin Conservation Department requests bird banders to renew their permits annually beginning with this year, and also to make a summary report of their calendar year activities. Heretofore the only records required of the bird banders were sent to the Biological Survey, and even summary data was not available for use without great effort. (The Editor)

OCTOBER FIELD NOTES

Material for this department should be sent to the editor at the end of each month. Be sure to send your CHRISTMAS CENSUS with your next report.

SOUTHEAST AREA--Carl Strelitzer reports the following Milwaukee Bird Club records: Oct. 9, 2 Screech Owls by Jung; 15th, Black-crowned Night Heron with broken leg at Lake Park by Corwin; 22nd, immature Bald Eagle at Cedar Grove (Sheboygan County) by Steib, Kinzel and Schaeffer; 25th, about 200 Lesser Snow Geese and Blue Geese over Milwaukee by Jung; 29th, Deusing spotted a Double-crested Cormorant on the lake front and the bird was observed by later observed by others; 30th, Schaeffer saw 2 Ruddy Ducks and two pairs of White-winged Scoters on the lake front. During the month Mathiak saw Lapland Longspurs at Big Muskego Lake (Waukesha Co.), C. N. Mason observed a Barn Owl at the Uihlein Plant and Fox received an unconfirmed report of 40 Whistling Swans in Lake Michigan off from the Northwestern Depot.

E. W. Strehlow of the Green Bay Bird Club reports a total of 69 species observed by members during the month, the most important of which follow: Oct. 5th (and during first two weeks), Pine Siskin by Hussong and others; 6th, Black-crowned Night Heron and hundreds of Tree Swallows by Kendall; 7th, Song Sparrow (in song) by Hussong; 8th, Willet by Hussong, several hundred bronzed Grackles by Strehlow and Purple Finch by Thompson; 17th, House Wren and Common Tern by Kendall; 25th, Pied-billed Grebe, Whistling Swan, Vesper Sparrow, N. Horned Lark, E. Meadowlark, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting by Kendall; 28th, large flocks of Whistling Swans and Canada Geese flying south by Kendall, Fonder and Hussong. On the 10th, Kendall saw English Sparrows and Bluebirds fighting for possession of a bird house and states that on Oct. 9, 1938, Bluebirds carried straw to the same house. Strehlow reports that he contacted members of the Brown County Hunting and Fishing Club on the 23rd regarding the American Brant and three hunters were found to have shot these birds during the season, while seven other Brant were supposedly seen by them on Green Bay. (Specimens of this bird should be collected whenever possible since good records for Wisconsin are rare. Van Tyne in his Michigan check list (1938) records only one satisfactory record for the state. Hunters have been known to confuse Cuckling and Hutchin's Geese with the American Brant.--Ed.)

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N. R. Barger reports for the Madison area as follows: In the University Arboretum, Feeney records Rough-legged Hawks on Oct. 11th and 24th, a Short-eared Owl on the 25th, and a Redpoll feeding on sun-flower seed the 31st. A late date for the Parula Warbler was secured by Main on the 9th. Hummingbirds were unusually abundant this fall, remaining late. Mrs. Koehler noted the last Oct. 23, a month late. Other late records by Mrs. Koehler and Mrs. Walker were: Oct. 5th, Rose-breasted Grosbeak; 10th, Golden Plover; 5th, Bonaparte's Gull, Green Heron and Common Tern; and 26th, Pipit. Song Sparrows have been rare this fall, but Killdeer were remaining late in considerable numbers.

Albert Lerch of Morrisonville, Columbia County, killed a Red-tailed Hawk on the 19th, when it was bothering his chickens. It was reported as a western variety.

Scott reports a Winter Wren at Poynette and 2 Double-crested Cormorants, 12 Canada Geese and 1000 Coot on Lake Wisconsin (Columbia Co.) on Oct. 22nd; about 60 Snow Geese flying south over West Bend (Washington Co.) on the 19th; 2 Short-eared Owls, found dead at Port Washington (Ozaukee Co.), on the 15th; Forester's Tern at Devil's Lake (Sauk Co.) on the 12th; unconfirmed telephone identification of a Blue Goose shot on Lake Wisconsin on the 27th by a Madison party; 2 Am. Egrets and King Rail at Sheboygan Marsh on the 1st. Opening day ducks checked in hunters bags at this marsh, showed the following in order of number: Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Widgeon, Mallard, Black Duck, Shoveller, Wood Duck (few illegal females), Pintail (few), Gadwall (few), Bufflehead, 1, and Ruddy Duck, 1, with unconfirmed report of a Redhead taken. Thousands of ducks were checked.

Aldo Leopold reports 4 Am. Egrets in Sauk Co. on Oct. 11 and 3 at Jefferson the same day. Wm. Elder observed a Nelson's Sparrow in Sauk Co. on the 7th. Fairfield and Woodbury saw a Greater Yellowlegs on the 8th at the Madison Fish Hatchery.

C. T. Black of Lake Mills reports Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpipers and Wilson Snipe present throughout the month on Rock Lake (Jefferson Co.) with 21 Pectoral on the 17th and 5 on the 31st. Also on the 31st, seven Red-backed Sandpipers were seen there. On the 13th, two flocks of mixed Snow and Blue Geese passed over Faville Grove and natives reported numerous flocks passed between the 8th and 17th. There were unconfirmed reports of 3 Snow Geese killed on Mud Lake

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west of Watertown on the 1st, and others at Goose Lake north of Deerfield on the 15th, where also about 35-50 Wood Ducks were reported killed on the 1st. At Faville Grove, Black observed 10 Black-bellied Plover on the 10th and a Pigeon Hawk on the 15th. A Hooded Merganser was killed on the Crawford River there on the 29th.

Prins, of the Hoy Nature Club, at Racine, sends the following first dates: Oct. 2nd, Pigeon Hawk; 5th, Red-backed Sandpiper; 8th, Harris' Sparrow; 10th, Canada Goose; 11th, Double-crested Cormorant, Old Squaw and Northern Horned Lark; 14th, Snow Goose; 15th, Am. Scoter; 16th, Tree Sparrow; 17th, Blue Goose; White-winged Scoter, Common Loon; 21st, Am. Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Red-tailed Hawk; 25th, Redhead Duck; 28th, Franklin's Gull, Snow Bunting, Pine Siskin. Last dates are: Oct. 4, N. Yellowthroat, Wood Pewee, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo; 5th, Nighthawk, Bay-breasted Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Turkey Vulture, Duck Hawk, Caspian Tern; 8th, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Spotted Sandpiper; 11th, Whip-poor-will, Black-billed Cuckoo, Sharp-shinned Hawk; 12th, Least Sandpiper; 13th, Black-bellied Plover, Laughing(?-Ed.) Gull, Common Tern; 14th, Olive-backed Thrush, Field and Savannah Sparrows; 16th, Lincoln Sparrow and Black-throated Green Warbler; 18th, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; 19th, N. Water-thrush; 21, Am. Bittern, Great Blue Heron, White-crowned Sparrow, Redstart, Grinnell's Water-thrush, Palm and Magnolia Warblers, Tree Swallow and Pigeon Hawk; 22nd, Greater Yellowlegs, Brown Thrasher and Wood Duck; 23rd, Orange-crowned Warbler, Oven-bird, Solitary Sandpiper, Philadelphia Vireo; 24th, Sora Rail, House Wren; 26th, Phoebe, Double-crested Cormorant; 28th, Myrtle Warbler, Fox Sparrow, Lesser Yellowlegs, Green-winged Teal, Winter Wren, Cooper's Hawk. Other notes are: Bewick's Wren by the Prins brothers on the 21st, Harris' Sparrow by the club on the 8th and by Dr. von Jarchow several times later. Sharp-tailed Grouse (?-Ed.) by Yandl on the 13th; Sanderlings by Nelson on the 28th and Prairie Chick-on by Simonsen on the 15th. The Laughing Gull was the third report this fall. House Wrens were uncommon; Marsh Hawk migration heavy with Simonsen seeing 30 on Oct. 8; Scoters (species ?-Ed.) more common; Scaups more abundant this month. Goose migration was heavier this year, with the height for Canadas on the 10th and for Snows and Blues between the 15th and 25th. Simonsen saw about 500 on the 15th.

SOUTHWESTERN AREA--Evans of Oshkosh observed two male Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Wyalusing State Park, in Grant Co., on Oct. 14th; and Scott reports numerous flocks of Bluebirds near Argyle (Lafayette Co.), on the 28th.

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CENTRAL SAND AREA--John Main and F. Hammerstrom saw 75-100 Sandhill Cranes near Hancock (Adams Co.) on Oct. 8th; Warden Skilling of Wisconsin Rapids reports seeing, in the town of Remmington, Wood Co., 27 Am. Egrets on Sept. 30; and 3 Sandhill Cranes on Oct. 3. He states that on the opening day of the duck season, Oct. 1, the hunters' bags were largely of Mallard, Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged Teal, but Shovellers, Pintails, Widgeon and some Gadwall were also taken.

TRANSITION AREA--Richter, of Oconto, reports that on Oct. 1 there were several Golden-eye Ducks and a few White-winged Scoters taken near there. Most all of the Blue-winged Teal had moved southward before this date. Hussong of Green Bay saw the Fox Sparrow and Mourning Dove in Marinette Co. on the 14th and Wilson's Snipe, Pileated Woodpecker and Raven there on the 21st, with no exact location reported.

Francis Ehlers of the Door County Junior Bird Club reports the following observations near Sturgeon Bay: Oct. 1st, Rusty Blackbird; 6th, Field Sparrow; 11th, Hermit Thrush by M. Moore; 12th, flock of Scaup by Agnes M.; 15th, three Prairie Chicken by Doris and Louis S.; 16th, numerous Golden-crowned Kinglets; 17th, Pigeon Hawk by Francis E.; 18th, Red-breasted Merganser by Clyde W.; 19th, Ruddy Duck by Francis F.; 26th, East. Meadowlark by Milton B.

NORTHERN FOREST BELT AREA--No reports.

Alvin Throne reports that his first Wisconsin record for the Starling was made Feb. 21, 1925 at Lincoln Park, Milwaukee. This would be the third record for the state.

Mr. Throne also states that there is a mounted male Passenger Pigeon at the Milwaukee State Teachers College. The bird was taken in Wisconsin at Durward's Glen, Columbia Co., in 1872, presumably by W. J. Durward, by whom it was mounted.

Bird publications which have been received as exchanges for THE PASSENGER PIGEON are now being sent out via the "round robin" method to the organized bird groups in Wisconsin for their information.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are payable the first of January for 1940. This of course applies to those who began with the January issue of 1939. Practically all of our members did receive all the issues of THE PASSENGER PIGEON, so were considered members for the year 1939, only. Those persons who recently joined and received 1940 membership cards are not affected by this announcement.

Several subscribers failed to notify us of change of address this past year. Please check your address label to see if we have it correct. Anyone knowing of the new address for the following, please send it at our expense:

1. E. J. Abrahamson (former addresses) 40 West Custer St. Oshkosh; and Three Lakes, Wis.
2. Miss Karine Kjolseth, 58 Union St., Oshkosh, Wis.
3. Kay T. Rogers, 57 Matthews Hall, Cambridge, Mass.

More free supplementary literature will soon be sent out with THE PASSENGER PIGEON. The editor's goal is to make this service of information about birds within our state as complete as possible.

According to Edward Prins, Secretary of the Hoy Nature Club of Racine, their group is preparing a printed list of the birds of Racine County, on the order of the Milwaukee regional list, which also carries important dates of arrival and departure. This worthy activity is to be encouraged in other localities.

IMPORTANT--We would like to locate all bird and egg collections within the state, either private or of public institutions. Members who know of collections will confer a favor upon the editor, if they will write giving the following details: Location, owner's name, number of and condition of specimens, whether with or without record data, whether eggs, or whether birds are mounted or just skins, and of course any rare species that are represented. Even if you have only part of this information, please report. Often the location is sufficient to lead to further information.

If you took a Christmas Bird Census this year, please do not forget to send it in to the editor with your next report.